



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SHELTER ISLAND

# The Shelter Island Voter *a publication of the League of Women Voters of Shelter Island* April, 2008

PO. Box 396 Shelter Island Heights, NY 11965-0396 [www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/shelterisland.htm](http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/shelterisland.htm)

## League Dedicates Tree in Memory of Betsy Jacobson

Last fall, the League of Women Voters of Shelter Island planted a flowering pear tree in memory of Betsy Jacobson, our late president. On April 19, we formally dedicated the site, placing a plaque in Betsy's honor under the tree. During the ceremony, League members spoke of their affection and respect for her as a friend and leader. Betsy's tree is on the lawn of the Center firehouse, the site of many League meetings. It stands near the rail fence on the north side of Thomas Street.



*Kathryn A. Cunningham photo*

After the tree was planted, we received a poignant note of thanks from Betsy's husband, Bill Friedman, which we would like to share with you.

*Dear Members of the Shelter Island League of Women Voters,*

*When Stephanie Zinger let me know late last fall that a tree has been planted in Betsy's memory on the lawn just south of the Center firehouse, I immediately went by to see it. It is a fine tree, a flowering pear, sturdy and apparently very healthy. I know Stephanie had a lot to do with coordinating this planting effort, and I thank her and all other League members who helped see this project through.*

*This tree will be a wonderful memorial to Betsy, every spring a profusion of flowers and growing more full by the year. I want to thank the League for this generous, thoughtful gesture. I hope all of us, driving by the firehouse, will notice this tree from time to time and remember the exceptional person and Shelter Island League president who was my dear wife and friend to all of you.*

*Sincerely yours, with thanks,  
Bill Friedman*

## Interim Leaders Lend Continuity

### New Officers, New Bylaws to Be Decided at June Meeting

Through this difficult time, several volunteers stepped forward to continue Betsy's work and keep the League functioning until next general elections in June. Chief among these were **Cathy Kenny, President; Phyllis Gates, Membership Chair; Janalyn Travis-Messer, Secretary and Ann Brunswick, Director at Large. Georgiana Ketcham**, a member of the Membership Committee, will be nominated to spearhead the League's Membership efforts. A nominating committee led by **Marilyn Pysher** is working to assemble a full slate of officers to present to the membership. If you would like to volunteer or suggest someone you believe would be a good officer or committee chairwoman, please contact LWVSI at [lwvshelterisland@gmail.com](mailto:lwvshelterisland@gmail.com).

**Register Early and VOTE!**

## Dougherty Luncheon

The League's luncheon on April 6 at OnShore restaurant was a big success, generating nearly full-page coverage in the **Shelter Island Reporter** and eliciting enthusiasm for continuing what Acting President Cathy Kenny characterized as "an Island tradition."

More than 100 League members and other Shelter Islanders came to hear Supervisor Jim Dougherty on the "state of the Island" after his first three months in office.

## Bylaws Revisions

Our Bylaws, which have been revised only once since our formation in 1999, are under review by committee members Mary-Faith Healey, Ann Brunswick, Janalyn Travis Messer, and board members Phyllis Gates and Cathy Kenny. Since 1999 the LWVSI has grown and the amendments under discussion recognize this, and among other things, will recommend expanding the Board membership. Members should expect to receive a summary and copy of the proposed bylaws in May. The bylaws as well as new officers will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on June 21 at the Gardiner's Bay Country Club. Our updated "Directory of Members and Contributors" will also be distributed.

## "Know Your Town," Second Edition, Needs Your Contribution

Another Board project has been a major updating of "Know Your Town" (KYT), which was first published in 2000. Laid out as a booklet, KYT is a comprehensive introduction to Shelter Island - town government, businesses, churches, clubs, associations and, of course, the LWVSI. It is a great resource for citizens old and new. The publication is supported by sales, but most of that support comes after printing. We are asking members to please make a pre-publication donation. Make your check payable to LWVNY Education Foundation and mail to League of Women Voters of Shelter Island, PO Box 396, Shelter Island Heights, NY 11965-0396.



