



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXV, No. 4

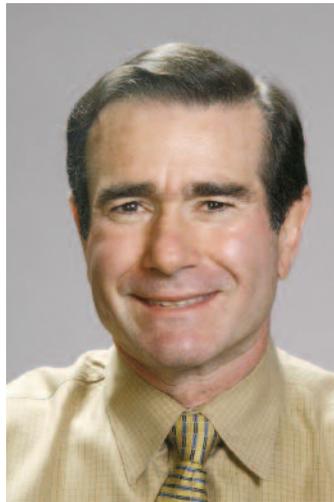
May-June 2012

Save The Date(s)

Spring is here and your League is blooming with fresh events and new initiatives. Here are some highlights:

May 6, Annual LWWH Meeting

You are cordially invited to join us at the 35th LWWH Annual Meeting, Sunday May 6, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Watermill Community House. Our theme is GET OUT THE VOTE! Our guest speaker is Lawrence Levy, Executive Dean of the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University. Known as an excellent speaker, his message, "The road to the White House leads through the suburbs" is right on target for an election year. During our business meeting we revise/reaffirm our positions, vote on our budget and elect new board members. You'll approve proposed programs, i.e., action items we will be working on, for the upcoming year. And of course, we'll provide beverages and tea cakes.



June 4 Members Meeting

Themes: Waste Not, Want Not. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Ever wonder where your recyclables go when they leave your recycle bin? How successful is recycling? Get answers to these and other questions about recycling on the East End. Also, enjoy the award-winning documentary film, Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic? It's a very entertaining, funny film about how plastic affects our environment and our lives.

June 20 Luncheon (rain date June 21)

At this unique event/fundraiser, you'll enjoy Joy Cordery's beautiful Shinnecock Hills rose garden at the time of year when the roses should be at the height of their glory. The event, which includes a catered lunch

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ABOVE Featured Speaker at the LWWH Annual Meeting will be Lawrence Levy, Executive Dean of the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University.

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Upcoming Events

**May 6 - 2 PM
Annual LWWH
Meeting**

**June 4 - 7 PM
Members Meeting
Topic: Recycling
on the East End**

**June 20 - Noon-3 PM
(June 21 Raindate)
Rose Luncheon**

ALL ARE WELCOME

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

Membership

Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

The Voter Newsletter

The newsletter of the Hamptons League, *The Voter*, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

The Voter is published eight times a year (January/February, March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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President's Message

An Unlikely Source Of Inspiration

by Judi Roth, Co-President

You can borrow some very interesting movies from Blockbuster, Netflix or your library. "Secret Ballot," an Iranian movie I found, inspired this column. From the moment an outboard motorboat pulls up to the shore of an Iranian island and deposits a young woman modestly dressed in Muslim attire along with her box of ballots I was hooked. Accompanied by a soldier who at first won't believe that she is the election agent, her job is to scour the island's small population and GET OUT THE VOTE!

She encounters a man with a group of women in total Muslim dress, including face coverings. The man says he will cast all of their ballots for them. The agent denies him, finds a woman who can read and has each woman cast her own vote. She encounters people who don't want to vote because they don't know any of the 10 candidates; she cajoles them by telling them if they vote, things will get better—they may get a water project for the island. Her earnestness convinces them.

Throughout the film this young woman is honest, tireless, inventive, determined and non-partisan—she would be an asset to the League of Women Voters! One of the things I learned from this film (shades of a book report!) is that there are no voter registration rolls in Iran: you only have to be 16 years old, show your ID card, get it stamped by the agent, get a ballot and vote. Since there appear to be no voter rolls, the actual percentage of turnout may be anyone's guess, but the concept of same day registration seems to exist in Iran. You never know where you're going to find a good example!

LEADING AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

Last month I wrote about a meeting Arlene Hinkemeyer and I had with State League representatives Georgia DeGregorio and Cheryl Feldman regarding membership. (By the way, Arlene belonged to the Manhasset League, not Massapequa! Sorry, Arlene). This is a follow-up about leadership development. In any organization it is the job of the current leaders to think about who will follow them. Sometimes the choice is obvious, particularly in large organizations with a clear hierarchy. In volunteer organizations it is much harder. In the League we tend to think in terms of "teams" or "committees" rather than a clear chain of command. And that's a good thing—committees use the variety of skills that people have to offer and reveal things about each of us as we work together.

