



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV of East Nassau

Voter

*At local, state and national levels
the League works to influence public policy
through education and advocacy.*

April, 2010

Save the Dates

Wednesday, April 7 – 7:00 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Consensus for LWVNY study on
Consolidation of Governmental
Services. Levittown Library

Tuesday, April 13 – 6:15 PM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Hempstead Library Board Room

Tuesday, April 20 – 5:00 PM
HERSTORY – Tales of
Workplace Discrimination and
Stereotypes – Hillwood Commons
CW Post Campus of LIU (See p3.)

Wednesday, April 21 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
Film: “The Last Fix”
Speaker: Jacqui Lofaro
(See column to the right.)

Wednesday, May 5 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN Board Meeting
Levittown Library

Tuesday, May 11 – 6:15 PM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Hempstead Library Board Room

Wednesday, May 12 – 7:30 PM
LWVEN General Meeting
How Women in the Workplace
Affect the Economy.
Speaker: Beverly Cooper Neufeld,
VP, NY Women’s Agenda,
Coord., NYC Equal Pay Coalition
Levittown Library

Wednesday, May 26
LWV of Nassau County
Annual Convention & Dinner
Coral House, Baldwin

Consensus Meeting on Consolidation/Dissolution/Shared Services Study

All members of LWVEN are urged to attend a consensus meeting for the LWVNY study on **Consolidation, Dissolution, and/or Shared Services of Governmental Entities**, on April 7, at 7:00 PM, at the Levittown Library. It is important that LI Leagues have their voices heard on this important topic. *Refreshments will be served.*

The LWVWEN April Board Meeting will follow the consensus meeting. All who attend the consensus meeting are cordially invited to stay for the Board Meeting.



The Last Fix

In the criminal court system, there is often a barrier between judge and defendant. The judge speaks directly to the lawyers, and rarely to the accused. But almost 10 years ago, Southampton Town Justice Deborah Kooperstein lobbied for a different approach to handling drug offenses and offenders. She went on to establish the East End Regional Intervention Court in 2004 as a way to blend accountability with treatment. Her work is featured in a new documentary “The Last Fix,” which documents three addicts’ journeys through the East End drug courts.

“The Last Fix” not only highlights the work of the drug courts, but offers an indictment of “the war on drugs” and the conventional method of handling drug cases.

Join us on
April 21, at 7:30 PM
at the Levittown Library



for an exclusive showing of this amazing film.

And join us afterward for a sharing of information and ideas with the co-producer and director of the film, Jacqui Lofaro (former board member of the LWVNY, former chair of the LWVNY Education Foundation, and former President of the LWV of Suffolk County).

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, April 19	10:00 AM
Monday, May 3	10:00 AM
Monday, May 17	10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1st floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained. Call for scheduled committee meeting dates and times.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 13	10:30 AM
Tuesday, April 20	10:30 AM
Tuesday, May 4	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, April 13	10:00 AM
Tuesday, April 27	7:00 PM
Tuesday, May 11	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 – 2009-2010

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Keeping Connected

LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508
 202-429-1965, www.lwv.org, lwv@lwv.org

LWVNY & LWVNY Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207
 518-465-4162, www.lwvny.org, lwvny@lwvny.org, www.lwvny-bulletins.org

LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628
www.lwvofnassaucounty.org, vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org



Barbara's Corner

Anne Ostling and I attended a forum sponsored by the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce to discuss the revitalization of downtown Hicksville. There was a presentation of suggested ideas from the organization **Vision Long Island**, followed by a Q & A segment. I had the opportunity to meet **Lionel Chelty**, (president of the Chamber), as well as Oyster Bay Town Councilman, **Anthony Macagnone** (we've met before), the new Oyster Bay Town Councilwoman, **Rebecca M. Alesia** and the new County Legislator, **Rose Marie Walker**.

We expect to follow-up with this, since we want to encourage smart growth for the area, including affordable housing.

Reminder: Be sure to Complete and send in your **Census Form**. Remind your family and friends as well. Remember! Government funding is based on these numbers.

Prescription Drug Collection

In a previous issue, we discussed the fact that the **Town of North Hempstead** had begun including expired and unwanted prescription medication in their list of substances and items that can be disposed of on certain S.T.O.P. collection days. Since the disposal of these drugs is a critical problem that can affect our water supply, we have been advocating for the other towns to do the same.