### SI League Website Grows

Our Observer Corps' notes on the Town Board's Tuesday Work Sessions, which had been sent by email for the past year, are now on the Shelter Island League's web page [www.lwv-suffolkcoun-ty.org/ShelterIsland.htm](http://www.lwv-suffolkcoun-ty.org/ShelterIsland.htm). Working with Adam Gaus webmaster for the Suffolk County League of Women Voters, we hope to see our page flourish and grow considerably in the coming months. Watch for links to "Upcoming Events and Programs," and for photos and recaps of past events.

### Observer Corps Needs You

They appear as if by magic every week, but the Town Board work session notes involve a lot of time and energy. Led by Phyllis Gates, just a handful of volunteers have been providing this important service. We are grateful to those who have volunteered -- **Michael Coles, Stephen Gessner, Nancy Graham, Janalyn Travis-Messer, Marilyn Pysher, Jo-Ann Robotti, Meddi Shaw, Marc Wein, Carolyn Willberg** -- and look forward to calling on those who have promised to come aboard in the Spring and Summer. Understandably, some of our current corps members need a respite. The League asks any one who can to please step forward. You need not be a poet to do this. The notes need only be simple, concise and clear. If you can help, please e-mail or phone Phyllis Gates: [PhyllisGailGates@aol.com](mailto:PhyllisGailGates@aol.com), 749-3532.

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome those who have recently joined the LWVSI.

- Joy Bausman
- Julie Ben-Susan
- Dianne Bowditch
- Christina Cunningham
- Dell Dalton
- Linda Goetz Holmes
- Giovanna Ketcham
- Yvonne Loinig
- Diana Malcolmson
- Shirin Marefat
- Gail Vielbig

### Robert Strauss To Speak on Environmental Sustainability in the Home

Robert Strauss, a high school chemistry teacher by profession, and a dedicated student of renewable energy, has been involved in construction, in one way or another, for the last two decades. After he and his wife bought land on Shelter Island, they realized that to build the home they wanted at the price they could afford, they'd have to incorporate innovative features that included eco-friendly systems and materials. The research and design process took almost two years and now they have achieved an energy-efficient home that is comfortable and easy to maintain. Strauss will address how we all can contribute to environmental sustainability and lower long-term costs by incorporating some of these designs in our homes, on **Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m., lower level of the Library**

### School Board Candidate Forum on May 4th

League To Sponsor Candidate Forum on May 4. To prepare voters for the Shelter Island Union Free School District board election on May 20, the League will hold a forum for candidates on Sunday, May 4 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the school. Look for our ad in The Reporter. If you are unable to vote in person on May 20, 12 noon - 8 p.m. you may obtain an absentee ballot by calling the School District Clerk at 749 0302 Ext. 403. On or about April 28, the absentee ballots will be mailed to those who requested them. They must be received by the District Clerk by 5:00 pm on the day of the election.

### 2008 LWV Legislative Priorities

The national Board of The LWV of the United States approves legislative priorities every year. For 2008, the priorities are Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Tax Policy. On the state level, simi-

lar campaigns are being undertaken under the headings Good Government, Health Care, Energy and Environment. To learn more about these positions go to [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) and click "issues and advocacy."

As stated on the national web site ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)), "The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; it neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. At the same time, the League is wholeheartedly political and works to influence policy through advocacy. Over time, the League's legislative priorities change to reflect the needs of society and critical issues of concern. The organization remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens."

#### April

26th Robert Strauss on Conserving Energy in the Home, SI Public Library, lower level, 1 p.m.

#### May

4th LWVSI Candidate Forum for Shelter Island Union Free School District board election of May 20.

9th School Budget Forum, SI Public Library, lower level, 7 p.m.

12th Public Hearing on School Budget, 7:00 pm at the School Library, lower level, 7 p.m. Supt. Sharon Clifford to speak.

20th School Board Vote, Noon - 8:00 pm at the School. Absentee Ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5:00 pm today.

#### June

21st LWV of Shelter Island Annual Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Gardiner's Bay Country Club. Brunch included.