



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF EAST NASSAU

voter

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

April 2007

Save the Dates

Wednesday, April 4 – 10 AM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Herricks HS – Library Room

Wednesday, April 11 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
*Home of Norma Schaeffer
614 Pine Lane, East Meadow
489-3133 (*Note change of venue.*)

Wednesday, April 18 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Speaker: Lorraine Kaplan, NAMI
(National Alliance on Mental
Illness) - Wantagh Library

Sat., April 21 – 10 AM – 12:30 N
PPNC Film Screening
Huntington Cinema Arts Centre
See page 3.

Tuesday, April 24
EQUAL PAY DAY
See page 3.

Tuesday, May 1 – LAW DAY

Wednesday, May 2 – 1:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Carole Goldfarb
15 Wheatley Road, Old Westbury
626-3338

Wednesday, May 11 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN Annual Meeting

Friday – Sunday, May 18 – 20
LWVNYS State Convention
Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains
For information call:
Carole Goldfarb – 626-3338,
LWVNYS – 518-465-4162

Did you know that 1 in 5 people will have a severe mental illness at some point in their lives?

Please join us at our general meeting on April 18, to hear Lorraine Kaplan (NAMI) discuss the signs and symptoms of mental illness, its warning signs and the affect of stigma on how we view mental illness.



Wednesday, April 18, 2007 – 7:45 PM

Wantagh Library, Park Avenue, Wantagh

Lorraine Kaplan is Director of Educational Training and co- author of “Breaking the Silence” (BTS). She lectures extensively about mental illnesses in colleges, schools and to adult groups. Lorraine is on the board of the **National Alliance on Mental illness** Queens/ Nassau (NAMI Q/N) and Aide to the Developmentally Disabled (ADD). Lorraine earned state certifications in elementary education, special education, music and reading. She retired after 28 years of teaching in the Commack. L.I. School District.

Become aware of how mental illness affects the entire family and how we can educate our young people to seek treatment.

Bring your friends, family members, acquaintances. It's a topic everyone should know more about.

“We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads form one to another that creates something.”

Sandra Day O'Connor

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, April 11 6:00 PM
 Wednesday, April 25 10:00 AM
 Wednesday, May 9 6:00 PM
 Wednesday, May 21 10:00 PM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 5th floor, One West Street, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained on the first floor of the building, at the north elevator.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 17 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, April 24 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, May 8 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, May 22 10:30 PM

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

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 17 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, April 24 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, May 8 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, May 22 7:00 PM

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 – 2006-2007

OFFICERS

President: Carole Goldfarb 626-3338

Vice Presidents:

Environment/Sprawl Lorraine Newman 735-4876

Voter Service/HAVA Norma Schaeffer 489-3133

Bulletin Circulation/ Mary Price 731-0812

Special Events

Secretary: Shirlee Bergman 249-5276

Treasurer/ Membership: Mimi Hirsch 822-5086

DIRECTORS:

Affordable Housing: Barbara Epstein 221-1948

Bulletin: Paula Blum 785-3213

Budget: Lesley Pollak 731-1066

Charter Schools Study: Maxine Stolzer 938-1172

Issues/Advocacy: Polly Nager 796-6211

Membership: Bobby Stim 731-1067

Elsie Yurasits 292-8045

Programs: Janet Spar 735-8673

Public Relations: Judy Schmertz 221-1576

Sunshine: Carmen Lee 481-7216

OFF-BOARD:

Pharma/Water Study Barbara Sullivan-Parry 802-3183

Nominating Committee Judy Schecter 221-5448

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8. Reform Albany Hearing, National Pay Equity Day, Law Day

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

LWV of Nassau County:

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

Local Taxes and School Budgets

By Elsie Yurasits

As May arrives on Long Island, it brings not only Mothers Day, but school budget voting time. Therefore, the March 21st general meeting of the LWVEN, to hear Lorraine Deller, Executive Director of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, speak on school financing was most appropriate and timely. Succinctly put, the Association seeks to reform state education funding formulas by enlarging the state share to reduce local property taxes.