We are very pleased to announce that the **Town of Oyster Bay** has scheduled a **special S.T.O.P. event** for this purpose. Those living in the town can bring their unwanted and/or expired drugs to the Town of Oyster Bay Department of Public Works, 150 Miller Place, Syosset, on **Sunday, May 16, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. This is in addition to the regular S.T.O.P. and E-Waste Recycling programs scheduled for the same day. If you have any questions, call 677-5943.

Those living in the **Town of Hempstead** should contact their town council representatives and ask them why their town has not made similar arrangements for pharmaceutical drug disposal. In the meantime, be sure that when you dispose of these items you put them in with really yuck garbage, such as coffee grinds (to prevent access by youngsters), and dispose of them with the garbage – never flush them down the toilet, where they can have a deleterious effect on our water.

HERSTORY: Tales of Workplace Discrimination and Stereotypes

See the stories of Long Island working women come to life through dramatic readings crafted using the *Herstory* model of memoir writing on **NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY**

Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 5:00 PM
At Hillwood Commons Cinema
CW Post Campus of LI University

There is **no charge** to attend this event, but **seating is limited**. **RSVP by April 15, 2010** to Fran Medaglia, 516-396-9857, X9, or email: wojtf1@optonline.net, to reserve your seat.

Equal Pay Day – April 20



Equal Pay Day, Tuesday, April 20, is quickly approaching, and supporters across the country are already planning events to mark this symbolic day when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the year before.

More than 46 years after passage of the Equal Pay Act, women continue to earn only 77 cents on the dollar to their male counterparts. Minority women face an even larger wage gap. Pay disparities affect women of all ages, races, and education levels—regardless of their family decisions. Research done by the AAUW indicates that just one year out of college, working women already earn less than their male colleagues earn, even when they work in the same field with the same degree.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama brought the issue to a national audience, asserting "We're going to crack down on violations of equal pay laws - so that women get equal pay for an equal day's work." The White House also announced the establishment of a National Equal Pay Enforcement Task Force to improve compliance, public education, and enforcement of equal pay laws. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis wrote on the White House blog, reiterating that pay equity is "Not Just a 'Women's Issue.'"

You can help keep pay equity on the front burner of the national agenda by taking action on and around Equal Pay Day. You can write a letter to the editor of your local paper. You can show your senators the Face of Pay Equity! Upload a picture of yourself to send with a message urging them to quickly move the Paycheck Fairness Act, a much-needed update to the Equal Pay Act. At the very least, you can speak to your friends and acquaintances about wage discrimination and the work being done to end it. Be a part of the solution.

Kudos

Barbara Epstein

The LWV of Nassau County did a fantastic job in the celebration of Women's History Month, the 90th anniversary of the LWVUS and the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

Those who attended were treated to a terrific dramatic presentation. We are extremely proud that four of our members participated in the presentation: **Mimi Hirsch, Norma Schaeffer, Judy Schmertz, and Carole Goldfarb**. They did an amazing job. Very special thanks to Carole for stepping in for me at the last minute (due to my laryngitis).

Those who were unable to attend missed a wonderful evening.



Fourth Annual UOCAVA Summit

LWVUS's partner, the Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF), has helped give voice to tens of thousands of military and overseas voters all over the world. With new developments in voter research, voting technology and election education, the remarkable efforts of the OVF, LWV and other election organizations to enfranchise military and overseas voters continues to grow.

This March, the 4th Annual UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) Summit, coordinated by OVF, took place in Munich, Germany. It brought together voting agencies, secretaries of state, elections officials, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, thought leaders, researchers and academics, technologists, innovators, and overseas and military voters. Its goals were to address the most serious issues of enfranchisement, the direction of technology development, building outreach and participation, evolving research and data gathering, and the implementation of the new Military and Overseas Voting Empowerment (MOVE) Act. Go to lwv.org to learn more about this important event.

FDA Recommendation:

Familiarize yourself with your medications. Any time you get a prescription refilled, check the color, texture, shape and taste. If there is anything different, check with your pharmacist.

LWVEN Sponsors Student Representative to Students Inside Albany Conference

Judy Schecter

Nicole Chun, a student attending Jericho High School, has been selected by our committee to attend the *Students Inside Albany* conference from April 11th to the 14th. She was highly recommended by her social studies teacher who praised her work in the advanced classes. This conference is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. Nicole will interact with 33 other New York State students sent by their local Leagues. This program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of the responsibility in representative government and provide information about the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. Other than having lectures and discussions, the students will shadow their state senators and assemblymembers. We hope there will also be an opportunity to attend a session on the Chamber floor.



