



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.*

March, 2009

Save the Dates

*Women's Equality Month
Women's History Month*

Wednesday, March 4 - 1:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Janet Spar, 735-8673
3664 Richard Lane, Wantagh

Wednesday, March 11 – 7:30 PM
Speaker: Lydia Cacho
“My Life Under the Gun”
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset
See page 3.

Thursday, March 12 – 8AM-5PM
Conference: **No Child Left Inside**
Connecting children with nature
Islandia Marriott Long Island
Information: 304-5484

March 15-21 - Sunshine Week
(Openness in Government)

Wednesday, March 18 - 1:15 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Speaker: Prof. Meena Bose
New President's First Days in Office
See right column.

Thursday, March 26 – 7:30 PM
Topic: The Suffrage Movement in
North Hempstead (LWV PW/M)
Speakers: Leslie Gross (Town Clerk)
Joan G. Kent (Town Historian)
Port Washington Public Library

The New President's Not Quite 100 First Days in Office

At our general meeting on March 18,
we will have the opportunity to hear
Professor Meena Bose discuss this
very fascinating topic.



Meena Bose, PhD., is the Peter S. Kalikow Chair in Presidential Studies at Hofstra University.

She is the author of *Shaping and Signaling Presidential Policy: The National Security Decision Making of Eisenhower and Kennedy* (1998), co-editor (with Rosanna Perotti) of *From Cold War to New World Order: The Foreign Policy of George H.W. Bush* (2002), and co-editor (with Mark Landis) of *The Uses and Abuses of Presidential Ratings* (2003).

Dr. Bose's current research focuses on the changing role of the United Nations in American foreign policy. She teaches courses on the American Presidency, American Foreign Policy, and American Politics.

Dr. Bose taught for 6 years at the US Military Academy at West Point, where she also served as Director of American Politics in spring 2006. She was an assistant professor of political science at Hofstra (1996-2000) and acting director of the Hofstra Honors Program (1999-2000). She hosted a symposium at Hofstra in 2000 on "The Uses and Abuses of Presidential Ratings." Dr. Bose represented the American Political Science Association on the Department of State's Historical Advisory Committee from 2001-2004.

**Please join us to hear Professor Bose, and to have the opportunity to
have some of your questions answered.**

Wednesday, March 18, 1:15 PM
Levittown Library, Bluegrass Lane.

*Please come to our informational meeting about the **Compact for a National Popular Vote**, which will precede our **April 1st** Board Meeting. Join us for pizza and knowledge. Learn about the issue on which we will be having our consensus meeting later in April, an issue which could have a significant impact on the way our country chooses the President. All are welcome to remain for the Board Meeting.*

Wednesday, April 1 - 6:00 PM – Informational meeting on National Popular Vote (pizza included)
7:30 PM - LWVEN Board Meeting
Home of Judy Schecter –1205 Julia La., N. Bellmore, 221-5448

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

Barbara Epstein, President
Paula Blum, Editor
 1385 Lyon Place, Wantagh
 Tel/Fax: 785-3213/3263
paulablum@hotmail.com

Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Mar. 9	10:00 AM
Monday, Mar. 23	10:00 AM
Thursday, April 2	10:00 AM
Monday, April 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 on the first floor.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Mar. 3	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 24	7:00 PM
Tuesday, April 14	10:30 AM
Tuesday, April 21	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, Mar. 10	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Mar. 31	7:00 PM
Tuesday, April 7	10:00 AM
Tuesday, April 28	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 – 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
Vice Presidents:		
Environment:	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
Voter Service/HAVA:	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
Bulletin Circulation/ Special Events:	Mary Price	731-0812
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:	Carole Goldfarb	626-3338
Membership:	Bobby Stim	731-1067
Membership, PR:	Elsie Yurasits	292-8045
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

“My Life Under the Gun”

The UUCSR Shelter Rock Forum presents Mexican journalist Lydia Cacho, who runs a shelter for battered women and children in Cancun, and who has exposed a web of business and political elites behind a child pornography ring there.