Committees/teams are brought together around a common goal and share the workload. Running and Winning, Voter Services, Special Events are all successful examples of how our League works as individual members formed into cohesive teams.

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Two Meetings, One Purpose: Increase Voter Education And Participation

by Anne K. Marshall

Discussions at the April General Membership meeting and recent Voter Services Committee meetings have focused on the 2012 election season, resulting in a wealth of ideas to increase voter participation in the East End.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

How To Counter Cumbersome NYS Voting Procedures

On April 9, Co-president Glorian Berk gave a LWV-NYS PowerPoint presentation of facts and figures about the woeful percentage of voter turnout in New York State (47th of 50 states in voter turnout over the last three federal elections), along with some hypotheses for the numbers: among other reasons, the cumbersome, paper-only registration process; long period of time between registration and voting eligibility; problematic absentee ballot requirements.

Working within the existing NYS requirements, attendees suggested the following ideas:



- Expand information about the use of permanent absentee ballots
- As early as possible, obtain copies of the ballot and make it available at senior centers and other public venues
- Widely publicize dates and deadlines
- Reintroduce “Vote Mobile” to publicize dates and offer rides to polls
- Engage high school students to energize their peers
- Request sample voting machines from Board of Election (BOE) and offer info sessions about their use
- Provide an election app for savvy smart phone users

VOTER SERVICES MEETING

This enthusiastic committee has taken on the multi-faceted task of working on elements of voting registration and voter education. Working with a chart listing areas of focus, timelines and person(s) responsible, they will be addressing the following topics:

- Voter Registration: dividing the two towns of Southampton and East Hampton into three areas with a list of venues ranging from storefronts to community meetings to the beaches.
- Debates: State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional as well as possibly selected villages
- Proposition Guide: Development of a written and on-line guide of pros and cons on any ballot propositions
- Media Publicity: PSA's; debate airings; newspaper articles
- Voter Education: Providing widespread information about ballots, voting machines, deadlines, dates and voters' rights
- VOTE 411.org: Publicizing its availability and encouraging use by local candidates.

JOIN US

As you see, there is an ambitious agenda for this election season. Why not attend the next Voter Services Committee meeting and help with an area that has most meaning for you? See you on Wednesday, May 9, 12:30 at the Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Call Anne Marshall at 631-766-3687 for details.

At the April 9 LWVH meeting at Bridgehampton's Hampton Library, co-president Glorian Berk gave the State League's Power Point presentation and led a discussion on methods used by other states to improve voter registration and to increase voter participation. New York presently ranks 47th in voter turnout. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Feature

*Thanks To A Generous Bequest, LWVH
Can Award A Scholarship Each Year For Leadership*

The Betty Desch Award

By Judi Roth

The Betty Desch Award for Leadership is presented each year to a high school senior. We don't look for the valedictorian or the student body president—we seek students who have the ability to motivate others and build teams, take initiative and achieve goals. Applicants are required to submit a one-page application and two letters of recommendation. We have had some wonderful winners in the past, all of whom were profiled in *The Voter* and honored at our annual meetings.

ALL-TIME HIGH NUMBER OF APPLICANTS THIS YEAR

The number of applications has ranged from about five to 15 or 16—enough for a committee of three to comfortably read, assess and rate (using an objective weighted scale). Beth Barth, Ursula Lynch and I served on the 2012 committee. This year, however, we found ourselves facing 26 applications! Beth and I (Ursula was away) decided we needed help, so we recruited Estelle Gellman, Joanne Samborn, Vicky Umans and Ann Sandford. We organized ourselves into three teams, with two of us reading the same eight or nine applications. Each team will pick their top two contenders and then the committee will reassemble and face the hard job of selecting the 2012 Betty Desch Scholarship awardee before the May Annual Meeting.

To bring the new committee members up to speed, we gave them some history about the type of activities they could expect to read in the applications, went over the grading scale and then practiced by reading the essays aloud and grading them as a group. The new committee members were truly astounded by the energy, creativity and excellence these young people exhibited. Each of us had the opportunity to look back and talk about our own high school careers and we all had to admit that we were not the go-getters this group of students is!

