



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV of East Nassau

Voter

*At local, state and national levels
the League works to influence public policy
through education and advocacy.*

June/July, 2010

Save the Dates

Saturday, July 17, 9 AM - 4 PM
Oyster Bay Town S.T.O.P. Day
Dept. of Public Works Garage,
Altamont Ave., Sea Cliff

Saturday, July 31, 8 AM - 3 PM
Hempstead Town S.T.O.P. Day
TOH Parking Field L2,
Division Ave., Levittown

Saturday, Aug. 21, 9 AM - 4 PM
Oyster Bay Town S.T.O.P. Day
Hicksville Fire Dept., West John St.

Sunday Aug. 22, 8 AM - 3 PM
Hempstead Town S.T.O.P. Day
Hempstead Village Dept. of Public
Works Parking Lot, 450 Milburn
Ave., Hempstead

Sunday, August 1 - 11:00 AM
Summer Social at the home of
Carole Goldfarb and Ted Goldstein
See right column.

Thursday, August 26
Women's Equality Day
Celebrates Women's hard-won
right to vote.

Sunday, October 3, 8 AM - 2 PM
E-Cycle Event - Electronic items
can be brought for recycling.
Newbridge Rd. Park, Bellmore

The citizen who criticizes
his country is paying it an
implied tribute.

~J. William Fulbright

Please join us for LWV of East Nassau's 2010 Summer Social

Sunday, August 1, 2010
11:00 AM - whenever

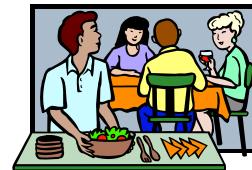
At the lovely home of:

Carole Goldfarb and Ted Goldstein
15 Wheatley Road, Old Westbury

If the weather permits, we will again enjoy the beautiful outdoors, as we relax and take the time to talk about matters beyond our League agenda. Bring your spouse, significant other, potential members, friends, family members, and/or neighbors.

Members are requested to bring a dish. Call Mary Price (731-0812) to let her know if you are coming, if you are bringing a dish, and what the dish will be.

Cost: \$5.00/person



Directions to 15 Wheatley Road, Old Westbury:

From Route 135 (Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway) North, exit onto LIE west. Continue on LIE until exit 39 (Glen Cove Rd). Turn left at light and left again at next light onto the Eastbound Service Rd. *Continue on Service Rd (do not get back on LIE). Go almost a mile, until 2nd light and turn left onto Wheatley Rd. Go about 1/10 mile. #15 is the 2nd white mailbox on the right.

From Wantagh Pkwy. North, keep left as it merges onto Northern State Pkwy. West. Exit at Glen Cove Rd. North. (This is the same exit as the Meadowbrook Pkwy.) Go North (right) on Glen Cove Rd. to the intersection with LIE. Turn right onto the Eastbound LIE Service Rd. and follow directions from * above.

From Meadowbrook Pkwy North, keep left as it merges onto Northern State Pkwy West. Exit Northern State at first exit (Glen Cove Rd.) Turn left at light on exit ramp onto Glen Cove Rd. north. Continue to intersection with LIE. Turn right onto Service Rd. Follow directions from * above.

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, June 21	10:00 AM
Monday, July 19	10:00 AM
Monday, August 2	10:00 AM
Monday, August 30	10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1st floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained. Call for scheduled committee meeting dates and times.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, June 22	10:30 AM
Tuesday, July 13	10:30 AM
Tuesday, August 3	10:30 AM

The Hempstead Town Board meets at Town Hall, in the Nathan H. Bennett Pavilion, 489-5000.

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, June 22	7:00 PM
Tuesday, July 13	10:00 AM
Tuesday, July 27	10:00 AM
Tuesday, August 10	10:00 AM

The Oyster Bay Town Board meets at 54 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay, 624-6390.

**Call before
attending.
Schedules
are subject
to change.**



LWVEN Board of Directors – 2010-2011

OFFICERS

President/Affordable Housing:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
Vice Presidents:		
Judicial Liaison/ Environment:	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
Voter Service/HAVA: Bulletin Circulation/ Special Events:	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
Secretary/ Health Care/ Natural Resources	Mary Price	731-0812
Treasurer:	Anne Ostling	681-8996
	Barbara Josepher	921-8749

DIRECTORS

Bulletin Editor:	Paula Blum	785-3213
Budget/Bulletin Advertising:	Lesley Pollak	731-1066
Education:	Maxine Stolzer	938-1172
Health Care/Advocacy:	Polly Nager	796-6211
Immigration:	Carole Goldfarb	626-3338
Membership:	Bobby Stim	731-1067
Public Relations:	Shirley Bard	781-9570
Voter Service:	Claire Gavrin	781-7274
Programs:	Janet Spar	735-8673
Social Policy:	Sandra Mintz	868-5578
Special Districts/ Students Inside Albany:	Lillian Broad	781-8685
At Large:	Mimi Hirsch	822-5086
Off Board Students Inside Albany:	Judy Schecter	221-5448

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Keeping Connected

LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508
 202-429-1965, www.lwv.org, lwv@lwv.org

LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207
 518-465-4162, www.lwvny.org, lwvny@lwvny.org, www.lwvny-bulletins.org

LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628
www.lwvofnassaucounty.org, vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org

National Convention Report

Barbara Epstein



Barbara's Corner

None of what we do would be possible if not for the hard work of so many people. My sincere thanks to all of you.