Cacho is donating her speaking fee to her shelter for battered women and Children, (www.CIAMcancun.org/eng). Suggested donation \$5.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset

Directions: From LIE, exit 35 north (from east). North 1-1/2 miles on Shelter Rock Rd. Entrance on left by white fence. For more information: UUCSR Shelter Rock Forum 516-627-6560, ext 122

Co-Sponsors: UUCSR Women’s Group, UUCSR Men’s Group, Amnesty International USA Group 74, Great Neck SANE/Peace Action, LI Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives

LWVUS Board Adopts New Legislative Priorities for 2009

Setting these priorities (based on member input solicited by LWVUS) lets the national League focus limited resources on issues where we can have meaningful impact and where there is member interest and opportunity for progress.

Global Climate Change and Health Care will be the top legislative priorities, on the national level, for the upcoming year – issues on which major congressional action is expected and on which the LWVUS will seek to be an active player.

Tier two priorities are **Election Reform and DC Voting Rights** – issues that will be acted upon if significant success is possible, though top priorities will take precedence.

LWVUS will only act on tier three issues if good opportunities present themselves and there is no pressing action on top priority and tier two issues at the time. Tier three issues are **Campaign Finance Reform, CEDAW** (the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), **Civil Liberties, Ethics, and Redistricting**.

Barbara's Corner



I'd like to begin by thanking Mary Price and Mimi Hirsch for planning and hosting our annual post holiday party. A great time was had by all who attended, and I hope that more of you will come next year.

WANTED:

As I have said before, two of our top priorities are HEALTH CARE and GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE (our environment). If you are interested in the environment, we would like you to be part of a committee to keep us informed. (LWVUS & LWVNY provides material.) Call me at 516-221-1948 or email at byeppie@aol.com.

In addition, we are planning a major program related to health care. If you would like to help in the planning and be part of our health care committee, contact Polly Nager at 516-796-6211, or email at gpnager@aol.com.

Be sure to read the latest issue of the NYS Voter; it has lots of valuable information in it.

I look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting, which will feature a great topic and speaker.

4 Steps in Dealing with Conflict

Dealing effectively with group conflict is an important leadership skill. Below is the 4-Step Conflict Management Model from the LeaderSpark curriculum.

1) Identify the Problem:

What do you see as the need in this area?

2) Look at Options

- What strategies do you think we should consider?
- Who else should we be talking with regarding this?

3) Define Areas of Agreement

- What points can we agree on?
- What other people or groups do you think might work with us on this?
- How can we get others to want to be involved?

4) Obtain the Preferred Solution

- What are the "win-win" opportunities that build positive relationships and trust? Source: LeaderSpark.org

Voter Turnout



Election results provided by the NYS Board of Elections show that there was a 2 percent **decrease** in voter turnout in 2008, compared to the 2004 presidential election.

	Total NYS Voters	Total Turnout	Turnout Percent
2004	11,245,218	7,448,266	66%
2008	12,031,312	7,674,784	64%

Please note:

No-Excuse absentee voting has been selected as a League **legislative priority** under the Reforming State Government item. (All members of our League will be receiving the brochure detailing our state Legislative Priorities in the near future.)

Thirty four states currently allow people to vote in person before Election Day. Thirty one do not require an excuse. Three states and DC do. Sixteen states do not allow early or in-person absentee voting.

Twenty eight states allow no-excuse absentee voting by mail. Twenty two states and DC require an excuse to vote absentee by mail.

Would no-excuse absentee voting increase the voter turnout in NYS?



Green Myth

The Myth: Paper bags are better than plastic bags.

The Fact: It's a lose-lose situation.

Both paper and plastic are problematic for the environment. The only really green option is to bring your own fabric bags, and reuse them over and over.

If you must choose between paper and plastic, choose the one which makes the most sense for you. If you will reuse the plastic bags for other shopping trips, to take stuff to your great aunt, or to put out your garbage, then choose plastic. If you will use the paper bag to line your bird's cage, wrap that package to send to your uncle, or to put out your week's worth of newspapers for recycling, then by all means choose paper.

Source: Long Island Press, 3/08

DC Voting Rights Bill Clears Critical Senate Hurdle

League Congratulates Senate on Cloture Vote

The League of Women Voters congratulated the US Senate for invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to consider S. 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009.