The scholarship is named for Betty Desch, a long-time community member, teacher and League member who left us a bequest. The League decided to create a scholarship in honor of Ms. Desch's profession. The funds are also sometimes used for costs of educational events such as Running & Winning or Students Inside Albany.

As a League, we appreciate the opportunity to learn what these students are doing for their community and that we have the ability to give a \$1,000 to a great student. I know that all of us, as we make our decision, will have regrets about the runner-ups and at the very least will write to encourage them as they leave high school and set out to make their marks in the world.



East Hampton high senior Thalia Olaya was last year's (2011) Desch Award winner. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.



In 2010, LWVH Education Committee member Beth Barth presented the Betty Desch Student Leadership Award of \$1,000 to Katelyn Boyle of Speonk, a senior at Westhampton Beach H.S. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

LWVH Sponsors Three at *Students Inside Albany*

by Arlene Hinkemeyer

It was a great hands-on learning experience! Thanks to the extra recruitment efforts of our Education Committee, headed by co-chairs Mary Blake and Terri Levin Davgin, the Hamptons League was able to sponsor three students from those nominated by their high schools to attend "Students Inside Albany," (SIA) March 25-28. The honorees were junior Nicole Daniludis of East Hampton H.S., senior Jessica Perez of Bridgehampton H.S., and junior Marielle Ray of Westhampton Beach H.S. They were among the 35 girls and 19 boys from 37 Leagues across the state who participated in the LWV-NYS Education Foundation program.

The goal of SIA is to teach students about state government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy-making arena. Vice president and publicity chair Arlene Hinkemeyer served as a chaperone.

The conference, expertly organized by NYS League executive director Laura Ladd Bierman, included: a seminar reviewing the basics of state government; tips on successful lobbying by the NYS League's longtime, amazing legislative expert in Albany, Barbara Bartoletti; a lobbying role-playing session with an upstate Assemblywoman; a primer by both a Republican and a

Democratic assemblyman on how to run for office; a workshop by the executive director of the Alliance for Quality Education and by a New York State United Teachers official on organizing a political campaign; a seminar on the Freedom of Information Law and the Open Meetings Law by Robert Freeman, executive director of the NYS Committee on Open Government; and a discussion on the role of the media, by both the producer and the host of the YNN Albany all-political television news program "Capitol Tonight."

Students also toured the State Capitol building, observed the State Senate and Assembly in action, and shadowed both of their state legislators. Nicole, Jessica and Marielle all agreed that their favorite part of the program was shadowing State Senator Kenneth LaValle and Assemblyman Fred Thiele, each for an afternoon, and being able to watch the debates with them right on the floor of the State Senate and Assembly.

They gained increased understanding of how to participate in the political process. Said Nicole: "I had known about how the federal government worked, but with this program I really learned a lot about state government. It also inspired me to help out my community more, now that I know how to contact my legislators." "The speakers motivated us and showed us what we can do to make a big difference," said Jessica. "It was a very rewarding experience," added Marielle. "It definitely made me more politically aware and taught me how to make my voice heard."

**During the
"Students Inside Albany"
conference,
State Assemblyman
Fred Thiele (seated) met
with and hosted on the
floor of the State Assembly,
left to right, Marielle Ray,
Nicole Daniludis, and
Jessica Perez.
(Photo & caption by
Arlene Hinkemeyer)**



LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Held on March 28, 2012

INFORMATION ITEMS

- * Mary Blake has resigned from both the board and the Education Committee. We wish Bob Blake a good recovery.
- * Judie Gorenstein's speech at Running & Winning was considered controversial, so Judi Roth asked SEA-TV to delete it from the TV airings.
- * Judi and Arlene Hinkemeyer met with LWVNYS Membership Director to discuss recruiting members and developing leaders.
- * Suffolk County Reapportionment Battle. The County League urged the Legislature to extend the non-partisan commission for 120 days, but the commission was abolished instead.
- * The 2012 Directory of Public Officials (DPO) should be out by May 10.
- * LWV-Suffolk County's annual meeting may be May 21 at Bellport Country Club or Gurney's Inn
- * Suffolk County LWV will have Touro law intern working on NYS voter registration policies
- * The Hamptons League has accepted a young woman from 2011's R&W as a summer intern
- * Glorian and Judi will send a letter to *The Star* and/or *The Press* on family planning and contraception

