



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.*

November, 2008

## Save the Dates

**Wednesday, Nov. 5 – 7:30**  
**LWVEN Board Meeting**  
Home of Norma Schaeffer  
614 Pine La., E. Meadow, 489-3133

**Thursday, Nov. 6 – 12 Noon**  
**LWVNC Post Election Lunch**  
Coral House - Baldwin

**Wednesday, Nov. 19 – 7:30 PM**  
**LWVEN General Meeting**  
Speaker: Kathleen Rice,  
NC District Attorney  
See right column.

**Tuesday, December 2**  
**League Day at the UN**  
1:30 AM – 4:00 PM  
See right column.

**Wednesday, Dec. 3 – 7:30 PM**  
**LWVEN Board Meeting**  
Home of Polly Nager  
47 Kingfisher Rd., Levittown, 796-6211

**Wednesday, Jan. 21 – 1:30 PM**  
**LWVEN General Meeting**  
Dr. Michael Hadjiargyou,  
SUNY Stony Brook  
Topic: Genetic Research  
Levittown Library

### Reminder:

*If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now. Your membership helps us to work towards improving the quality of life for everyone. Please use the membership form on page 5.*

## The Glass Ceiling and Law Enforcement

Please join us on

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 7:30 PM**

**Wantagh Library, Park Avenue**

Our speaker for the evening will be  
Nassau County District Attorney  
Kathleen Rice.



Learn all about what is happening in the  
DA's office. Ask the questions you've been wanting to  
ask. Members of the community are welcome.

## League Day at the UN

**Briefings on the Impact of Global Warming on  
Women and Children Around the World**

**Sponsored by LWVNYS & The UN Dept. of Public Information  
Tuesday, December 2. UN Headquarters – 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. & 46<sup>th</sup> St.**

Briefings Program - 1:30 – 4:00 PM - \$55.00 for League members  
Optional Tours of UN – 10:00 AM or 4:30 PM - \$12.00  
Optional Lunch Buffet – 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM - \$40.00

Call LWVNYS office: 518-465-4162, or go to [lwny.org](http://lwny.org).

Space is limited – Reserve early

Deadline: November 18, 2008

A registration form can be found on page 8 of the October VOTER

## League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

**Barbara Epstein, President**  
**Paula Blum, Editor**  
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**Mary Price, Circulation**  
**Lesley Pollak, Advertising**

### County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, November 17 10:00 AM  
 Monday, December 1 10:00 AM  
 Monday, December 15 10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained on the first floor.

### Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, November 18 10:30 AM  
 Tuesday, December 9 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, November 18 10:00 AM  
 Tuesday, November 25 7:00 PM  
 Tuesday, December 16 10:00 AM

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

<b>President:</b>	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>		
<b>Environment:</b>	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
<b>Voter Service/HAVA:</b>	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
<b>Bulletin Circulation/     Special Events:</b>	Mary Price	731-0812
<b>Secretary:</b>	Shirlee Bergman	249-5276
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Barbara Josepher	921-8749

### DIRECTORS:

<b>Administrative Assistant:</b>	Judy Schmertz	221-1576
<b>Affordable Housing:</b>	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
<b>Bulletin:</b>	Paula Blum	785-3213
<b>Budget:</b>	Lesley Pollak	731-1066
<b>Education:</b>	Maxine Stolzer	938-1172
<b>Health Care, Advocacy:</b>	Polly Nager	796-6211
<b>Immigration:</b>	Carole Goldfarb	626-3338
<b>Membership:</b>	Bobby Stim	731-1067
<b>Membership, PR:</b>	Elsie Yurasits	292-8045
<b>Programs:</b>	Janet Spar	735-8673
<b>Special Districts Study:</b>	Mimi Hirsch	822-5086
<b>Students Inside</b>	Judy Schecter	221-5448
<b>Albany/Civics:</b>	Lillian Broad	781-8685