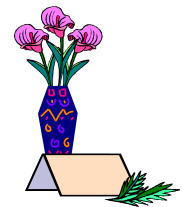
“This is a critically important step toward final passage in the Senate,” said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters.

“The U.S. Senate’s vote to debate the bill moved us closer to rectifying a long-standing civil rights injustice against American citizens living in the District of Columbia,” Wilson stated. “Now we have to defeat any amendments that will sidetrack or kill the legislation,” she said.

“There is more work to be done but this is a hopeful sign that lawmakers are taking seriously their duty to provide voting representation for all citizens of this country,” said Wilson. “We intend on ensuring they see this effort through.”

“For two hundred years, Americans living in our nation’s capital have been denied their right to elect a voting member to the body that taxes them, makes their laws, and sends them to war,” concluded Wilson. “Citizens living in our nation’s capital are treated uniquely and the League has been working tirelessly to end this discrimination.”

Our sincerest condolences to Claire Gavrin on the recent passing of her husband, Marty.



Global Gag Rule Repealed: For eight years, the global gag rule forced overseas health providers to make a very difficult choice: deny women comprehensive reproductive care, or give up desperately needed US government funding. They were not permitted to distribute condoms, mention the possibility of abortion as an option, etc. Now, finally, the global gag rule has been repealed, and the damage caused by it can be addressed.

Letter to Members of US House of Representatives

From: Mary G. Wilson, President, LWVUS

Re: SCHIP Reauthorization

The League of Women Voters urges you to support reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) when it comes to the House floor for a vote. In the years since Congress first passed SCHIP, the program has provided access to health care coverage to six million low-income children. However, there are still over nine million children who remain uninsured.

The League of Women Voters has long supported the concept of universal access to quality health care. We believe that all children should have comprehensive health care including preventive and primary care and that programs like SCHIP play a key role in promoting the health, well being and full development of children.

The benefits of SCHIP are clear. The program has played a critical role in reaching uninsured low-income children who are not eligible for Medicaid. Over the past decade, six million children have been covered by SCHIP in addition to the 28 million children covered by Medicaid. As a result, the percentage of low-income children in the United States without health coverage has fallen by one-third in the past decade even as employer-based coverage has decreased.

But there is still much to be done. Even with these advances, over nine million children, many of whom are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP are without health coverage. Unless the program is fully funded, those children currently covered under SCHIP could lose their coverage.

Reauthorization of this important program is long overdue. The League of Women Voters urges you to reauthorize SCHIP so that those children currently in the program can continue to receive this critically needed health coverage while extending coverage to those children who are eligible but not in the program.

Memo to all members:

Please check the membership list when you receive it to make sure that your information is correct. If it is not, please send corrections to Membership Director, Bobby Stim: bobbystim@optonline.net or 731-1067. Also, if you have not yet given us your email address, please consider doing so. We will not share it outside of LWV, and promise to use it sparingly.

The LWVUS board has decided to suspend publication of the National Voter (paper and digital) until the League's finances are healthier. LWVUS does plan to do everything possible in these difficult times to find ways to deliver information to members and leaders, as well as supporters.

Happy Birthday LWVUS



In February, the League of Women Voters of the US commemorated our 89th birthday – and we've got a lot to be proud of!

There is no other national organization in America that inspires such a great degree of commitment from its members. Here are some accomplishments we are celebrating this year, and why the League's trusted legacy and grassroots strength remains as vital to a healthy and transparent government, all these years later.

We are very proud that in nearly 850 communities nationwide, the League remains THE trusted place for citizens to discuss the issues, ask the difficult questions, and demand accountability from their government.

The League is a leader in transparency – from our work in the 1950s to uncover Senator Joseph McCarthy's abuse of congressional investigative powers to our current work urging President Obama to make openness in government a priority, the League is working to make the federal government more accessible to American citizens.

The League celebrates our work promoting equal voting rights, having been at the forefront of the struggle to pass the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982, winning passage of the National Voter Registration Act in 1993, and more recently working to enact the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and ensure full voting rights for Americans living in our nation's capital.

