



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.*

August/September 2007

Save the Dates

Wednesday, Sept. 5 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Maxine Stolzer
130 Bud La., Levittown, 938-1172

Monday, September 17
CELEBRATE

CONSTITUTION DAY

Morning Program
9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
Bar Association of NC
15th & West Streets, Mineola

Evening Program
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Hofstra University School of Law – Moot Court Room
Hempstead Tpk., Hempstead
(See page 8 for information.)

Wednesday, Sept. 19 – 7:45 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Topic: Stem Cell Research
Wantagh Public Library
3285 Park Avenue, 221-1200

Saturday & Sunday,
September 29 and 30.
NYVV (New Yorkers for Verified Voting)
Annual Meeting, Ithaca, NY.
A gathering of voting integrity advocates from around NYS.
(For information: nyvv.org)

Thursday, Oct. 4 – 11:00 AM
LWVNYS Regional Workshop
Farmingdale College
Peachtree Lounge, Knapp Hall
(See page 3.)

Please Join Us
on Wednesday, September 19, 2007
7:45 PM

at the Wantagh Library
3285 Park Avenue (221-1200)

For a very informative discussion of
STEM CELL RESEARCH



On Wednesday, September 19, we will have the opportunity to listen to **Dr. Michael Hadjiargyrou** Associate Professor, Associate VP for Research, Graduate Program Director, State University of NY at Stony Brook) as he reveals the latest information about stem cell research.

The overall goal of his laboratory is to “implement innovative approaches for engineering new skeletal tissue utilizing knowledge derived from molecular/cellular biology and biomaterials.” They are “actively involved in understanding the molecular mechanisms that underlie the wound healing (fracture repair) process.” “The latest methods in molecular/cellular biology are applied in the pursuit of gene discovery, gene structure and functional analysis, expression studies and functional perturbations.”

Several of our members heard Dr. Hadjiargyrou speak about stem cell research a couple of years ago, and were amazed at what we learned. (And, yes, he was able to explain it in a way that even we, non-technical members of the audience, could understand.)

So, please join us to learn a lot and get answers to your questions. The meeting is open to the community, please do not hesitate to bring friends, relatives and neighbors.

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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paulablum@hotmail.com

Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 5 10:00 AM
 Monday, Sept. 24 10:00 AM
 Wednesday, Oct. 10 10:00 AM
 Monday, Oct. 22 10:00 AM

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, Sept. 4 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 25 10:30 AM
 Tuesday, Oct. 2 10:30 AM
 Tues., Oct. 16 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM

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

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, August 7 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, August 21 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, Sept. 25 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Oct. 2 10:00 AM
 Tues., Oct. 16 10:00 AM, 7:00 PM
 Tuesday, Oct. 23 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 – 2007-2008

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

Education: Maxine Stolzer 938-1172

Immigration Study Carole Goldfarb 626-3338

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

Students Inside Albany: Judy Schecter 221-5448

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4. Immigration Study, Constitution Discussion, Congratulations Carole and Ted
5. & 6. VOTER Advertisers, Membership Enrollment Form
7. Town S.T.O.P., Labor Day Pay Equity Campaign, Voting Machines – 2007, Correction to June/July VOTER
8. Constitution Day Event – schedule and pre-registration form

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



Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops

The State Board and Your Local League (LL) Working Together: Voter Service/Membership/Financial Support/State Study on National Popular Vote/Other

See the 2007 schedule below and make your reservation to join members from your state board when they come to your area to facilitate training, dialogue, and an active networking opportunity among local Leagues. **Share information and a light meal** with state League president Martha Kennedy, VPs Marcia Merrins (Membership), Maggie Moehringer (Voter Service), and Betsey Swan (Development) as well as other state board members.

OCTOBER 4 Long Island 11:00 am – 3 pm
Farmingdale University, 2350 Broadhollow Road
Farmingdale, NY - Knapp Hall (Peachtree Lounge)

GOALS

1. Foster strong relationships between the LWNYS and LWV local Leagues, boards and members
2. Foster strong relationships among local Leagues within regions
3. Problem solve among local and state LWNYS leaders.
4. Identify the best ideas and best people to move LWNYS forward
5. Provide a consistent annual platform for open and intimate dialogue, problem solving and visioning

OPEN TO INTERESTED LEAGUE MEMBERS & FRIENDS

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:
LWNYS, 62 Grand St., Albany, NY 12207
Or Fax 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Only)
Phone: 518-465-4162

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Email _____

Local League _____

Long Island Workshop – **October 4, 2007**

Enclosed is my registration fee of \$5

My check is enclosed (payable to LWNYS)

Charge my: Mastercard VISA
 Discover Card American Express

Cardholder's name _____

Exp. Date: ____/____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

The workshop is hosted by the LWV of Suffolk County, which has made the arrangements for food, etc. To show our appreciation for their efforts, please RSVP as soon as possible. Contact the state office (see above) if you have any questions. Telephone and/or written multiple registrations are happily accepted.

