



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.*

July, 2009

Save the Dates

Monday, July 13 – 1:30 PM
LWVNC Board Retreat
Home of Edna Vincenti
Call Paula, 785-3213, for details

Wednesday, July 15 – 10:00 AM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Barbara Epstein
142 Tardy Lane South, Wantagh
221-1948

Wednesday, Aug. 5 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Paula Blum – 785-3213
1385 Lyon Pl., Wantagh

Sunday, Aug. 23 – 11:00 AM
LWVEN Summer Social
See right column.

August 26
Women's Equality Day

Wednesday, Sept. 22 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Topic: Who's Sick, The Patient or
the System? – Health Care Reform
in the U.S. See August/September
VOTER for details.
Plainview-Old Bethpage Library

Tuesday, Oct. 6 – 7:15 PM
Candidates Meeting
Plainview-Old Bethpage Library
Legislative Candidates from
Districts 14, 16 & 17

Wednesday, Oct. 21 – 7:15 PM
Candidates Meeting
Levittown Library
Legislative Candidates from
Districts 13, 15, 19

Come One! Come All!

Please join us for LWV of East Nassau's
2009 Summer Social

When: Sunday, August 23, 2009
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: 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 stuff beyond the League agenda. Spouses, significant others, potential members, friends, family members, welcome.

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: \$10.00/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

Barbara Epstein, President
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paulablum@hotmail.com

Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 6 6:00 PM
Monday, August 10 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.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, July 7 10:30 AM
Tuesday, August 11 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, July 14 10:00 AM
Tuesday, July 28 10:00 AM
Tuesday, August 1 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 – 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
Vice Presidents:		
Executive Vice President/	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
Judicial Liaison:		
Voter Service/HAVA:	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
Bulletin Circulation/	Mary Price	731-0812
Special Events:		
Secretary:	Shirlee Bergman	249-5276
Treasurer:	Barbara Josepher	921-8749

DIRECTORS:

Administrative Assistant:	Judy Schmertz	221-1576
Affordable Housing:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
Bulletin:	Paula Blum	785-3213
Budget:	Lesley Pollak	731-1066
Education:	Maxine Stolzer	938-1172
Health Care, Advocacy:	Polly Nager	796-6211
Immigration/NPV Study:	Carole Goldfarb	626-3338
Membership:	Bobby Stim	731-1067
Natural Resources:	Anne Ostling	
Programs:	Janet Spar	735-8673
Special Districts Study:	Mimi Hirsch	822-5086
Students Inside	Judy Schecter	221-5448
Albany/Civics:	Lillian Broad	781-8685

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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

Barbara's Corner



It's hard to believe we have completed another League year. Thanks to so many of you, it was a great year. You got involved, whether it was something done only once, or many times, or several different activities. All of this is important and makes us successful. I hope that in the coming year many of you will participate in some way. Join a committee (such as natural resources, social policy, or perhaps, our new state study on consolidation of governmental units and services). Whatever interests you the most. Let me know.

We are looking forward to an exciting, interesting and stimulating year. *Be A Part, It Pays Dividends.*

LWVNYS Convention May 2009

By Barbara Epstein

Paula Blum and I attended the LWVNYS convention in Syracuse. *What happened at convention?* -forums, workshops, speakers, networking with League members from throughout the state and business meetings.

I have been to several state and national conventions, but this was the first time I personally got involved in organizing and running a caucus. The topic was health care reform. I worked with a leaguer from the Tompkins County league. We ran 2 caucuses and prepared an action motion that was approved by the delegates. It was very exciting.

State league has initiated a Centennial Fund – an endowment fund which will help LWVNY to function by using interest generated from the fund. They have a newly revised and more user friendly website, which I suggest you look at it.

A new state study was adopted: to study consolidation of governmental units and services. The study may take up to 2 years to complete. Each league had an opportunity to present “A moment in the Sun”. This gave each league time to tell of its achievements in one minute. I spoke about our Levittown library display, of which we can be very proud. I also brought pictures that were shown.

Sincerest Thanks to the Board

I have been very fortunate to have had a fantastic group of women on our board who have made this past great year possible. Thank you.

Starting with our officers:

Our 3 vice-presidents, **Lorraine Newman**, **Norma Schaeffer** and **Mary Price** have been so cooperative in participating in our VP meetings prior to the board meetings. They have been a great sounding board for me. Lorraine has set up our many trips, including out trip to the court and to the Cedar Creek plant and is on the planning committee. Norma is in charge of our Voter Service committee. She with Polly have done a great job in having so many of us involved in voter registration. Norma also organizes the monitoring of the Freeport housing elections and chaired our nominating committee. Mary has coordinated all of our great social events and is responsible for our hospitality at meetings. **Shirlee Bergman** does a great job of taking minutes and reminding us of what we are doing. **Barbara Josepher**, our treasurer, is keeping us on target using good bookkeeping practices.