LWVUS' national convention this year was held in Atlanta, GA. Five days of workshops, caucuses, & plenary sessions, from 7:30am to 10:00pm. It was an opportunity to learn and to hear from members who proposed new studies, concurrences, resolutions and ideas.

We heard from the Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, US Secretary of Health and Human Services, who was one of our guest speakers.

We elected Elisabeth MacNamara, from Dekalb GA as president.

We approved 2 new studies for the 2010-2012 biennium:

1. The **FEDERAL ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION** – The study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government.
2. **PRIVATIZATION** - The policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

We passed 3 concurrences:

1. Update arms position
2. Concurrence with MD and ME position on marriage equality to be added to our equality of opportunity position.
3. Add to selection of the president position. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until abolition of the Electoral College.

We approved 6 resolutions:

1. Support lifting travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
2. Support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources.
3. Call on the Senate to change its rules to limit use of the filibuster.
4. Add the principle of transparency to the SARA resolution. Revised to include the following principles: Security, Accuracy, Recountability, Accessibility, and Transparency (This applies to our election process, including voting machines).
5. Call for the LWVUS board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.
6. Emergency resolution regarding Gulf of Mexico oil spill. LWVUS should highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, to demand that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. The LWVUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly and immediately affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and by the efforts to contain and disperse it.

We have had a full and exciting year of programs and activities. We began our year with a dynamic presentation: "*Who's sick, The Patient or the System*". There were representatives from 4 different organizations representing nurses, physicians, an economist and 2 advocates for the *health care for all* bill. Our program speakers and their topics included: **Andrea Chasen- Climate Change**, **Samantha Fredricksen- Comprehensive Immigration Reform**, **David Gabor- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**, and **Barbara Cooper Neufeld- Equal Pay and a Stronger Economic Future for Women**. We also showed the film: "*The Last Fix*" about an alternative drug court coproduced by **Jacqui Lofaro**, a Suffolk League member, who spoke to us afterwards, along with **Judge Kooperstein**, who was featured in the film.

In addition we had 2 candidates' meetings, sent a student to *Students Inside Albany*, and prepared a traveling library display. We had several of our members participate in the county League's 90th anniversary **Women's History** program. We studied and held a consensus meeting on the state study on consolidation/dissolution of services.

Our range of activities was possible through the efforts of **Janet Spar** and her program committee; **Polly Nager** and her health care committee; **Bobby Stim** and her library displays committee (as well as her role as Membership Director); our Vice-Presidents, **Lorraine Newman**, **Norma Schaeffer** and **Mary Price** for their work, and the extra meetings to facilitate our board meetings' agendas; **Paula Blum**, who tirelessly does our bulletin and did the presentation of our state study with **Lillian Broad**.

Special thanks to **Judy Schecter** and her Students Inside Albany committee, and to **NEFCU** (Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union – see their ad on page 5), who sponsored East Nassau's student representative, Nicole Chun's trip this year to the SIA conference. We were privileged to hear Nicole's report of her experiences in Albany at our Annual Meeting on June 23. Her report on the conference can be found on page 4 of the May issue of the VOTER.

(Continued on page 7.)

Federal Legislation



S. 2279, the International Violence Against Women Act; **S. 2069**, the Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive Act.

These two bills are important steps towards helping women and all people throughout the world. The International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) would create an office within the State Department charged with preventing violence against women and girls. It also authorizes \$40 million for the UN Development Fund for Women to create programs to stop violence against women.

The Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive Act of 2007 (GROWTH Act) creates a trust fund in the State Department to fund programs that increase the ability of women in other countries to participate in commerce and government. Together, these two bills will help countless women live safer, more prosperous lives

Around the world, women face terrible hardship. In too many places, women are the most vulnerable members of their communities and families, and bear the brunt of poverty, violence and oppression. Worldwide there are countless cases of violence against women, including socially-condoned domestic abuse, genital mutilation, forced marriage, and the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

Actions do not have to be violent or be targeted at women in order to disproportionately affect them: poverty, famine, and political oppression tend to befall women more than men. In many places, women have historically been the farmers in their communities, so they are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. In other places, tradition or law prevents women from working outside their homes for income. Women in these communities are subject to the dictates of their male family members, and they face abject poverty if their families reject them.

