

VOTER

<http://www.lwv-suffolk county.org/brookhaven.htm>

January 2010

League of Women Voters of Brookhaven

Rescheduled from January 24

ROAD AND RAIL

LOCAL AND REGIONAL

An exploration of the many possible changes and improvements
to our transportation system on Long Island and beyond

Presented by Adam Gaus, Transportation Chairman
of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1:30 PM

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PRESIDENT’S PAGE

—Last month I reported that Suffolk County is moving forward with the non-partisan nonpolitical redistricting commission that the Legislature approved. This month I am pleased to say that the League will have a seat on the commission. Jon Cooper, for the majority on the Legislature, invited the League to have one of the “good government” seats (there are four). And I am even more pleased, and honored, to report that the Suffolk County League submitted my name as its representative. I will have to learn a lot, not only about the mathematics of population, but also about how to negotiate with the other members of the commission, who I expect will represent a great deal of experience and expertise. At this point, I have submitted my paperwork and am waiting for further notice.

—Elizabeth McNamara, LWV US President has represented League members on many different issues since January 1. She said the League opposed the vote by the House of Representatives to abolish the campaign finance law that has existed since 1976. She asked the House of Representatives to oppose the repeal of the Health Reform Bill, and has since urged the Senate to vote against its repeal, citing its benefits. She called on the Senate to reform its rules to guarantee transparency and accountability, and to improve its decision-making and effectiveness. .

—On the website for NYS LWV, Barbara Bartoletti, expert on matters of state government, has revived Capitol Beat, and it can be found on the internet. It is full of details about state government and political gossip, and, since Barbara sits on the committee to consider unfunded mandates, she will bring us up to date on what they think they can change.

—The NYS LWV convention will be held May 20-22 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. They are organizing a Silent Auction which will be available online and at Convention so everyone, not just attendees, can participate. Start thinking of donations; be creative and think of some new items or services that can help raise funds for the League. Donation forms are available by calling the state office.

—These uncertain times demand the unwavering commitment of Leaguers to insist on government that serves the common good. This commitment is especially imperative when faced with the NYS budget, due in early February. In a climate of spending cuts and tax caps, will the essential services of public transit be preserved? Will crumbling highways and bridges be fixed? Will the funds raised by the gasoline tax be insulated from raids for the general fund? For more on the fragile condition of NYS transportation infrastructure, see the Ravitch report, issued November 19, 2010.

Let's take every opportunity to comment on the NYS budget, and speak clearly and loudly to preserve NYS commitment to maintain and improve our transportation infrastructure and operations.

GENERAL MEETING—JANUARY 24—TRANSPORTATION

Because transportation is so critical to our life in the suburbs we have been following the progress of New York State DOT and Long Island in improving it. On January 24 we have a chance to learn more about what is happening on Long Island and the region. Our speaker will be Adam Gaus, a Smithtown LWV and Suffolk County LWV Board member, a retired engineer, and an enthusiastic and well-informed student of transportation and its possible improvements. He will bring us up to date about construction on Route 347, a gravel transfer yard in Yaphank that would cut down on some of the trucks, possible double tracking of the LIRR Main Line, and additional train storage yards. He is also knowledgeable about the East Side Access under the East River, as well as a freight tunnel under the Hudson River and an idea for light rail in the Hamptons.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Dot Kerrigan—Ronkonkoma

JOIN THE LEAGUE

We are always hoping new people will join the League and become members, and our policy has been to send VOTERS to prospective members. We hope that if you have not joined, but would like to, you will fill in the membership application below and return it with your dues of \$50 for the year. They will cover your membership for a year and half, until June 30, 2011. If you do not wish to join, but want to continue receiving our VOTER and learn of our events, you may return the application and donate \$10.00, which would cover the printing costs of the VOTER for a year. If you wish to receive your VOTER by email, just let us know your email address. Otherwise we will mail it.

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Please return, with your check, to League of Women Voters of Brookhaven to Post Office Box 92, Bellport, New York 11713

And also, if you wish that we would take your name off our mailing list, please let us know at 730-6556 or enpymarr@optonline.net.

VOTES FOR NEW CITIZENS

The various leagues in Suffolk County, along with representatives of Le Fuentes from Nassau County, have been attending the Naturalization Ceremonies that are held almost every Monday in the Federal Court Building in Islip. Although it started as an effort to encourage voter registration prior to the November election, we have decided to continue because it seems so important. It is also inspiring to see their interest in becoming voters. Each League will be responsible for one month, and we have chosen April. It has not yet been decided which Monday in the month will be the one, but if you are interested in attending the naturalization ceremony to see approximately 150 immigrants become new citizens, call Linda Devin-Sheehan at 751-7038. .

