

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BRONXVILLE

(Serving Bronxville, Eastchester, Tuckahoe, Mt. Vernon and Yonkers)

NOVEMBER 2007

BULLETIN

ISSUE TWO

You are cordially invited to our

Monthly Coffee Meeting

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

9:30 AM

Speaker: State Assemblyman Michael Spano

Bronxville Women's Club

135 Midland Avenue

A PUBLIC FORUM

Sponsored by the Rivertowns LWV and the Bronxville LWV

A HEALTH CARE UPDATE

Mark Hannay, Director of Metro Health Care for All

A comprehensive summary of where candidates stand and what

Congressional bills need current popular support

Thursday, November 8, 2007

7 to 9 PM

Hastings Community Center

Main Street

Hastings-on-Hudson

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We are in the midst of our busiest season in the League. After much work by local League Voter Service chair, the Voters Guide information was compiled and sent to the County League for publication. Our County League President Mary Beth Gose worked diligently with assistance from a number of hardworking County Board League members to put it all together. The nonpartisan Voters Guide is an indispensable tool many voters have come to rely on and carry to the voting booth on Election Day. The guides are being distributed all over Westchester, and can be found in libraries, post offices, train stations, supermarkets and many other places in our town and villages. To find it online, go to www.SmartVoter.org

The New York State League has requested we prioritize our focus on issues. At our October 9th Board meeting, it was decided our four top priorities are: 1.Reforming State Government, 2. Cost Effective & Accessible Healthcare, 3. Court Restructure and Judicial Selection, 4. HAVA (Help America Vote Act)– To continue to lobby for Optical scan voting systems with a verifiable paper trail, statewide.

Our two recent third Tuesday informational coffees were well attended. District Attorney Janet DiFiore was our excellent September speaker. She told us about her office's efforts to work pro-actively with the police and communities on crime prevention among young people. Barbara Bernard, a representative from Concept: Care addressed us in October. She gave us a great deal of worthwhile information on managing hospital stays and aftercare. Our thanks to both these ladies for their fine work in their fields. Our November program will feature Assemblyman Mike Spano, who will speak to us on health care, focusing on children - an issue he is working on - and hopefully discuss the results of the November 6th election as well.

Our Yonkers Mayoral Candidates Meeting at Sarah Lawrence College on October 11th had a broad audience of Yonkers residents, especially from the East Yonkers neighborhoods of Armourvilla, Cedar Knolls, Longvale and Lawrence Park West. A great big thank you to our League Program chair Sue Weisfeld, who worked diligently in coordinating information from the neighborhood associations and planning the meeting. In spite of an incredibly stormy night, we had a fine turnout. The press coverage resulted in two articles in the Journal News.

The Westchester County League presented a session on How to Read a Capital Budget on Thursday, October 18th. Our thanks to new Westchester Budget Director Anne Reasoner, and Deputy Budget Director Arthur Vietro for a great presentation. There will be a consensus meeting on November 27th on the Operating Budget. (See inside for details)

On December 14th, a "Coffee & Conversation" with Westchester's State Legislators is planned at The White Plains Library. Our New York State League, in association with The United Nations Department of Public Information present "Briefings on the Effects of War on Women Around the World on Wednesday, November 28th from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters in NYC. All wonderful opportunities to become better informed!

Our Development chair, Pat Harriss has engaged us in our annual fund raising letter-writing endeavor. New Membership chair Birgitta Sherman and I are sending out reminders to tardy dues paying members. We need to have all our members paid up for the year. Even if you can't participate in many of the League's activities, it is important to support the League with your membership.

All Bronxville Village residents have received information about a meeting at 7:30 PM on November 5th at the Library's Jaeger Room. The subject to be discussed: nonpartisan selection of the Mayor and Village Board. A village committee has been studying the matter, and will be available to discuss their position.

And finally, on Tuesday, November 6th: **V O T E !!**

Adelaide

PS

In September, I joined Janet Jaidi and our new member Alice Clapp at Sarah Lawrence College to register students to vote and provide them with voting information. The students were very enthusiastic and well informed, It was a most rewarding experience for all.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND CONSENSUS

2008 COUNTY BUDGET

A ONE-OF-A-KIND OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND QUESTION

with featured speakers

ANNE REASONER
Westchester County Budget Director
and
ARTHUR VIETRO
Deputy Budget Director

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

9:30 AM

SCARSDALE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
One Heathcote Road, Scarsdale

**What are the duties and responsibilities of the County
as it prepares the 2008 budget???**

**How will fiscal decisions affect social services, environmental programs,
housing needs, transportation issues, infrastructure problems, flooding plans,
and, of course, your TAXES?**

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sponsored by
The League of Women Voters of Westchester

For more information, call 949-0507

HEALTH ISSUES - OCTOBER 2007

Our health care system is a hot political issue now, finally being addressed by all would-be presidential candidates - to the relief, I might add, of an anxious, frustrated public. The editorial page of the *NY Times*, on Sept. 23rd, summarized the positions of the Republican and Democratic front-runners. They divide, predictably, between supporters of free market solutions and those who want universal coverage with help, as need be, from the federal and/or state governments. None of them advocate publicly financed, universal health care (which the League supports), a solution quietly deemed unattainable in the current political climate.