Our connection with communities is helping us expand our work on issues that impact Americans and the world, such as climate change and health care.

The League of Women Voters truly has left its footprint on American history, and our democracy is stronger because of it. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our representative democracy for years to come.

News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

March 2009

Call to Convention 2009

In addition to your Convention delegation of seasoned League leaders, why not send a few newer members, as either delegates or observers. Convention is a great learning experience for any Leaguer to experience the League way of doing things, learn more about our issues, and network with other Leaguers.

This year, we will offer a bonus day of workshops on Friday, May 15th, entitled Strengthening League Leadership. This special program is designed to give you valuable tools for strengthening your League. We encourage leagues to send board members to these workshops even if they are not delegates or attending State Convention. Travel to Syracuse a little earlier to take part!

Citizen Education: Programs for Youth

Civic participation is a core value of the LWV. Convention 2009 will include an opportunity to learn about the types of programs your local League can implement to help high school students in your area to become more civically involved.

This year's **Students Inside Albany Conference** will be held Sunday, April 19 – Wednesday, April 22, 2009 in Albany, NY. This program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibilities in representative government and provide information about tools that will help them meet those responsibilities. Choose a student to represent your League at this very important program for youth.

LeaderSpark programs have been completed by the Buffalo/Niagara, Schenectady, Saratoga, and Smithtown Leagues, thanks to the hard work of these Leagues and their community partners. Smithtown has secured funding for a second program scheduled to begin in March, and Saugerties is planning to begin their first program early next year.

Coastal Pollution

In New York State, coastal pollution must be fought on two fronts: the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. Our goal is to turn back the decline of the Atlantic as a source of jobs, revenue, wildlife, and natural beauty. Toward that goal, officials will release a comprehensive plan for ecosystem-based management of the Great Lakes and Atlantic coasts, which will address land and water uses, economy, climate change, energy, and building capacity.

The situation is serious. New York State's commercial and recreational fisheries have only 21 percent of their value 50 years ago. Nationally, 32 percent of all monitored beaches had closings or advisories in 2007 compared with 23 percent a decade earlier. Hard clam production on Long Island is down from 700,000 bushels a year to fewer than 10,000 bushels. Despite these alarming statistics, Governor Paterson has proposed cutting Environmental Protection Fund money for oceans and Great Lakes from \$5 million to \$2 million for the coming year

Pay Equity Update

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the very first bill signed into law by President Obama. It restores the 1964 Civil Rights Act equal-pay protections for people whose jobs involve the same work. Unfortunately the Ledbetter Act does not address pay inequities across different but equally-valued job titles. The NY State Fair Pay Act (A3911, S955) addresses this problem by removing discrimination in job titles traditionally done by women and people of color. We need to build support in both the Labor Committee and the Senate as a whole. Check the March 2009 SBR for the names of the Senators who are co-sponsors of this legislation and thank them, and urge the others to come on board.

It's Lobbying Season!

When you make lobbying visits this spring, remember to inform your legislators of the LWVNYS Legislative Agenda and, even if he/she doesn't agree with our position, keep the lines of communication open.

Sprawl and Land Use

The LWVNYS urges New York State to take a proactive role in regional land use planning. To further that goal, we have joined Empire State Future, a coalition of groups and individuals interested in advancing the principles of "smart growth". In addition to providing educational materials that will augment the efforts of land use activists, this coalition plans to provide the public with a website that is informative, up-to-date, lively, and easy to use.

A statewide Community Preservation Act (S381) was reintroduced on January 7, 2009. It would allow cities and towns to create community protection funds to protect open space, support working farms, and preserve community character.

The State Smart Growth Infrastructure Policy Act (A543) was reintroduced in 2009. During the last legislative session, this bill was considerably watered down and the governor refused to sign it. The 2009 version attempts to define smart growth principles clearly and requires state agencies to base funding on these principles.

NPV Resources

Complete resources for the National Popular Vote Study are now online. You'll find a background paper, pro/con arguments, suggested resources list, a study guide, consensus questions, and a consensus response form.

In addition, any member can join the NPV Study Discussion List. All you need is an email address where postings can be sent. Just log in at <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>

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!