WHERE CAN WE EAT?

We are planning our annual spring luncheon and hope you have some suggestions about restaurants that serve good food, have a separate room, and have reasonable prices. We would like to locate it on the North Shore or middle of the island, since we have eaten in Patchogue for the past few years. Please call Robbie Fishman if you have any ideas—286-0614

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

We recommend The Healing of America, by T. R. Reid—a study of health care systems in many countries. It provides information about systems that work and why and is good reading.

JOHN J FOLEY NURSING FACILITY

New York State Health Department has said that the county can close the facility and they will review the steps it is taking. At the same time, a four-member appellate division panel in Brooklyn continued to block the closing until it has been settled by the courts. Kate Browning has introduced a bill in the legislature that would create a public-private partnership to allow private agencies to lease space at the facility to provide medical or psychiatric services, providing more revenue. .

BLACK HISTORY EVENTS TO VISIT

Monday, February 21—The Annual Food Tasting from African Ancestry at Stony Brook University, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held at the university's East Campus - Health Sciences Center, Health Sciences Drive, Stony Brook, NY, Room: HSC Galleria, Level 3. Phone: (631) 632-6000. Experience the rich culture of the African Diaspora through a delicious array of foods. FREE admission. Sponsored by the School of Social Welfare and the Black Faculty and Staff Association.

Saturday, February 26—**LONG ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM – presents From Africa to America, presented by Aspiring Young Artists** with two showings at 1 and 3 p.m.

Celebrate the roots of popular American dance with the performers of Aspiring Young Artists (A.Y.A.) of West Hempstead. The company will perform dance styles from West Africa and the Caribbean. Through demonstrations, the audience will see the cultural, historical and global contributions made from the African Diaspora. Come enjoy this jubilant and colorful celebration of life through rhythm and movement. For ages: 3 and up. Fee: \$4 with museum admission , \$8 theater only.– 11 Davis Avenue, Garden City (516-224-5800)

THE LAST FIX

Sending substance abusers to prison does not solve the problem, not for them and not for society, what else can we do? — a new documentary by Jacqui Lofaro will be our program on Monday, March 21, 2 pm at Emma Clark Library in Setauket. We also plan a showing at Longwood Library on a date in March to be announced..

CARMAN'S RIVER STUDY

Thanks to Marilyn McKeown, Judi Bird and Johan McConnell, who have been attending the Carman's River Study Group to learn about efforts the town can make to keep the river toxic free. The report of the group will be released this month, and will represent the efforts of environmentalists, builders, and community residents. Their findings may affect plans for Legacy Village, much of which is in the watershed catchment area. .



George R. Rehn

Certified Public Accountant

EAST SETAUKET
286 Main Street
New York 11733
(631) 751-3886
(631) 751-2740 FAX

GeorgeRehn@yahoo.com

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Our advertisers support of the League provides the funds to publish and mail the VOTER to all our members each month. Please patronize and thank all of them for their support of our mission.

Thank you for your support! – Alice D'Amico

GASLAND— FILM BY JOSH FOX

The LWV of Huntington and Cinema Arts Theater

are presenting

A Documentary about Hydraulic Fracturing and its Dangers

February 17, 2011 at 7:00 pm

Speaker will be Adrienne Esposito from Citizens Campaign for the Environment and

a member of Governor Cuomo's Transition Team

LWV Members \$10, Non-Members \$15

Reception to follow

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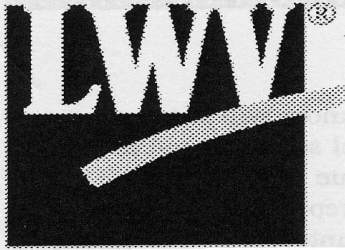
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FEBRUARY

- Wed Feb 9 Brookhaven LWV Board Meeting, Ruth Schwarz', 2 pm
Wed Feb 16 Suffolk County LWV Board Meeting, , Suffolk Comm. College Culinary Inst, 9:30 am
Mon Feb 28 **Transportation—Local and Regional. at Comsewogue Library, 7:30 pm**

MARCH

- Wed Mar 9 Brookhaven LWV Board Meeting, Betsy Gaidry's, 1 pm
Wed Mar 16 Suffolk County LWV Board Meeting, Suffolk Comm. College Culinary Inst, 9:30 am
Mon Mar 21 **“The Last Fix”—documentary film about drug courts and their defendants—Emma Clark Library, 2 pm. Check later for an additional showing in March.**