## In This Issue...

1. Save the dates, LWVEN General Meeting, League Day at the UN
2. Legislative meeting dates, Officers & Directors, Keeping Connected
3. Public Transit Finance at Risk, Health Matters, Kudos for Levittown Library Display, Barbara's Corner,
4. The Gender Pay Gap, Voter Registration, Food for Thought
5. & 6. VOTER Advertisers, Membership Enrollment Form
7. Election Simulation Day, Leagues Worked to Protect Voters, Holiday Wish List, Welcome to New Members
8. News From Your State League

## Keeping Connected

### LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508  
 202-429-1965, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)

### LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207  
 518-465-4162, [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org), [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org), [www.lwvny-bulletins.org](http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org)

### LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628  
[www.lwvofnassaucounty.org](http://www.lwvofnassaucounty.org), [vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org](mailto:vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org)

## Public Transit Finance at Risk Despite Recent Successes

Recent trends show that the public is traveling on public transit in droves, at levels of ridership not seen in five decades. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reported that “Americans took more than 2.8 billion trips on public transportation in the second quarter of 2008” – almost 140 million more than during the same time period the year before. On the other hand, vehicular miles traveled declined by 3.3% in the second quarter of the year.

This type of success should be rewarded, the national and state governments should support public transportation enthusiastically. Increased use of public transportation is good for economic productivity, environmental protection, energy conservation, public health, etc. So, why are cuts in the transportation sector imminent? Why are we hearing about the possibility of fare increases?

When we speak to our representatives – national, state and local, let’s urge them to increase, not decrease funds for public transportation – as a way to help improve both the economy and the environment.

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## Health Matters

If you are taking the following medications, check with your doctor regarding the risks of food-drug interactions:

### **Lipitor, Vytorin, Zocor, Lovastin, Simvastatin**

Can interact with grapefruit, grapefruit juice and foods high in fat or cholesterol.

### **Lisinopril, Prinivil, Zestril**

Can interact with salt substitutes, potassium supplements and foods high in potassium, such as bananas, milk, oranges, orange juice, potatoes, prunes, tomatoes.

### **Euthyrox, Levothroid, Levothyroxine, Levoxyl, Synthroid, Tirosint, Unithroid**

Can interact with walnuts and high fiber foods, including fruits, nuts, vegetables, whole grains, cereals, pastas, beans, seeds, and should be taken on an empty stomach 30-60 minutes before eating any of these foods.

### **Coumadin, Jantoven, Warfarin**

Can interact with alcoholic beverages and foods high in vitamin K, such as broccoli, cabbage, green leafy vegetables, soy products, cranberry, cranberry juice products.

## Kudos for Levittown Library Display

The picture below depicts the display that LWVEN prepared for the Levittown Library prior to the election. We would like to thank the four members and one relative of a member for their hard work. It certainly paid off. Thanks to: Lesley Pollak, Janet Spar, Carole Goldfarb, Lorraine Newman and Lara Blum.



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### Barbara's Corner

I want to thank **Norma Schaeffer** and **Polly Nager** and the rest of our Voter Service team for doing such a great job registering people, giving talks, etc. This year was bigger and better than before.

We are looking for someone(s) to observe the Town of Hempstead board meetings, which are held on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM, at the Nathan LH Bennett Pavilion in Hempstead. The next one is scheduled for Tues. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

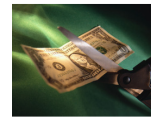
In addition, **two new workshops** are being formed. One is for the National study item on the **Compact for a National Popular Vote**. We have a few people interested so far. The other is the County study item on **Special Districts**. Please call me at 221-1948 or email me at [byeppie@aol.com](mailto:byeppie@aol.com) if interested in any of the above.

I am very pleased to report that we have many new members. We want to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. I hope that many of you would like to become more involved, whether in something that takes a little bit of time or something more involved. **WE NEED YOU**. For those members who are snowbirds, I wish you a terrific winter wherever you go. See you next year.

For the rest - see you soon.

Barbara





# The Gender Pay Gap

In 1963, when President Kennedy signed the **Equal Pay Act** (EPA) into law, making it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform equal work, women were earning 59 cents for each dollar earned by men. Today, women earn 77 cents to every dollar that men earn.