The League of Women Voters of East Nassau conducted a vast search among many high schools in the area. We are grateful for the cooperation of the Social Studies chairpeople. Nicole has been invited to our annual meeting in June where we hope you will have the opportunity to meet her and hear about her experiences in Albany.

Birthday Party on Redistricting

The NYS League held its 90th birthday celebration by co-hosting a redistricting forum with the Rockefeller Institute on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. The event was well attended by individuals from many different organizations. Rockefeller Institute Deputy Director Robert Ward suggested that we co-sponsor another redistricting event to further delve into this issue. Videos of the presenters are available at the Rockefeller Institute Website at www.rockinst.org/forumsandevents/.

Men in authority will always think that criticism of their policies is dangerous. They will always equate their policies with patriotism, and find criticism subversive.

Henry Steele

Green Cleaning

To clean stubborn odors from a microwave - Put a handful of chopped lemon or lime rinds or a tablespoon of vanilla extract in a microwave-safe bowl that can hold at least 4 cups. Add one cup of water, put in microwave and heat until the water boils. Allow water to cool for 15 minutes before opening microwave door, then wipe out the microwave.

To deodorize smelly drains - Combine ½ cup baking soda and ¼ cup table salt. Pour down drain. Then pour 1 – 2 cups of white vinegar. The drain will foam and bubble. Wait 15 – 30 minutes, then put the stopper in the sink and fill it with hot water. As soon as it is full, pull out the stopper (carefully with tongs) and let the water flush the drain clean.

To eliminate ring-around-the-collar - Squirt a small amount of hair shampoo on the ring and rub it together, then put the shirt in the wash.

Increase Your Vocabulary and Help Feed the Hungry

freerice.com : For every word you define correctly, the UN world food program site donates ten grains of rice to countries coping with chronic hunger. (More than 68 million grains of rice have been donated so far.)

Freekibble.com gives food to dogs in shelters when you correctly answer a daily trivia question. To do this for cats, go to **freekibblekat.com**. (source: AARP Magazine)

Wanted: Your E-Mail Address

Don't let the train leave the station without you. The LWVNYS *Voter* changed to an electronic format last November and other notifications are also sent out via email now. You will receive the electronic *Voter* automatically free of charge if LWVNYS has an e-mail address for you. If not, you may order a printed version for \$10.00 for the last two issues of this fiscal year. Send your email address to: lwny@lwny.org.

Greener Light Bulbs Save Energy

Star Anthony (LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset)

About 20 percent of the average household's electricity bill goes toward lighting costs. Therefore it pays to understand the lighting options available. This is a comparison of the three basic types of lighting that are being used today -- incandescent, fluorescent, and LED. There are benefits and drawbacks to each.

Incandescent bulbs are the oldest technology, invented by Thomas Edison. They turn on instantly, can be dimmed, and get very hot to the touch. About 85% of the electricity used by these bulbs makes unnecessary heat instead of light. That makes them very inefficient. The light they give off is on the yellower side of "white" and has a warm feel. They are inexpensive and non-toxic.



Fluorescent bulbs were developed for greater efficiency. Recently, compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) have been developed and can provide a warm, inviting light. New bulbs also do not flicker or hum, which was a big drawback to the older ones. These bulbs cost more to buy, but use 1/3 the electricity and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. The average 18 watt CFL, equivalent to a 75 watt incandescent bulb, can save about \$45 dollars in electricity over its lifetime.



One drawback is that mercury is a necessary component of fluorescent bulbs. It poses no threat while in the bulb. If the bulb breaks, however, it is necessary to open a window and leave the room for at least 15 minutes, clean up with a wet rag and then double bag the remains.

The newest and most exciting lighting technology is in the form of the LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulb. Often described as the "future of lighting," LED technology offers the benefits of bright color, outstanding energy efficiency, long life, and minimal maintenance. They light up immediately when you turn them on and they do not burn out as a result of frequent turning on and off. LEDs are small, solid light bulbs which are extremely energy-efficient. LEDs need as little as 10% of the electricity that incandescent bulbs need to produce the same amount of light. They are cool, non-toxic, and last a very long time. LEDs offer more than 3 to 5 times the life of CFLs. This is 35 to 50 times the average life of an incandescent bulb. Using strings of LED lights is a good way to reduce energy usage during the holidays.