Freedom of Information Act Update

The first week in August, the US Senate unanimously approved bipartisan legislation -- the OPEN Government Act -- to update the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and make government more transparent.

Supporters sent over 7,000 e-mails to 86 Senators in support of the OPEN Government Act to update FOIA, a very clear message to the Senate that open government and the public's right to know are American values that transcend party lines.

This pressure ensured the passage of a strong bill that will improve the FOIA process by:

- Imposing meaningful deadlines on agencies handling information requests;
- Establishing a FOIA hotline;
- Bringing government records held by private contractors into full public view;
- Creating a FOIA Ombudsman to provide an alternative to costly litigation between FOIA requestors and federal agencies; and
- Allowing federal agencies to waive FOIA fees for freelance journalists and bloggers.

The House of Representatives passed a similar bill earlier this year. Hopefully it will soon become law.

IMMIGRATION: Can We Rise Above the Emotional, Partisan Ranting on All Sides of the Issue to Forge Rational Policy that Works?

Carole Goldfarb

In less than half a year LWV will take a position on one of the most divisive and least understood issues facing our nation at this time: immigration. We hope that East Nassau members will take the opportunity to learn more about the hidden factors that impact the problems causing such widespread dissension, so that we can make reasoned voices heard.

At our **November meeting**, we will be taking a look at the **history of immigration law in this country** and some **little known aspects of our current policies and related problems**; such as its *effect on state and national economies, the environmental impact of a large immigrant population, integrating new arrivals socially and culturally, the effect on wages in this country*, both on American workers facing competition for jobs and immigrant workers who are frequently exploited, and *the strain on our educational system*.

We will consider the **effect of policies that affect the flow of immigrants into this country**, such as *agricultural subsidies, NAFTA and our export policies, guest worker programs for both skilled and unskilled workers, and admission of family members*. We will look at **major enforcement deficiencies and the hardships they cause**.

Based on this information and discussion, we will weigh in on a set of consensus questions at our January meeting.

These will involve:

criteria and priorities to be considered in any future legislation, the rights of families to remain together, how to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, how to treat unauthorized immigrants, and whether federal immigration law should be coordinated with foreign policy toward nations with large emigrating populations.



Constitution Day Discussion

The Constitution Day event planned for September (see page 8) was discussed by East Nassau members following the August Board Meeting. Present (from left to right) were: Shirlee Bergman, Polly Nager, Paula Blum, Carole Goldfarb, Mimi Hirsch, Maxine Stolzer, Judy Schmertz, Lesley Pollak, Lorraine Newman, Bobby Stim.

**Town of Hempstead
S.T.O.P. Household Hazardous Waste
Collection Schedule**
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, August 18 – Greenfield Cemetery Garage
Milburn Avenue entrance, Uniondale

Sunday, September 9 – Newbridge Road Park
2600 Newbridge Road, Bellmore

Saturday, October 27 – North Woodmere Park
Branch Boulevard, North Woodmere



**Town of Oyster Bay
S.T.O.P./Electronic Waste
Collection Schedule**
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, August 18 – Fire Department
West John Street, Hicksville

Saturday, Sept. 15 – Solid Waste Disposal Complex
Sweet Hollow Road, Old Bethpage

Saturday, October 13 – Town Hall South
977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa

Correction!

Polly Nager

The June/July Voter reported that LWVEN received two awards at the recent LWVNY Convention; one for Barbara Epstein and her committee Affordable Housing, and the other for Polly Nager and her committee in recognition of the voter registration drives conducted at Hofstra University. Every committee participant was acknowledged except for **Claire Gavrin**, an oversight not to be explained, only forgiven. Claire not only was involved in the past drives at Hofstra, but she is volunteering again, along with other members of LWVEN, during this summer's registration directed at incoming freshmen. We believe our Hofstra presence will be continuing, so to anyone interested in joining with us, please step up. If you have not done college registration with us during the last three years, please call me and I will get you started. This is one community service you will find especially rewarding (just ask Claire).

Labor Day Pay Equity Campaign

Now is the time to tell Congress that women demand protection against gender-based discrimination.

When Congress returns from summer recess in September, they'll have the opportunity to pass two important pay equity bills. The goal for Women on the Job's Labor Day Pay Equity Campaign is to let Congress know that pay equity is important to voters and makes a huge difference for women and their families, especially those on the lower end of the earnings spectrum.



Suggestions for action:

- Urge members of Congress to co-sponsor/support/ push the **Paycheck Fairness Act** (H.R. 1338/S.766) and the **Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** (H.R. 2831)
- Tell your members of Congress that we will be watching their votes and will remember how they voted come next election.
- Write a letter to the Editor in local newspapers to raise the profile of the Equal Pay issue and the need to support wage equity.