Now for our directors:

There are 2 women I have called on, on numerous occasions, to do a variety of things, or just for information and advice. They are **Judy Schmertz** and **Lesley Pollak**. Judy is my valuable administrative assistant and Lesley is our budget director and is responsible for coordinating our marvelous Levittown Library display.

Our bulletin editor **Paula Blum** does such a great editing job that our bulletin won the NYS League bulletin award for leagues with 51-100 members, while **Mary Price** takes care of circulation, and **Lesley** coordinates advertising. **Carole Goldfarb** and her committee did a great job on our National Popular Vote study and consensus. **Mimi Hirsch** and Paula serve on the County committee on special districts and report back to us on their progress. Mimi also has a great knack for getting potential members. **Polly Nager** has worn many hats this past year. She is our Advocacy Director, letting us know when to lobby our legislators. She also chairs our health care committee along with **Anne Ostling** (by the way, a new member) planning for our big September program. **Judy Schecter** and **Lillian Broad** co-chaired our Student Inside Albany committee. We were very pleased with **Jake Brodsky**, the student whom we sent to Albany. The committee had a difficult choice to make. It was so successful, we plan to do it again next year. **Janet Spar** and her program committee have done a great job of arranging for some awesome programs. **Maxine Stolzer** has been keeping us informed regarding financing of education. **Bobby Stim** and **Elsie Yurasits** have been keeping up with our members; especially our new members.

Elsie has also had the difficult task of getting our league in the papers. In addition, she did some awesome posters and flyers for our meetings. We are so sorry she will not be continuing on the board.

IF I missed anything please accept my apologies. *It couldn't have been done without all of you!*

Barbara

2009 *They Represent You* Update

Please note the following update for the 2009 Directory of Nassau County Elected Officials. You can make the changes directly in your copy, or put a copy of this into your booklet.

Page 3: NYC & LI offices of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601, New York, NY 10017, 212-688-6262, Fax: 212-688-7444

155 Pinelawn Road, Suite 250 North, Melville, NY 11747, 631-249-2825, Fax: 631-249-2847

Page 12: The Legislator for the 10th LD is Judi Bosworth, not Judith Bosworth.

Page 14: The Web site for County Clerk Maureen O'Connell is: <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/clerk>

Pages 14 & back cover: The address for the County Executive on p.14 and for the County Executive and County Legislators on the back page should be 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY.

Page 17: The Mayor of Island Park is James Ruzicka, not Jane Ruzicka

The Mayor of Plandome Heights is Diane Merenda, not Diane Herenda

New Mayors elected Wednesday, March 18 2009

Floral Park: Kevin Greene

Russell Gardens: Matthew Bloomfield

Stewart Manor: James Kelly

Freeport: Andrew Hardwick

Sea Cliff: Bruce Kennedy

Westbury: Peter Cavallaro

Garden City: Robert Rothschild

Page 18: The village elections on March 18 were on Wednesday this year, not Thursday.

Students Inside Albany

Judy Schecter and Lillian Broad with Jake Brodsky, winner of the LWVEN's essay contest, which enabled him to be East Nassau's representative at the LWVNYS' Students Inside Albany Conference. Jake later attended our Annual meeting and reported on the SIA conference, which he felt was very rewarding.

Congratulations to
Barbara Josepher
Winner of the Sierra Club's
Staff Award!



Information Made Simple

People nationwide look to the League for answers to questions about elections and voting. We hope the resources available on the LWWUS main **Voter Information** page will help answer many of these questions.

Here you will find: answers to frequently asked questions (**FAQs**); the League's debate watching party kit; **PSAs** featuring LWWUS President Mary Wilson; links to many LWWUS partner organizations; various election tools for League leaders, such as publications and newsletters; and, of course, a link to **VOTE411.org**, the League's award-winning one-stop-shop for election information. **PLEASE NOTE:** Although the PSAs were prepared for Election 2008, their content is not time sensitive. The PSAs are relevant for state and local elections this year.

When she spoke at LWWNC's Annual Convention in May, **Barbara Bartoletti** discussed two **bloggers** whom she recommends for their accurate information on NYS government issues. These are: **Liz Benjamin** (**NY Daily News**) and **Irene Liu** (**Albany Times Union**). You can find their blogs easily just by entering their names in the search box. She also recommended the website **NYSenate.gov/legislation** to find out what's going on in the Senate (assuming that by the time this is being read, something is being accomplished in the NYS Senate).