However, the pressure for reform has produced some heartening advances - notably with respect to CHIP - the Children's Health Insurance Plan, which expired on Sept. 30th. As noted in last month's column, both Houses of Congress passed their own versions of a new bill, each expanding coverage to millions of children who would otherwise be uninsured. (The House bill would be financed, in part, by cutting subsidies to Medicare Advantage, a program from which private insurers benefit at a cost of billions in taxpayer funds.) Both houses reconciled their differences by the deadline to produce one bill. President Bush vetoed it. (He is a determined man!) We'll have to see whether enough congressional votes can be mustered to over-ride future vetoes, since they failed with this one. However, the Administration has already issued new rules - promulgated during a congressional recess - to prevent the states from expanding coverage on their own.

On another front, the Senate unanimously approved legislation requiring equal health insurance coverage for mental and physical illnesses when policies cover both. Advocates for mental health parity have been pressing for this for years. The House was considering a similar bill with 270 co-sponsors - more than half its members.

And a brief up-date on the FDA, a topic we will re-visit in the future. In mid-September the House overwhelmingly passed legislation to give federal drug regulators significantly more money and power to ensure the safety of the nation's drug supply. Senate passage was expected, along with President Bush's signature. It is a mammoth bill, with something for everyone, including the drug manufacturers, and will require some serious study to understand its provisions and their implications. One specific new power: the FDA can now require makers of vitamins, herbs, and other dietary supplements to show that products are free of contamination and contain exactly what the label says. Supplements still don't have to be proven safe and effective, however. Deja vu! Remember drugs?

Edith Szold, Health Issues Chair

CONGRATULATIONS!

What a pleasure to hear that one of our own, world renowned soprano, **Dawn Upshaw**, has been awarded the "genius grant" by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as a "master vocalist stretching the boundaries of operatic and concert singing and shaping and redefining the landscape of contemporary music". In 2004, thanks to our late, great president, **Louise Sellars**, the Bronxville League was honored by Dawn's generosity in performing for a fundraising evening of song to help our cause. We shall be ever grateful to her for giving so unselfishly of her time and talent. Dawn has sung more than 300 performances at the Metropolitan Opera and performed in concert halls around the world, at present with Boston Opera. She is also artistic director of the vocal program at Bard College.

**THE ROAD TO CHICANA FEMINISM -
A UNIQUE FEMINIST HISTORY:**

NOV. 8 AT Sarah Lawrence College

Although we are not an official co-sponsor, the Bronxville League encourages members and friends to attend a wonderful program on **Thursday, November 8**, 6:00 p.m. at the Sarah Lawrence College Library (Pillow Room), to hear acclaimed sociologist and feminist historian, **Benita Ross**.

Roth currently teaches at the State University of New York at Binghamton, this year earning a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The author of the award-winning *Separate Roads to Feminism* (now in its fourth printing!) Benita Roth spent many years examining why distinct feminist movements developed among radical women in the late 60's and 1970's.

Why was there an independent black feminist movement, and *how* did **Chicana feminism** develop to the point where it became totally separate from the mainstream of American feminism?



Chicana feminism, according to Roth, emerged via a distinct road and is deserving of its own history, which she has documented over the years. With the emergence of "Chicanismo," a mixed gender movement, also came the unique wave of Chicana feminism.

Chicanas, primarily Mexican-Americans, faced challenges in the workplace and universities which non-minority feminists did not experience. At the same time, the unique family and cultural dynamics of the Chicana community impacted how they organized and carried out their quest for equality within a society in which they faced multiple forms of inequality.

And so, a separate road to feminism developed. . . .

We hope you will join us for this fascinating free program on **November 8**, organized by the Graduate Department of Women's History at Sarah Lawrence College. Refreshments will be served. If you need further information, or transportation, please contact me: sweisfeld@juno.com or **779-8354**.

Sue Weisfeld, Program Chair

The League of Women Voters of Bronxville warmly welcomes the new President of Sarah Lawrence College, Karen Lawrence, who was installed in a beautiful inauguration celebration on October 5th. Our President, Adelaide DiGiorgi, Voter Service Chair, Irma Moore, and Bulletin Editor, Janet Jaidi, attended the ceremony and the luncheon that followed. The program and installation of the president was presided over by Robert M. Riggs, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and there were welcoming speeches by Sarah Lawrence Alumni and faculty. Representatives from Smith College, Syracuse University, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Mayors of Bronxville and Yonkers also expressed their good wishes to the new President.