There are many places where women are treated like second-class citizens. Empowering women in these communities is one of the most effective tools for economic, social, and political development. For example, Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus pioneered the concept of “microloans,” tiny loans – often less than a hundred dollars – given to people in the developing world so that they can start businesses. These loans very often go to women, whose capacity to add to their families’ incomes raises them and their families out of poverty. Similar cases occur around the world – by empowering women, whole families and communities are benefited.

(Source: literature from Senator Schumer)

Albany on the Record

By Anne Ostling

Paula Blum and Anne Ostling attended a conference on May 5th in Albany titled: *Albany on the Record*, a first of its kind public forum on reforming state government. It was sponsored by New York State’s leading civic groups: **Brennan Center for Justice**, **Citizens Union of the City of New York**, **League of Women Voters NYS**, **NYPIRG** and **Reinvent Albany**. In total there were 26 organizations that provided support for the event. The event was produced by Reinvent Albany and was designed to stimulate debate over how best to fix Albany and get public officials to commit to taking tangible steps this legislative session to address the problems in state government.

Governor Paterson, Attorney General Cuomo, Comptroller DiNapoli and the four legislative leaders (Silver, Sampson, Kolb and Skelos) were invited; all but Attorney General Cuomo attended and spoke. Each was requested to go “on-the-record” and publicly discuss the solutions they propose to fix Albany and give taxpayers the honest, ethical and responsive government they deserve.*Jay Gallagher, one of the most respected reporters covering NYS government until his recent retirement, served as moderator and asked questions of the participants.

Leaders of New York's most prominent good government groups also made short presentations.

Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNYS: Member items
Susan Lerner, Common Cause: Campaign Finance
Larry Norden, Brennan Center for Justice: Ethics
Dick Dadey, Citizens Union: Redistricting
Blair Horner, NYPIRG: Lobbying

The venue itself was jam-packed with hundreds of citizens, many of whom had traveled from far and wide to attend and speak out in favor of reform. In addition, it was web streamed live so all New Yorkers could see for themselves what their leaders say they will be doing to address the serious challenges facing state government.

As Assembly Republican Leader Brian Kolb said after the event, “*Albany on the Record* could be the start of something special. New York needs more public forums on reforming our broken state government.”

* *LWV mourns the passing of Jay Gallagher on May 31, 2010.*



Barbara's Corner (continued from p. 3)

To those of you who did lobbying, moderating, and election monitoring, and to our nominating committee headed by **Sandy Mintz**, etc. a very large THANK YOU. And, a special thank you to **Dell Smith**, who has done a great job of being our Public Relations Director this past year and, unfortunately for us, is leaving the board.

Please note:

Membership renewals will soon be going out in the mail, since our year begins July 1. Even though LWVUS has increased their dues, we have not increased ours. We are still \$50.

There will be a farmers' market in Hicksville, from June 27th to November 2. It will be open on Sunday's from 9-2 at Kennedy Memorial Park, between Jerusalem Ave. and Broadway, near the train station. Let your friends and neighbors know about it.

Help Wanted:

We are currently in need of the following:

Public Relations Director – to be in contact with the media, write and submit news releases, etc.

Webmaster or Webmistress – to set up and maintain a simple website for our local League – which will be linked to the websites of the county, state and national Leagues.

Candidates for these positions can contact me at 221-1948, or byepie@aol.com.

Library Display Don't Miss It



It's not too late to view LWVEN's traveling library display, as described in Barbara's Corner, in the May issue of the VOTER. The display will be at the **East Meadow Library in July**, at the **Wantagh Library in August**, and in the **Plainview Library in September**. Don't miss it. And, when you do see it, be sure to tell the library staff that you are pleased that they have it there.

What Can We Say About Someone Who Has Been An Active, Integral Member Of Our Board, The County Board And Our League For Over 40 Years And Is Moving?

We are talking about Judy Schmertz. We wish Judy and Howard the very best and sincerely hope we will still see them from time to time. Judy has been our administrative VP, and my administrative assistant these past two years, and she will be sorely missed.

Thank you Judy, very much, for everything.

Barbara (and the Board)

Health Insurance Action Alert

By Polly Nager

We've been hearing about sizeable premium rates already in effect since the new federal health reform legislation. Here in New York State there is a counteractive response brewing. Gov. Paterson wants to re-instate legislation that had been dropped in recent years. Health insurers would no longer file premium increases on a "file and use" system but will need to file for prior approval. The governor also wants to require insurers to spend 85% on claims and keep 15% for profit. More than two dozen states now require prior approval.