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING

- * Ann Sandford gave the Nominating Committee's Report. She also developed suggested guidelines for future nominating committees to follow, including an earlier start (Sept.)
- * Judi presented the proposed local program. With Board's suggested revisions, Judi will present to the membership for approval at our Annual Meeting May 6.
- * Eموke, Naomi and Terri volunteered to organize refreshments and set up. Susan Wilson suggested and board agreed to ask Gurney's bakery for a price on suitable sweets. No other food. Wine, iced tea, lemonade and water to be served. Everyone will help clean up.

- * Judi and Glorian will get out mailing to non-email members (about 60) by April 2 or 3. To include Bio of Lawrence Levy and title of his speech. Arlene will provide and will introduce him. Early bird dues envelope will be included.

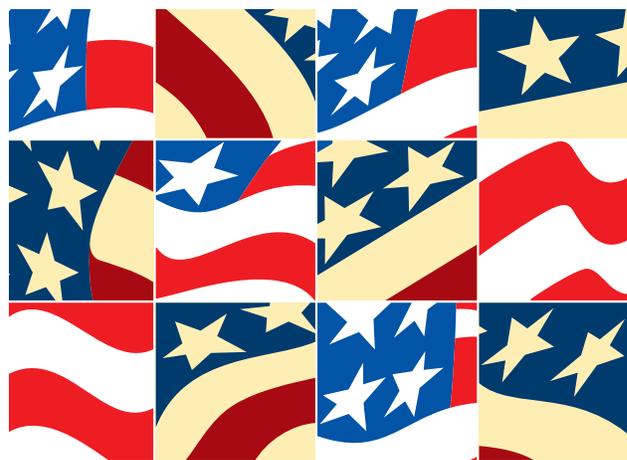
- * Glorian reviewed the proposed budget. Anne presented one change to by-laws. Both approved

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- * June meeting. Sue, Natural Resources Chair, wants to team with Town Solid Waste Advisory Committee member Pricilla Ciccariello to present a program on solid waste (recycling) ideally at the Southampton town dump (requires a daytime members meeting.) Ties in with local program goal of protecting environment.

The next meeting will be held on July 2 , 7:00 PM at the Bridgehampton Bank.

Submitted by Judy Samuelson



Save The Date(s)

Continued from page 1

with wine and Joy's famous iced tea, will be from noon to 3 p.m.

Our speaker, Harvey Feinstein, is a lecturer, published poet and President Emeritus of the Southampton Rose Society. Harvey will discuss "How to grow roses without killing them or yourself." Space is limited at this very special afternoon, so reserve by June 15. Make checks payable to LWVH for \$25. The fee will include a ticket for the door prize drawing.

May-June 2012

Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at www.lwvhamptons.org for updates. If you don't see a meeting for a committee of interest, contact the Chair of that committee. Contact information is listed on last inside page of The Voter and on the website, www.lwvhamptons.org.

May 1 - 10:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Sue Wilson 283-6549.
May 6 - 2:00 PM Sunday	Annual Meeting	Watermill Community House, Watermill.
May 9 - 12:30 PM Wednesday	Voter Services Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Anne Marshall 537-3257.
May 17 - 11:00 AM Thursday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Joy Cordery's Southampton Home. For details, please contact Ursula Lynch at 288-4721 or Gladys Remler at 288-9021.
June 4 - 7 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Topic: Recycling On The East End
June 13 - 12:30 PM Wednesday	Voter Services Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Anne Marshall 537-3257.
June 20 - Noon-3:00 PM Wednesday	Rose Luncheon	Joy Cordery's Southampton Home. For details, please contact Ursula Lynch at 288-4721 or Gladys Remler at 288-9021.
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
May 3 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
May 8 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
May 17 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
May 22 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
June 7 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
June 12 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
June 21 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
June 26 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631-862-6860

May 2012

Monday May 21 LWVSC Annual Convention, Bellport County Club, 10:30am - 3:30pm

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LWVSC rededicates our efforts to achieve non-partisan reapportionment in Suffolk County in 2012... Although the Suffolk County Legislature voted to dissolve the independent commission in late March, their words during the debate on that bill stressed their continued commitment to a fair and “de-politicized” process, reflecting “good government.” LWVSC will continue to be present, vocal, and diligent in pressuring all Suffolk County Legislators to work together to draw redistricting lines that reflect these lofty but important and responsible goals. Voters should choose their elected officials, elected officials should NOT choose their voters!