The **Institute of Women's Policy Research** found that this wage disparity will cost women from \$400,000 to \$2 million in lost wages over a lifetime. In contrast to previous slowdowns, the current economic downturn "is hitting women harder than men. They are suffering more job losses and larger reductions in wages than the general population. The marketplace, on its own cannot correct the injustice -- we need a legislative solution."

While the wage gap narrowed throughout the 20th century, gender-based financial disparities are, in many cases, growing. Unmarried women, earn only 56 cents for every dollar that married men make. As women get older, the wage gap broadens: females aged 45 to 64 earn only 71 percent of what men earn, a pain exacerbated by the necessity to prepare for retirement.

Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) noted, "Between 1963 and now, the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent a year. At this rate, it would take about another 50 years before men and women reach parity in pay in this country." Currently, there is not a single state in which women have gained pay equality with men.

The **Paycheck Fairness Act** would close loopholes that have allowed employers to avoid responsibility for

discriminatory pay, and strengthen accountability in the workplace. The legislation increases penalties for sex and other forms of wage discrimination, unless the company has a business-related reason for the inequality in wages. The PFA puts gender discrimination sanctions on equal footing with race, disability, or age, allowing women to file lawsuits for compensatory and punitive damages. The bill also prohibits employers retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers.

The Act requires that the Department of Labor "improve outreach and training efforts to work with employers in order to eliminate pay disparities" and "creates a new grant program to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women."

Congressional conservatives claim the Paycheck Fairness Act is unnecessary because the Equal Pay Act "already makes wage discrimination illegal" and complain about "increased litigation costs." They seem to be worried about employers being required to pay women a fair wage.

PFA simply closes loopholes in existing law so that fair pay laws can be better enforced. While the bill has the support of 230 House co-sponsors and 22 Senate co-sponsors, conservatives have consistently mounted vigorous efforts to stall equal pay legislation. In April, Senate conservatives blocked cloture on the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which would have rectified the Supreme Court decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear "that made it so much harder for women and others to pursue pay discrimination claims."



## Voter Registration

Norma Schaeffer

On September 25, in the very early AM, **Barbara Epstein** and **Mimi Hirsch** were at the Wantagh Train station handing out **voter Registration forms** to commuters. The next morning they were scheduled for the Hicksville station, but the weather was awful, so their tour of duty was rescheduled to the following Monday. Mimi and our new participant, **Diane Worden** performed their duties admirably. The League is very grateful for their efforts.

A special, special, thank you to **Elsie Yurasits**, who sent notices to the papers in the above communities. We discussed her humor at the last board meeting and laughed once more at her choice of words.







## Food for Thought

If you want to understand your government, don't begin by reading the Constitution. (It conveys precious little of the flavor of today's statecraft.) Instead, read selected portions of the Washington telephone directory containing listings for all the organizations with titles beginning with the word National.  
~George Will

Under capitalism man exploits man; under socialism the reverse is true. ~Polish Proverb

Our political institutions work remarkably well. They are designed to clang against each other. The noise is democracy at work. ~Michael Novak

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

<p><b>NEW YORK STATE SENATE</b></p> <p><b>SENATOR KEMP HANNON</b> 6TH DISTRICT - NASSAU COUNTY</p> <p>225 SEVENTH STREET, 2ND FLOOR GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK 11530 (516) 739-1700 □□□:□□□□:~/□□□-□□□□□□□□□□-□□□</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (516) 455-2200 E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:hannon@senate.state.ny.us">hannon@senate.state.ny.us</a></p>		 <p>TEL: (516) 571-6216 FAX: (516) 571-6287 E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov">jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov</a></p> <p><b>JUDITH A. JACOBS</b> Nassau County Legislator 16th District Chair: Budget Review Vice Chair: Aging, Planning &amp; the Environment Member: Rules Minority Affairs Public Works Education Health and Social Services</p>
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**Membership Form**

**Yes, I want to support the LWV's work in citizen education and advocacy.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and send with your check to: Barbara Josepher, Treasurer; LWVEN, 339 Cold Spring Road, Syosset NY, 11791  
Enclosed is a check for : \_\_\_\_\_ membership dues (\$50 individual / \$75 household) \_\_\_\_\_ contribution \_\_\_\_\_ Total