On the bright side, Long Island students far surpass statewide results in completing Regents Diploma requirements (86% for Long Island compared to 69% across New York State) and in graduation rates (90% regionally versus 80% statewide).

With a new administration in Albany promising dramatic increases in school aid and substantial property tax relief, Long Island education and business leaders are working together in unprecedented collaboration to demand genuine, lasting reform of New York State's public education funding system.

An update on school finances and public school information in general can be found on the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards website—www.nssba.org.



The Education of Shelby Knox

Sex, Lies and Education

Saturday, April 21, 2007

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Huntington Cinema Arts Centre

Featuring Special Guest: Shelby Knox

“Shelby Knox is a brave, smart, independent high-school-age crusader for sex education in Lubbock, Texas. The movie is a pungent civics lesson on what can and cannot be accomplished by one plucky, idealistic girl.”

“In 2005, the federal government spent approximately \$170 million on abstinence only education. According to a recent report, more than 80% of these programs contain false, misleading or distorted information about conception, abortion, genetics and sexually transmitted infections.

In contrast, comprehensive programs have been shown to help delay the onset of sexual activity and promote safer sex practices. Unfortunately, while the majority of students, teachers and parents recognize the need for comprehensive sexuality education, many school boards and administrators still mandate abstinence-only programs.

Into this debate steps feisty teenager Shelby Knox of Lubbock, Texas. Although her county's high schools only teach abstinence, Lubbock has some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in the nation. When her interest in politics leads her to get involved in a campaign for comprehensive sex education in her town's public schools, Shelby – a devout Christian who has pledged abstinence until marriage for herself – must make a choice: stand by and let others be hurt, or go against her parents, her pastor, and her peers to do what she knows is right.

The Education of Shelby Knox is an exceptionally timely and intimate look at the cultural wars from the perspective of a young woman's life. The film's awards include: Best Cinematography, Sundance Audience Award, SXSW Jury prize, Miami Gay & Lesbian Audience Award, Full Frame Emerging Pictures Official Selection, Hot Docs.”

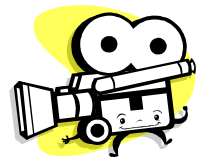
Sponsored by:

Planned Parenthood of New York State

Get the Facts NY

Planned Parenthood of Hudson Peconic

Planned Parenthood of Nassau County



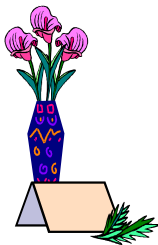
To reserve your FREE ticket, call Planned Parenthood at 516-750-2666 by April 13.

Welcome New Members

Pat Ryan
Massapequa

Judith Moskowitz
Merrick

Helene Tzall
North Bellmore



News From *Your* State League

Update from LVNYS

Makeover for LWVNY

The League of Women Voters of New York State has undergone a virtual makeover! We have a brand new website. Please take some time to browse the new website. You will see a new and less complicated home page that is more esthetically pleasing. The purpose in revamping was to create a site that was easier to use for League members as well as visitors. We found that the old site, particularly the homepage, was too League-centric and was loaded with acronyms. It was neither welcoming to non-League visitors nor helpful in providing an immediate synopsis of the LWVNY. Additionally, from a technical perspective, it was cumbersome and difficult to maintain. The new site will be technically easier to maintain. We thank our Web Mistress, Debra Drake, for all of her work. She put in many, many hours of design time beyond what the hours for which she was paid. Thank you, Deb!

Our Youth: Our Future

Some of the participating Leagues have begun their **LeaderSpark** programs for 2007. Participating Leagues for 2007 include Albany County, Geneva, Saratoga County, Shelter Island, Schenectady County, and Smithtown. Buffalo/Niagara is fostering a potential program for the fall of 2007. LeaderSpark is a youth leadership development model based on "awareness, practice and application." It serves to develop group leadership skills, enhance self-confidence and positive attitude, foster the opportunity to work effectively with diverse groups, position individuals for educational and employment success, and build a network of supporters and mentors. LeaderSpark was implemented in New York State ideally to serve as a preparatory program for garnering youth participation in Students Inside Albany.