League of Women Voters of Suffolk County

44th Annual Convention

Monday, May 21, 2012
10:30am - 3:30pm

Bellport Country Club
40 South Country Road, Bellport NY, NY

Directions:

From LIE Exit 64 South or from Sunrise Highway to Rt. 112 South.. Take Rt. 112 South to end: Montauk Hwy. Go left (east) for 1 mile.- Road forks. Stay right onto South Country Road for 2 miles. Bellport Country Club is on the right.

Agenda includes:

- 10:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 11:00 Morning Program: Convention Business**
 Welcome
 LWV of Suffolk County Updates
 League Awards
 Annual LWVSC Business Meeting
- 12:30 Luncheon with Speakers**
 Daniel Altschuler, Coordinator, LI Civic Engagement Table
 Susan Lerner, Executive Director, Common Cause/NY
- 1:45 Afternoon Program: “Get out the Vote”**
 There will be a hands-on interactive program with local League members moving from table to table as they showcase different efforts to get out the vote.

League Members \$40; Non-members \$45
 — in advance (*make checks payable to LWVSC*)
\$50 for all paying at the door
(cash bar available)

*Please RSVP with check before May 14 to Marilyn McKeown,
 320 Patchogue Holbrook Rd., Holbrook, NY 11741 or call (631) 286-1169*

Special Events Committee Report

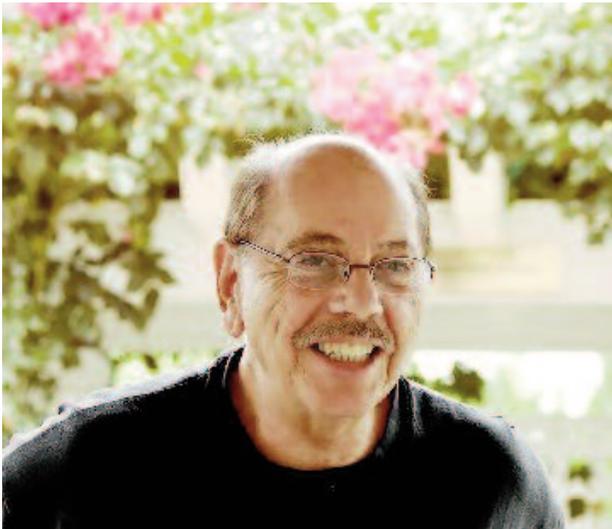
Everything's Coming Up Roses!

by Gladys Remler

Get ready for a treat for the senses...and a chance to learn about growing roses! On June 20 (rain date June 21), long-time leaguer Joy Cordery will generously allow us hold a fundraiser/event in her beautiful Shinnecock Hills rose garden. In mid-June, we expect the roses will be at



the height of their glory. The event, which includes a catered lunch with wine and Joy's famous iced tea, will be from noon to 3 p.m. Reserve a spot by June 15 by sending us your check for \$25.



“HOW TO GROW ROSES WITHOUT KILLING THEM OR YOURSELF”

We are thrilled to have Harvey Feinstein (shown opposite), President Emeritus of the Southampton Rose Society, discuss how to accomplish that. Mr. Feinstein, a published poet, lectures on Long Island about gardening, art, travel and history.

This will be a very special afternoon for the LWVH as well as friends. Space is limited, so reserve by June 15. Make checks payable to LWVH for \$25. The fee will include a ticket for a wonderful door prize. For further information and directions call Gladys at 288-9021 or Ursula Lynch at 288-4721.