The Assembly is in favor of such legislation although insurance lobbyists are strongly influencing some pivotal members of this chamber. Please call the Majority Conference Chair Senator John Sampson (Dem.) at 518-455-2788. Or, write him at *NYS Senate, Albany, N.Y. 12247*. Also, call your own NY Senator either at the local Nassau office or in Albany, both numbers and addresses are available in your copy of "They Represent You."

Keeping Green:

By Polly Nager

The Town of Hempstead is no longer maintaining a receptacle for household batteries at local fire stations. Save them with other disposables for the **S.T.O.P** Program at their designated sites and dates.

Green Cleaning

1. To get white socks white again, boil them in water with a slice of lemon.
2. To remove a permanent crease in fabric, sponge white vinegar on it and then press with a warm iron
3. To prevent rust on metal furniture, stir 1/4C lanolin and 1C petroleum jelly in a double boiler over low heat until the mixture is melted. Allow the mixture to cool a bit, then use on the metal furniture while it is warm and allow it to dry.



State News

The League of Women Voters of New York State

Fall 2010 Debates

We are very happy to inform our members that LWVNYS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NYS Association of Public Broadcasting Stations to partner in broadcasting debates for the elections for statewide office this fall. The stations, at a minimum, intend to provide live, statewide coverage of the debates for the office of NYS Governor and our two Senate races. If we can bring the candidates to the table for the other offices, or for interesting primaries, the stations have stated their intention to carry them, live or re-broadcast. This is tremendous news! Now we have to get the candidates to agree. Stay tuned!

Update on Redistricting Reform

Currently in New York, the political parties in the majority draw the lines for their respective houses. In other words, legislators chose their voters not the other way around. The only check on this system is the possibility that the Governor could use his veto power to force changes.

We believe that creation of an independent redistricting commission must be a top priority for those interested in reform. We expect to take a leading role in educating the public about this critical issue. The process began on February 9, when over 60 people from 9 local Leagues and other organizations attended the Forum on Redistricting held at the Rockefeller Institute. Videos from the Forum are now available on the Rockefeller Institute website at www.rockinst.org/forumsandevents/.

You can also get a DVD of the event by e-mailing or calling the League office. Expect to hear from us soon about more collaborative educational efforts with our good government partners, including easy to use educational materials that will be available to local leagues. *We would like local leagues to schedule an educational meeting on redistricting as early as possible in the fall to utilize the forthcoming materials.*

“Albany On the Record”

Albany on the Record was a rousing success with 300 attendees hearing from Governor Paterson, Comptroller DiNapoli and the four legislative leaders who outlined their plans to fix Albany now. Photos from the event, power point presentations on each of the issues, introductory video on why we need reform in Albany, and a video of the entire event is available on our website. Special thanks to Jay Gallagher, former Gannett Bureau Chief, who questioned each of the speakers and to John Kaehny of Reinvent Albany who produced the event.

Spring Fling Weekend in NYC

Over 70 League members and friends attended the Spring Fling fundraiser on May 14. It was a wonderful evening with a gathering of many old-time League members reminiscing and talking. Thank you to all who attended and to those who supported the event. Photos from the event can be viewed on our website.

Students Inside Albany Conference

The 2010 Students Inside Albany conference, held from April 11-14 was a resounding success with 30 students sponsored by 25 Local Leagues. Our thanks to each League who sent a student. Photos from the conference are posted under Youth Programs on our website (a button on the left side on the homepage), as well as an interview of one student by League member, Susan Henninger, and published in *Ithaca Parent and Teen*. A summary of the conference will be posted in the near future.

Membership

First we welcome a full League: LWVWC [Warren County]. This group worked hard to fulfill the requirements for the State board to recommend their recognition by National. Congratulations are in order to Rachel Clothier and her team as well as to Barbara Thomas who is their regional director.

In addition, Wayne County has been approved as a MAL [Member at Large] unit. Best wishes to Janice Fitzpatrick and her team in establishing a presence in Wayne County.

Historic Legislation Passes

Historic legislation passed the NYS legislature reforming the absentee ballot application process. This bill simplifies the absentee ballot process for all New Yorkers, no longer requiring a complicated and intimidating explanation from someone who requests an absentee ballot. The League has fought long and hard for this simplification.

1919 Society

Don't forget to include the state League in your will - and join the 1919 Society. If you already have included the League in your will, just let us know and we'll add you to the members of the Society. We will not ask for either proof of the bequest or its amount - we just want to honor your future support. As a member, your name will be engraved on a plaque in the state League office, listed in the *State Voter*, and on the website.

Capitol Beat Blog

Watch and comment on a new League blog about New York State politics written by retired journalist Jay Gallagher. Spread the word - and start the dialogue! Just click in the upper right corner of our website, New League Blog. Save it on your "Favorites" and check it often; you can comment without joining. *(LWVEN Editor's note: Sadly, Jay Gallagher passed away on May 31.)*

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GET INVOLVED!