The **2007 Students Inside Albany Youth Conference** will be held April 22-25 at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Albany. As a result of participation in the conference, students will learn about the New York State Legislative process

and the how public policy is developed, implemented and changed. Additionally, youth increase analytical and assessment skills as well as qualities and skills of leadership. SIA 2007 will feature a presentation on leadership skills by LeaderSpark graduates.

LWVNYS Convention 2007: To Westchester We Go

The 2007 Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of New York State, called "Reaching Out/Reaching In", will be held May 18 - 20 at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains, New York. Convention is a time for camaraderie, rejuvenation and growth for members and for the League as a whole. Your participation is key to achieving those objectives. Look for registration kits to be mailed to local Leagues at the end of March.

Volunteer support is a key factor in holding a successful and effective Convention. If you are interested in volunteering during Convention, particularly if you live within commuting distance to White Plains, please contact Edna Vincenti at edna.vincenti@vincenti.com. If you have never been to Convention this may be a great introduction!

Another highlight of Convention, serving to recognize excellence, is the **Awards Banquet** held on Saturday evening during Convention. Take the time to bring recognition to your League's outstanding accomplishments by submitting an award nomination form for the appropriate category. Nomination forms can be found in the January State Board Report available from the state League office or website at www.lwvny.org

Convention 2007 will continue the tradition of holding a **Silent Auction** as part of the festivities. Please consider donating a new item or making a few phone calls in your area to request a donation from individuals or businesses. Popular auction items include merchandise, gift certificates, hospitality baskets, sports memorabilia/equipment, get-away weekends, and tickets to cultural and sporting events. An introductory cover letter to potential Silent Auction donors and an item

submission form are on the state League website at www.lwvny.org under the link on the homepage for Convention News.

Hearts for LWVNY

The LWVNY appeal for 501(c)4 funds reached members the week of February 14. Valentine's Day is the anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. If you have not, please consider a gift as part of this appeal. A majority of the peripheral costs of the very effective advocacy work being done in Albany is financed with funds raised as part of the League annual appeal. The hard work of the last decade is showing signs of coming to fruition through various measures being proposed and implemented in Albany. We need to keep up the pressure in on our elected officials. This requires funds to support infrastructure and administrative support. Thank you for helping us keep the momentum going!

The Stakes Are High

The Big League Raffle is back as part of Convention 2007, Reaching Out/Reaching In. It is an opportunity to raise some funds for the state and local Leagues and for an individual to win some cash. This raffle is a partnership with local Leagues that provides all of the benefits to local Leagues of holding a raffle without the headaches. This is a win-win opportunity. Last year's raffle netted over \$17,000 with over \$6,487 given out in prizes, \$3,045 rebated to local Leagues, and an additional \$324 awarded to the League that sold the first prize ticket. Tickets are being printed and will be sent to local Leagues on April 1, 2007. Tickets and money must be returned to the state League by close of business, May 14, 2007.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

62 Grand Street

Albany, NY 12207-1403

(518) 465-4162

Fax (518) 465-0812

Web Address: www.lwvny.org

e-mail: lwvny@lwvny.org

GET INVOLVED!

County Corner

If you were unable to attend the 22nd Annual LWVNC Women's History Dinner on March 20, you missed a terrific event, and we missed you.

Our speaker, Kathleen Rice gave us a lot of insight into the DA's office, and our honorees gave us a real lowdown on what is going on in the county.

And, there were a lot of raffle prize winners – 34 in all. If you missed it, make a note to come next year.



Keynote Speaker
Kathleen Rice with
LWVNC President,
Riza Laudin

Jean Kelly of the INN
with Judy Schmertz



Photographs by Howard Schmertz

Town of Hempstead S.T.O.P. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, April 22 – City Hall Parking Lot
Centre Street, Long Beach

Saturday, May 19 – Newbridge Road Park
2600 Newbridge Rd, South Bellmore



Town of Oyster Bay S.T.O.P./Electronic Waste Collection Schedule

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, April 21 – John J. Burns Town Park,
Merrick Road, Massapequa

Sunday, May 20 – Dept. of Public Works Garage
150 Miller Place, Syosset

LWV 101

Many new (and some long-time) members do not know much about LWV beyond the activities of their local League. LWV is a grassroots organization with a national organization, state organization and local organizations. Additionally, in some areas of the country, there are Inter-League Organizations (ILOs).