Please mail your check to:
Gladys Remler, P.O. Box 881
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Help Wanted...Really

by Naomi Epstein

A proposal to combine the Government and Health committees into one was approved at the April meeting of the LWVH Board. The rationale for this decision was based on the following facts:

- Lacking a chair the Health Committee has been inactive.
- The League's core principles in health care reform are to reduce costs for families and business; guarantee patients' choice regarding plans and doctors; and ensure access to quality affordable health care coverage for all Americans.
- The Government Committee addresses national, state and local issues being considered for legislative

action and reform. Health care reform is closely entwined with legislation and combining the two into one committee makes the most sense at this time.

The committee chair will continue in her present role and seeks to recruit two co-chairs; one for health and one for government.

What we need from our membership are volunteers for this new committee. If you have expertise or an interest in either government or health care please consider actively participating on this committee. Over the years our community has benefited from the efforts of the League's dedicated members. You will meet men and women of every age and background helping to make our democracy work in a friendly non-partisan environment. Please join us!

Contact: Chair - Naomi Epstein - 324-9371
or government@lwwhamptons.org

Natural Resources & Government Committee Reports

June Meeting To Offer Valuable Tips On “Waste Not, Want Not”

by Susan Wilson

Arrangements for our June members meeting are a bit tentative at press time for *The Voter*, but one thing we’re certain of: the topic and the presentation will be relevant and of interest to many. You’ll get an update on recycling efforts in Southampton and East Hampton.

Here’s where we stand with planning for the LWVH meeting of June 4 at 7 p.m. We’ll be at the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton.

The evening includes a screening of the documentary film

Bag It, a serious, sometimes hilarious film about plastic.

Speakers include Christine Fetten, Director of the Southampton Town Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Emil, “Skip” Norsic, a local carter who is also a member of the advisory committee.



Play It Again, Sam! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

by Susan Wilson

Remember how the Natural Resources Committee is forming alliances with other environmental groups? Well, this article was developed and is reprinted with permission from The Group for the East End, one of our liaisons.

With our American culture constantly reinforcing the “spend more, upgrade, and throw out the old” approach, it is more difficult than ever to instill the values of conservation. The Group for the East End (and LWVH!) encourages parents and other role models to put the sustainability “filter” on when making everyday choices. For example, consider the following questions before making a purchase:

- Do I really need to buy this item?
- How long will it serve my needs?
- What will happen to this item when I’m through using it?
 - Can it be recycled or re-purposed when I don’t want it anymore?
 - Am I hurting the environment by making this purchase—now or in the future?
 - Are there any environmentally friendly alternatives to the item I want to buy?
 - Can I borrow instead of purchasing this item?

Remember, a slight change in your daily activities can make a big difference over time.



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WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Joan Trabulsi

By Marsha Kranes

Joan, a native New Yorker, was born in Brooklyn, lived and worked most of her adult life in Manhattan, and became a full-time East Ender in the mid-1980s, when she moved into the Wainscott home she bought in 1975.

After Brooklyn and before Manhattan, Joan attended prep school in Garden City, studied English at Connecticut College, and traveled in Europe, settling down in Paris long enough to take some courses at the Sorbonne. When she returned to New York it was to work as an editor and writer at a variety of magazines, in public relations for the New York Stock Exchange, as financial editor for a brokerage house, and finally, pursuing a long-time interest, as an interior decorator.

In retirement, Joan has been a volunteer for Southampton Hospital and Meals on Wheels. She enjoys playing duplicate bridge, listening to classical music, and caring for her cat. She's currently writing a memoir of her father's family, most of whom still live in and around the small village in Lebanon's Bekkar valley that he left in 1913. Joan met many of her relatives there for the first

time in the late 1960s when *Holiday* magazine sent her to Lebanon on an assignment.

Joan doesn't know yet what League activities she'll get involved with, but she's interested in local politics and very concerned that New York voters are so apathetic that the state ranks 47 in the nation when it comes to turning out at the polls.

President's Message

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I think our League is very collaborative and each leader welcomes ideas from anyone and anywhere. By our nature, women tend to be collaborators and sometimes find it hard to lead. But the leader plays an important role, sets the agenda, recognizes individual strengths, makes sure we are doing real work, encourages and compliments work well done.

Sometimes people take on leadership roles reluctantly but find accomplishing the project they led makes them feel fantastic. We all need each other. The notion that a League leader can do it all or go it alone is false—leading a team and using all of our skills is what League leadership is about.

The Voter

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