The technology has a way to go before it reaches its potential, but it is advancing rapidly. The high cost of producing LEDs has also been a roadblock to widespread use, but new developments promise to bring LEDs into competitive pricing. LED technology is on the verge of becoming the standard for most lighting needs.

[Editor's note: Used fluorescent bulbs can be brought to many Home Depot stores for disposal. In the Town of Hempstead, you can place them in a separate bag, and place next to your regular garbage for pick-up. (If the bulb is broken, label the bag as broken glass.) In the Town of Oyster Bay, the bulbs can be brought to S.T.O.P. sites on scheduled S.T.O.P. days.]



State News

The League of Women Voters of New York State

Upcoming Events

April 11-14

Students Inside Albany Conference
Albany

April 20, 2010

Fair Pay Summit and Advocacy Day
LOB, Albany

May 5

“Albany On the Record” in Albany

May 14-16

Spring Fling Weekend in NYC

June 11-June 15

LWVUS Convention
Atlanta, GA.

May 20-22, 2011

LWVNYS State Convention, Albany

“Albany On the Record”

On May 5, 2010, the League will co-sponsor Albany on the Record, an educational event in which it will bring citizens to Albany to hear the positions of the state's leading political figures on how they will reform Albany. The League is organizing buses to this event from around the state; locations will be determined based on registrations received. Travel is free, and lunch will be provided. Sign up on the state League website, www.lwvny.org, by email to may5@lwvny.org, or call the state office.

Spring Fling Weekend in NYC

Experience the wonder of Manhattan in the spring! Come to the League's Spring Fling, with activities scheduled for Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16. The kick-off will be a Friday evening cocktail party at the lovely Manhattan home of Sally Robinson, state League Director of Issues and Advocacy, followed on Saturday with tours of Ellis Island, the King Tut exhibit, attendance at *South Pacific* at Lincoln Center, and more. Reservations for the Cocktail Party will be received until May 1, but after March 26, reservations for the tours and theater may be limited. Call the state office to make a reservation.

Georgia DeGregorio Appointed “Ruth Shur Fellow”

LWVNYS VP of Membership Georgia DeGregorio was selected to be part of the first class of Ruth Shur Fellows. Georgia is one of 12 league members from around the country selected for this program to promote membership and leadership in the League. Georgia recently met with the other Shur fellows in Washington, D.C. to launch the program with three days of training. Congratulations Georgia! We have no doubt that New York will benefit from your experience.

Fair Pay Summit & Advocacy Day

Join the NYS Pay Equity Coalition at the Legislative Office Building on April 20 for action on Fair Pay for all. The coalition is working to pass job-title pay equity legislation in fields where women and people of color are the majority of the workforce. This is a free event and a good opportunity to learn more about this issue.

Growth in MAL Units

The LWVNYS Board recently approved establishment of three new MAL Units in NYS: Hamilton County, St. Lawrence County, and Orange County. And, we have interest and activity for creating units in Wayne County and Westbury. The MAL Unit in Warren County is also preparing to become a full-fledged local League later this year. Let's keep growing!

LWVNYS President in DC

Betsy Swan, LWVNYS President was invited by Oxfam of America to attend a Sisters on the Planet conference earlier this month in Washington, D.C. and to become one of approximately 100 Ambassadors of the organization. During the conference they learned how women in developing countries are the hardest hit by the effects of climate change and lobbied Congress for cap and trade legislation and a commitment to allocation of resources to women in developing countries to enable them to adapt their lives to the realities of climate change.

1919 Society

In celebration of the League's ninetieth birthday, the New York League is happy to announce creation of the 1919 Society. To join the 1919 Society, all you have to do is include the LWVNYS in your will. If you already have included the League in your will, just let us know and we'll add you to the members of the Society. We will not ask for either proof of the bequest or its amount - we just want to honor your future support. As a member, your name will be engraved on a plaque in the state League office, listed in the *State Voter*, and on the website.

You have worked so hard for the League for so many years. Why not help to ensure the future of the League by including support for the League in your will? Call the state office and become a member.

LWVNYS 2010 Council

In April all local Leagues will be receiving a packet of information and forms as part of the 2010 Council. The packet will include the proposed 2010-2011 state budget and program proposals. At its March meeting the board recommended an amendment to League program to include a four-month concurrence with the LWV Maine position on marriage equality. In the event that the concurrence on the same issue being presented at the national convention in June is adopted by the delegates, it will be unnecessary for us to undertake this at the state level. Watch for more information and the packets and be sure to have your local League respond by June 2.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

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GET INVOLVED!