

# **COUNTY VOTER**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTCHESTER**  
*White Plains Mall, 200 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601*  
*Ph. 914-949-0507 Fax: 997-9354*  
*Email: [LWVwestchester@verizon.net](mailto:LWVwestchester@verizon.net)*  
*Website: [www.lwvwestchester.org](http://www.lwvwestchester.org)*

*November/December 2007*

## **INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND CONSENSUS**

# **2008 COUNTY BUDGET**

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

**with featured speaker**

**ARTHUR VIETRO**  
**Westchester County 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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Effective, efficient communications are essential to helping the League fulfill its nonpartisan mission of encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government, as well as working to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Going back in time to the beginning of the League, our predecessors accomplished a lot with telephones, hand-written notes, typewriters, ditto machines, and, most of all, face-to-face meetings. Fast-forward to the 1970s, and League members' work was made easier with the availability of photocopy machines. Today, although technological changes have revolutionized our ability not only to communicate with each other, but also to gather and analyze data, perhaps the greatest motivation for League members' continuing dedication to the League is a desire to satisfy the basic human need to meet with other people, define a problem and come to a consensus.

In our effort to serve the local leagues here in Westchester, the County League is working on many levels to continually improve inter-League communications, as well as communications to the general public. Valerie Castleman, our webmaster, has reformatted our home page to include a calendar of upcoming events that may be of interest to league members. Please stop by the website, [www.LWVWestchester.org](http://www.LWVWestchester.org), and take a look at the available meetings and activities that are going on around the County, and that other local leagues in the area are sponsoring. Janet Jaidi and Marj Davies produce and distribute this publication, the bi-monthly *County Voter*---another source of local events, as well as information about issues from Local, County, State and National Leagues. Mary Beth Evans, Director of Communications, has updated our media contact list to include website, as well as local college and Spanish language publications for our press releases to the public.

Most of all, though, we depend on you for content. Please provide Valerie and Janet with information on upcoming events in your local league. We'll be happy to post the information on our website and in the *County Voter*.

We have two upcoming County League events that I want to encourage you to attend: one is an established tradition, and the other is new. On Tuesday, November 27, Barbara Strauss will chair our annual informational and consensus meeting on the County Budget. This is your chance to go beyond the political

rhetoric and gain a deeper understanding of the County government's priorities by "following [the plan for] the money." The second event is a first for us: On Friday, December 14, we've invited each member of Westchester's State Assembly and State Senate delegations to "Coffee and Conversation with Westchester's State Legislators: A Roundtable Discussion." Our goal is to have an informal dialogue with our elected representatives about topics that are of interest to Westchester residents. With these events, we are continuing our strong grassroots tradition of direct, in person communications.

Finally, although I know this is a busy time of year, I hope that you can find the time to attend the County League's Annual Holiday Luncheon, on Thursday, December 6, at Backals in Scarsdale. Details on this and the other events I mentioned are included in other pages of this newsletter, as well as on our website.

I hope that you all have a wonderful, healthy and safe holiday season and new year!

Mary Beth

### LWVW LIST OF OFFICERS – 2007-08

President	Mary Beth Gose
First VP	Adelaide DiGiorgi
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Open
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP	Kitt Rosenthal
Treasurer	Sydelle Herzberg
Secretary	Ricki Gardner
Directors:	Ina Aronow
	Rinku Bhattacharya
	Renee Baylor
	Mary Beth Evans
	Laura Fratt
	Janet Jaidi
	Kristina McCarthy
	Laura Porter
	Claire Prohl
	Karen Schatzel
	Barbara Strauss
	Selma Thackeray

## **LOCAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES**

**BRONXVILLE LWV – Tuesday, November 20, 2007 –** monthly coffee meeting with **State Assemblyman Michael Spano. 9:30 AM at the Bronxville Women’s Club, corner of Midland Ave and Tanglewylde.**

**LARCHMONT/MAMARONECK -** 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 Citizenship – or how does one become a legal citizen?** Our guest will be **Robin Bikkal, Esq,** senior partner in the law firm of Silverman, Bikkal and Sandberg LLP. Robin specializes in immigration law and has kindly agreed to lead us in this conversation. The cost of this event will be \$10 per person (payable at restaurant), which will include a buffet dinner. This is the third in a series of forums in the L/M LWV study of US immigration policy. **Please RSVP immediately, no later than Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, to aliceworks@aol.com.**

**LARCHMONT/MAMARONECK – Thursday, December 13, 2007. Emelin Theatre, Library Lane, Mamaroneck.** You are invited to view and discuss the film: **ADDICTED TO OIL: THOMAS FRIEDMAN REPORTING** in which Mr. Friedman addresses the dynamics of petro-politics. He investigates the relationship between America's energy consumption, oil prices and geo-political power and provides an in-depth exploration of our options to combat global warming through reduced consumption and co2 emissions: from hybrids to hydrogen, wind power to solar panels and beyond.

Reception at 7 PM, film to follow and speaker to be announced. Explore how to be part of the solution.

## **LWVW OBSERVER CORPS**

### **9/17/2007 Meeting of the BOL Committee on Environment and Energy to Discuss the Licensing of Septage Collectors**

The Committee on Environment and Energy discussed amending the Laws that regulate the licensing of persons engaged in the business of evacuating, removing, collecting or transporting septage. Those attending the meeting included contractors in the business, and concerned citizens, including League members. Representatives from the Health Department explained that they will develop a curriculum and course work to train collectors. This training will ensure that workers are qualified to handle the waste from the time it is pumped to the point of discharge. Licenses will be issued on successful completion of course. In addition, the law provides for reporting requirements for each load of septage collected. These reports will be entered into a database, and the information will enable the DOH to monitor the condition of septic systems on a county-wide basis, especially those areas that are either not getting proper maintenance or having problems with maintenance.