Quick Facts On Health Care Costs



- Total health spending in the U.S. reached \$2.1 trillion in 2007 – or \$7,026 per capita.
- By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to \$4.2 trillion.
- Between 2005 – 2006, total health spending increased 6.7 percent, more than double the rate of the 2.9 percent increase in overall economic growth.
- Total health spending remained relatively constant at about 16 percent of gross domestic product from 2003 – 2006, but is projected to increase to 19.5 percent by 2017.
- Spending for home health care increased at a faster pace from 2005 – 2006 (9.9 percent) than any other category of health spending; however, its impact is limited because it accounts overall for only 2.5 percent of total health spending.
- Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.
- Between 2006 and 2007, premiums for health coverage offered by employers increased 6.1 percent, the fourth straight year of declines in the rate of premium growth, from a peak of 13.9 percent in 2003. Even so, this was more than twice the rate of growth in the Consumer Price Index.
- Of every dollar spent on health services in the U.S. in 2006, 46 cents came directly from government sources.
- Costs for program administration and the net cost of private health insurance were about 7 percent of total health spending in the U.S. in 2006 and grew 8.8 percent, a marked increase over the 3.6 percent rise in 2005.

This list (without the original endnotes) is from “A Reporter's Toolkit: Health Care Costs” (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced here courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. The entire toolkit can be found at http://www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost_of_health_care/health_care_costs_toolkit.asp#keyfacts.

Resource provided by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009.

Election Monitoring Project

Norma Schaeffer

I often think of Thelma Rosenthal, who had arduously coordinated this annual project, as well as other voter service tasks, and with whom I worked closely on them. The day, June 26, went smoothly, due to the extensive preparation and cooperation of our members.

We covered tenant voting at three different sites, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM with one building starting at 7:00 AM. I still think that **Lorraine Newman** sleeps 1/2 a night because she always volunteers for the 7:00 AM stint.



Our other participants were: **Barbara Epstein, Janet Spar, Leslie Pollak, Shirley Bard, Claire Gavrin, Mary Price, Carole Goldfarb,** and myself. With so much inclement weather the last few weeks, we were fortunate in having a beautiful day. We arrived and left dry, with umbrellas in hand but unopened. After counting the ballots, I made my goodbyes, with the parting words: "See you next year."

Comment on U.S. Voting System

A few days before the November 2004 election, Jimmy Carter was asked what would happen if, instead of flying to Zambia or Venezuela or East Timor, his widely respected international election monitoring team was invited to turn its attention to the United States. His answer was stunningly blunt. Not only would the voting system be regarded as a failure, he said, but the shortcomings were so egregious the Carter Center would never agree to monitor an election there in the first place. "We wouldn't think of it," the former president told a radio interviewer. "The American political system wouldn't measure up to any sort of international standards, for several reasons."

from "Steal This Vote" by Andrew Gumbel

New Web Site to Check Out:

According to Roberta Wiernik, LWVNYS Natural Resources Specialist, the NYS DEC has a new website for homeowners, schools, etc., which contains a ton of user friendly information on reducing pesticide use

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/44290.html>



National Women's Law Center Analysis of Supreme Court Decisions

“As the U.S. Supreme Court wrapped up its 2008-2009 term yesterday, the National Women's Law Center released a new analysis of several crucial decisions from this Term that demonstrate the very real impact of the Court on women's lives. As noted in our analysis, the cases that came before the Supreme Court this term illustrate the very real impact of the Court on the day-to-day lives of women across the country.

We invite you to read our summary of key cases of the 2008-2009 Supreme Court term and the implications of these rulings for women. Here are some highlights:

The Court's decisions in two cases this Term kept hard-won protections for women's basic legal rights in place:

- In Fitzgerald v. Barnstable School Committee, the Supreme Court safeguarded women's and girls' rights by allowing them to pursue remedies for gender discrimination in schools under both Title IX and the Constitution.

- In Crawford v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee, the Court ruled that employees are protected from being subject to retaliation for cooperating with an employer's internal investigation of discrimination.

The outcome in two other cases was not as positive:

- In AT&T Corp. v. Hulteen, the Supreme Court ignored the realities of the workplace and the intent of Congress and ruled against female workers. As Justice Ginsburg noted in a strong dissent in the case, the Court's decision permitted AT&T to pay women lower pension benefits for the rest of their lives based on maternity leaves they took in the 1970s.
- In Ricci v. DeStefano, five Justices issued an opinion that set back the cause of equal employment opportunity — making it more difficult for women and minorities to compete fairly to secure jobs. In this decision, the Court crafted a new standard in *Ricci* that represents a significant change in the law. This new standard will dramatically affect women's and minorities' employment opportunities.“

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

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, July 11 – Town Of Hempstead Parking Field L2
Division Avenue, Levittown

Sunday, August 9 – Hempstead Village Dept. of Public Works Parking Lot
450 Milburn Avenue, Hempstead

Saturday, Sept. 12 – Newbridge Road Park
2600 Newbridge Road, South Bellmore



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

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, July 11 – Sea Cliff Village Dept. of Public Works
Altamont Avenue, Sea Cliff

Saturday, August 15 – Hicksville Fire Department
West John Street, Hicksville

Saturday, September 12 – Solid Waste Disposal Complex
Sweet Hollow Road, Old Bethpage