OTHER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Global Warming Forum

Presented by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef

Thursday, November 29, 2007

7 to 9 PM

Cortlandt Town Hall

1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor

Rob Moore, Environmental Advocates of New York

Global Warming and its impact on New York State

Peter Lehner, Natural Resources Defense Council

Global Warming and how it will affect government services, economy, taxes,
Jobs, land use, development, transportation, lifestyle

Pete Grannis,, DEC

What needs to be done about Global Warming in New York State
And the priorities of the Department of Environmental Conservation

LARCHMONT/MAMARONECK LEAGUE - Back by popular demand - **"Breakfast at Night"**
November 13, 2007 - 6:45 - 8:30 PM Cafe Mozart, 123 Mamaroneck Avenue, Mamaroneck.
Topic: The Path to Legal Immigration with immigration attorney, **Robin Bikkal** This is the third
event in our study of US Immigration Policy. \$10 per person/RSVP required. aliceworks@aol.com.

LWV OF WESTCHESTER – HOLIDAY BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON.

Thursday, December 6, 2007, Backals Restaurant, 2 Weaver Street, Scarsdale

Board Meeting: 10:30 AM Luncheon: 12 Noon

Luncheon price will be \$40 and there will be a cash bar. For reservations, call
Kitt Rosenthal, 723-5126, or email KittR@optonline.net. Send checks made
out to LWVW to Kitt at 61 Birchall Drive, Scarsdale,, NY 10583.

LWVW FUND RAISER THE MOISEYEV DANCE COMPANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008

5 PM

Orchestra Tickets: \$55

RSVP ASAP: Kitt Rosenthal, 723-5126, kittr@optonline.net

REGISTRATION FORM



The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNY)
in association with
The United Nations Department of Public Information
AAUW-NYS (*American Association of University Women*)
WBASNY (*Women's Bar Association of the State of New York*)
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL, District 4
(*additional co-sponsors to be named at a later date*)



INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

BRIEFINGS ON THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 from *1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Members/Students, Please Select Your Organization

LWV of _____ AAUW---NYS
HS/College/University WBASNY
Zonta International—District 4
Other Co-Sponsoring Organization _____

COST/PAYMENT INFORMATION

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Optional* Tour of the UN \$12.00 \$ _____
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Optional* Lunch Buffet in the Delegates Dining Room
Includes International Buffet, Dessert Bar and Coffee/Tea only \$35.00 \$ _____
UN requires proper attire: jeans, shorts, sneakers will NOT be permitted.
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. *Briefings Program* in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium
\$73 Non-Member \$63 Members of Sponsoring Organizations \$50 Students \$ _____
Discounted fee to members of sponsoring organization for Tour, Lunch, and Briefing \$ 100

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

My Check for \$ _____ is enclosed (make payable to LWVNY)

Please charge my: MasterCard VISA American Express Discover

Card Holder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

United Nations Briefings/LWVNY**62 Grand Street ** Albany, New York 12207
Fax: 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Registrations ONLY)

E-Mail: lwny@lwny.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 518-465-4162

SPACE IS LIMITED, SO RESERVE EARLY

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 10, 2007

For updates on the "Briefings" forum, visit our website: www.lwny.org

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BULLETIN

League of Women Voters of Bronxville

P.O. Box 321, Bronxville, NY 10708

President: Adelaide DiGiorgi

Editor: Janet Jaidi

IMPORTANT DATES

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|----------------|---------------------|---|--|
| Nov. 6 | All day | ELECTION DAY! | Usual Polling Places |
| Nov 8 | 7-9:00 PM | Health Forum | Hastings Com. Center |
| Nov 8 | 6:00 PM | “The Road to Chicana Feminism” | Sarah Lawrence College |
| Nov. 13 | 9:30 AM | Bronxville LWV Board Meeting | Bvl Women’s Club |
| Nov. 20 | 9:30 AM | Bronxville LWV Coffee Meeting with Assemblyman Michael Spano | Bvl Women’s Club |
| Nov. 27 | 9:30 AM | LWWW Consensus Meeting on Westchester County Budget | Scarsdale Congretational |
| Nov. 28 | 1:00/3:00 PM | LWVNYS/UN Meeting “Effects of War on Women” | One Heathcote Road |
| Nov 29 | 7 – 9:00 PM | Global Warming Forum Assemblywoman Sandy Galef | United Nations HQ First Ave at 46th St. Cortlandt Town Hall 1 Heady Street Cortlandt Manor |