The legislators added a requirement that DOH will submit semi-annual reports with commentary to the BOL. A public hearing will be scheduled soon.

Augusta Lopez-Novillo

# REGISTRATION FORM



The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS)  
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 LWVNYS)

Please charge my:      MasterCard      VISA      American Express      Discover

Card Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE RETURN TO:

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

E-Mail: [lwny@lwny.org](mailto: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](http://www.lwny.org)

Wednesday, November 28, 2007  
At the United Nations in NYC

**“Briefings on the Effects of War on Women Around the World”**, sponsored by LWVNYS in association with the United Nations Department of Public Information. See registration form on page 4.

**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

**SAVE THE DATE!**

(But make your reservations asap)

LWVW FUND RAISER

THE MOISEYEV DANCE COMPANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008

5 PM

Orchestra Tickets: \$55

RSVP: Kitt Rosenthal, 723-5126, [kittr@optonline.net](mailto:kittr@optonline.net)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTCHESTER**

**HOLIDAY BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007**

**BACKALS RESTAURANT**  
**(Formerly Heathcote Tavern)**  
**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](mailto:KittR@optonline.net). Send checks made out to LWVW**  
**To Kitt at 61 Birchall Drive, Scarsdale, NY 10583.**

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**Reservations for Holiday Luncheon**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of reservations** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 2007 VOTERS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters® of Westchester again published its popular *Voters Guide*, including a Spanish language edition. For each language, there are two separate versions—one each for Northern and Southern Westchester. The *Guide* contains a sample ballot and information on the candidates, ballot propositions, League-sponsored candidates' debates, and other information about the November 6th election.

The League has distributed more than 110,000 *Guides* through the mail and at libraries, municipal offices, community centers and other public places. The complete *Guide* is also available on the League's web site, [www.lwvwestchester.org](http://www.lwvwestchester.org). Additional information about the candidates is available at the League's interactive website, [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org), where users can access personalized ballot and polling place information. *Voters Guides* may also be picked up at the League office, 200 Hamilton Avenue, White Plains; phone 949-0507.

Major Benefactors who have underwritten the 2007 *Voters Guide* are Verizon Foundation and the Westchester Community Foundation. Both grants are in support of publication and distribution of the annual *Voters Guide* in English and Spanish editions.

"Verizon is pleased to help Westchester citizens in the ability to understand issues and assist those struggling to be informed. Verizon is pleased to partner with the League of Women Voters of Westchester in advancing literacy initiatives," said John F. Butler, Director, Verizon Community Affairs.

According to Catherine Marsh, Executive Director of Westchester Community Foundation, "Our election process depends on well-informed voters. There is no better source of nonpartisan information than the League of Women Voters *Guide*. The Westchester Community Foundation is proud to support the League's invaluable work."

Other sponsors include the Ed Lee & Jean Campe Foundation, The Glickenhau Foundation, the Frederick P. and Sandra P. Rose Foundation, and the Hunter Foundation.

"The *Voters Guide* would not be possible without the generous support of our corporate and charitable donors, for which we are grateful. We also depend on individual contributions from the voters we serve in Westchester which allow us to continue providing the *Guide* and [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org). Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated," said Mary Beth Gose, president of the LWV of Westchester. Tax-deductible gifts can be made to the LWV Education Foundation and mailed to the LWVW at 200 Hamilton Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601.

THE VERIZON FOUNDATION, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications, is committed to improving literacy and K-12 education; fostering awareness and prevention of domestic violence; and promoting the use of technology in health-care delivery. In 2006, the foundation awarded more than \$69 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the United States and abroad. The foundation also matched charitable donations from Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in \$29 million in combined contributions. Under the foundation's Verizon Volunteer initiative, one of the nation's largest employee-volunteer programs, company employees and retirees have also contributed nearly 3 million hours of community service since Verizon's inception in 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit [www.verizon.com/foundation](http://www.verizon.com/foundation).

THE WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION is a non-profit community endowment for the benefit of Westchester County. Its mission is to develop and manage philanthropic resources, and to distribute them in a way that is responsive to donor interest and community needs. The Foundation actively promotes charitable giving on behalf of the area's non-profit organizations. WCF is a division of The New York Community Trust, one of the largest community foundations in the country, with assets of over \$2 billion. For more information, visit [www.wcf-ny.org/](http://www.wcf-ny.org/).

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are needed to see this picture.

# COUNTY VOTER

Non-Profit org.

**League of Women Voters of Westchester**

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## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Nov 6</b>	<b>6AM/9PM</b>	<b>Election Day</b>	<b>Usual Polling Places</b>
<b>Nov 27</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>West County Budget Meeting/Consensus</b>	<b>Scarsdale Congregational Church 1 Heathcote Road</b>
<b>Nov 28</b>	<b>1- 3 PM</b>	<b>UN Meeting on Effects of War on Women (See registration form inside)</b>	<b>UN Headquarters First Ave at 46<sup>th</sup> St.</b>
<b>Nov 29 Hall</b>	<b>7-9 PM</b>	<b>Global Warming Forum  with Sandy Galef</b>	<b>Cortlandt Town  1 Heady Street Cortlandt Manor</b>
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>10:30 AM 12 Noon</b>	<b>LWWW Board Meeting Holiday Luncheon (See inside)</b>	<b>Backals Restaurant 2 Weaver Street Scarsdale</b>
<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>9:30-11:30 AM</b>	<b>Coffee and Conversation with our Westchester State Legislators</b>	<b>WhitePlains Library Martine Avenue</b>