For more information, visit **Women Work!**
<http://www.womenwork.org/resources/labordaypress.htm>

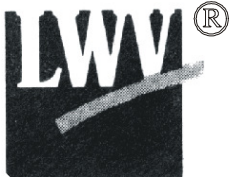
Voting Machines - 2007

The NYS legislature passed a law that provided a fix for Election Day 2007. It allows for the use of lever machines and accessible Ballot Marking Devices that can accommodate voters with disabilities, similar to what was done in 2006.

Last month, the NYS Board of Elections Commissioner Neil Kelleher proposed procedures that would allow the Ballot Marking Devices (BMD) to be used *only by voters with disabilities*. This is a terrible idea for many reasons. Aside from being in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it would place the burden on poll workers to determine if a voter is disabled and allowed to use the BMD. It would force voters to identify themselves as disabled when they may prefer not to do so. And it would prevent non-disabled voters who want to use BMD features (such as the ability to display a ballot in multiple languages) from doing so.

The State Board of Elections must reject Commissioner Kelleher's proposal. The Center for Disability Rights has provided an automated fax/email page on their interactive advocacy website. Please send a message to the State Board of Elections telling them that Ballot Marking Devices must be allowed to be used by *anyone who desires to do so*.

(Source: New Yorkers for Verified Voting)



CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION DAY

Free to the Public
September 17, 2007



Safeguarding US Democracy: Protecting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the US Constitution

Morning Program

9:00 AM – 11:30 PM

Bar Association of Nassau County
15th and West Streets, Mineola, NY

Welcome: **Shirley Siegal**, Co-Pres., LWV Great Neck
Presentation of Proclamation for Constitution Week:
Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi

Student Panel – Introduction: **Professor Michael D’
Innocenzo**, Hofstra University History Department
Topic: History of the Constitution: how have checks and
balances changed in the Legislative, Executive and
Judicial branches of the Federal Government?

Questions from the audience

Keynote: **A. Thomas Levin, Esq.**, Meyer, Suozzi,
English & Klein PC – Topic: An Independent Judiciary

Panel members: **Marvin Zevin**, Yannelli and Zevin,
Bruce Barket, Esq.

Topic: To safeguard Democracy, how can we promote
an independent Judiciary by defending the US
Constitution?

Evening Program

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Hofstra University School of Law – Moot Court Room
Hempstead Turnpike, Hempstead, NY

Introduction: **Interim Dean Nora Demleitner**, Hofstra University School of Law
Federal Judge Lawrence Austin – Topic: Separation of Powers; how we
choose judges in NYS.

Professor Thomas A. Schweitzer, Touro Law School
Topic: The First Amendment and the Establishment Clause
Panel Discussion (participants to be announced)
Questions from audience

Hofstra School of Law Student Panel, introduced by faculty member (TBA)

Keynote: **Constitutional Law Professor, Leon Friedman**, Hofstra University
School of Law - Topic: Constitutional Limits in the War on Terrorism

Panel Discussion: **Constitutional Law Professors: Eric Friedman** and
Julian Ku, Hofstra University School of Law, and **E. Christopher Murray,**
Esq., Reisman, Peirez & Reisman

Cross discussion and comments
Questions from audience

Purpose of Program:

To help the public become better informed about the US Constitution, their constitutional rights and the role of the courts as protectors of our constitutional freedoms.

To help people understand:

- how to define and separate the powers of the central government and the states;
- how the representatives of the people should be elected;
- the importance of the nation’s judicial candidates, how they are selected, and the role judges play in interpreting the law;
- how the rights of the people are jeopardized by a weakened judicial system.

We will emphasize **Separation of Powers** in the following examples:

- the loss of constitutional rights in the **War on Terrorism**;
- the loss of constitutional rights when the **Patriot Act** is enforced;
- the effect of Separation of Powers on the **Separation of Church and State**.

Partial Funding from the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND, and,
this event is supported, in part, by a grant from the Program on Constitutional and Legal policy of the OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE.

Sponsored by the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREAT NECK , in cooperation with the LWVs of Central Nassau, East Nassau, Greater Five Towns, Long Beach, Port Washington-Manhasset, Westbury, and the LWV of Nassau County (Inter-League Organization)
CO-SPONSORED WITH THE HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW and THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NASSAU COUNTY

The public is cordially welcomed to attend this **free special event** as guests of the League of Women Voters and Hofstra University School of Law. For questions, please contact Dawn Marzella at 516-463-6889 or email lawdmm@hofstra.edu.

(Note: Schedule above is accurate as of August, 2007 – but subject to change.)

Pre-Registration Form – CONSTITUTION DAY – September 17, 2007

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I will attend the Morning Session - 9:00 to 11:30 AM _____

I will attend the Evening Session – 7:00 to 10:00 PM _____

Complete & Return to:
LWV Great Neck, PO Box 220-256
Great Neck, NY 11022