In New York State, there are three ILOs: in Nassau County, Suffolk County and Westchester County. The Nassau County ILO serves as a coordinating organization for the member Leagues within the county, and needs the support of all member to succeed.

The Nassau County League:

- Publishes a directory of public officials “**They Represent You**” which is available at many libraries as well as the county League office, and is distributed by the local Leagues to their members. The Board of Elections uses it, as do many others in the county;

- Publishes a **Voters Guide** which includes information on the candidates that the citizens of the county have to vote for. All information included is totally non-partisan, and in the words of the candidates;

- Provides speakers and moderators to various organizations in the county, and holds Candidate Forums for county-wide elections.

- Maintains a citizen information phone line for the public to get information on election issues, ballot propositions, etc.;

- Testifies at public hearings on issues for which LWV has a position;

- Holds a **Women's History** event annually, honoring women who have made a significant contribution to the county;

- Holds a **Post-Election** event annually to provide a non-partisan analysis of the election results;

- Provides support and coordination for the local Leagues in the county;

- Invites all members of Nassau County Leagues to work together to achieve League's mission.

BRENNAN CENTER
FOR JUSTICE AT NYU
SCHOOL OF LAW

CITIZEN ACTION OF
NEW YORK

CITIZENS FOR BETTER
GOVERNMENT IN NEW
YORK

CITIZENS UNION

COMMON CAUSE/ NY

DEMOCRACY MATTERS

DEMOS - A NETWORK
FOR IDEAS AND AC-
TION

LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF NEW YORK
STATE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF WEST-
CHESTER

NEW YORK CIVIC

NEW YORK PUBLIC
INTEREST RE-
SEARCH GROUP

PLAINVILLE FARMS
& FREENYS.ORG

PEOPLE FOR THE
AMERICAN WAY

RIDGEWOOD PROP-
ERTY OWNERS AND
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE INTERFAITH ALLI-
ANCE OF ROCHESTER

(List in formation)



**Join Us to Reform New York!
Make YOUR Voice Heard!**

NOTICE OF A "PEOPLE'S PUBLIC HEARING"

Convened by: The Reform NY Coalition on behalf of the peo-
ple of the State of New York
Date: Monday, April 23, 2007
Time: 11:00AM-4:00PM
Subject: Reforming New York State Government
Location: The Hart Lounge of the Egg, Albany, NY
Contact: Common Cause/NY, 212-691-6421



Buses available from New York City, Westchester, Rochester and Syracuse!

REGISTER AT
WWW.COMMONCAUSE.ORG/
SPRINGCLEANINGINALBANY

NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY APRIL 24, 2007

What is Equal Pay Day all about?
April 24, Equal Pay Day 2007, is the day
this year on which women's salaries in
our country reach the same point that
men's did on Dec. 31 of 2006.

**What can you do to change
this situation?**

**Contact your Assemblymember
and ask her/him to support:**

THE NYS FAIR PAY BILL (A2712)

**Contact your State Senator and
ask him/her to sponsor a
matching Senate Bill.**

Passing the NYS Fair Pay Bill will:

Provide protection against pay
discrimination;

Require employers to compensate
their workers equally, based on
skill, effort, responsibility and
education.

Allow freedom for employees to
speak about their salaries without
the threat of being fired or reprimanded.

*For more information on how you can
help pass the NYS Fair Pay Bill,
contact: Women on the Job – 883-1691,
wojtf@optonline.net.*

May 1 is Law Day

The American Bar Association's Focus for this
year's Law Day celebration is a focus on
Empowering Youth:

- to better understand the legal system;
- to have their voices heard;
- by making those courts that address youth and families an exemplary part of the justice system;
- through engaging the legal profession in activities aiding youth who are most at risk.

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.

Albert Einstein