



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXV, No. 6

September 2012



LWVH Embraces National Voter Registration Day

by Arlene Hinkemeyer

On September 25, our League joins 160+ (the list grows daily) state and national organizations as co-sponsors of the first National Voter Registration Day. At the June LWVUS national convention, we learned this day has been established throughout the US to bring attention to the importance of registering to vote in the general election on November 6.

Locally, weather permitting, Hamptons League members and volunteers will be on hand, primarily from 10 a.m. to noon, with voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications in both English and Spanish at 15 sites throughout the South Fork.

If you can help (we're aiming for two people at each site), please contact one of the voter registration captains: **East Hampton Area:** Julia Kayser (kayjullee@aol.com) **Southampton-Bridgehampton:** Joanne Samborn (jsamborn@optonline.net) **Westhampton-Hampton Bays/Quogue:** Ursula Lynch (umlynch@gmail.com) or Gladys Remler (gremlerdesign@aol.com)

The captains are also organizing voter registration tables at other dates and sites in August, September and October, with the voter registration deadline being October 12.

FIND OUR VOTER REGISTRATION TABLES ON SEPTEMBER 25

- * In **Montauk**, at Montauk Post Office (Estelle Gellman and Judy Samuelson)
- * In **Amagansett**, at Cirillo's Supermarket on Montauk Highway (Pat Arceri)
- * In **East Hampton**, at the IGA Supermarket on North Main Street (Julia Kayser)
- * In **East Hampton** at Waldbaum's Supermarket on Newtown Lane (Terri & Rich Davgin)
- * In **Springs**, at the One Stop Market on Springs-Fireplace Road (Arlene Hinkemeyer)
- * In **Wainscott**, at Twice Upon a Bagel on Montauk Highway (Dorothy Artenberg)
- * In **Sag Harbor**, at the Windmill on Long Wharf (Judi Roth)

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Save The Date(s)!

Members Meeting: Monday Sept. 10

Theme: "Meet the Mayors"

7 PM, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton

Primary Election: Thursday, Sept. 13

Debates: October

* State Senate: Monday, October 15, 7 PM Hampton Bays

* Presidential (Community Airing Live): Tuesday, October 16, (time tba) Bay St. Theater, Sag Harbor

* State Senate: Monday, October 22, 7 PM, East Hampton

* Congressional Representative, 1st CD: Thursday, October 25 7 PM, Westhampton Beach

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

By Judi Roth

This May, I read an article in *The New Yorker* (May 21, 2012) titled "Money Unlimited" by Jeffrey Toobin in the "Annals of Law" section. By the time I finished, I thought I would just give this article to Carol Mellor who will lead a national League-sponsored forum on Citizens United in November. But the article kept nagging at me, and after reading again, I decided to share sections of it in my President's letter. Many agree that *The New Yorker* provides amazingly in-depth pieces and delves into the history of issues not found in our daily newspapers. What follows are excerpts from this article that show how previous Supreme Courts decided cases related to corporations, the First Amendment and campaign finance. I think you will be surprised by what you read.

- In 1886 in a tax case called *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*, Chief Justice Morrison Waite told the lawyers: "The Court does not want to hear argument on the question whether the provision in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution...applies to these corporations. We are all of opinion that it does." In 1978, Justice Rehnquist described the Santa Clara case as follows "This Court decided at an early date, with neither argument nor discussion, that a business corporation is a "person" entitled to the protection of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."
- In 1905 in *Lochner v. New York*, a case where New York had passed a law prohibiting bakery employees from working more than sixty hours a week or ten hours a day, the Court declared the state law unconstitutional on the ground that it interfered with the "right of contract" of both the employer and the employee. The New York law was an "unreasonable, unnecessary and arbitrary interference with the right of the individual to his personal liberty or to enter into those contracts in relation to labor which may seem to him appropriate or necessary for the support of himself and his family."
- In 1904 in Theodore Roosevelt's campaign he sought and received campaign contributions from railroad, insurance interests and in particular from steel baron, Henry Clay Frick. Then when in office Roosevelt passed the first significant campaign finance-reform act, the Tillman Act—trying to do away with the very technique he had used to win re-election. Henry Clay Frick said of Roosevelt, "He got down on his knees to us. We bought the son-of-a-bitch and then he did not stay bought."
- The Watergate scandal led to the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974 which imposed limits on campaign contributions and spending and created the Federal Election commission to enforce the act. It was challenged in court by two strange bedfellows, Sen. James Buckley of New York and former Senator Eugene McCarthy! This complicated decision, *Buckley v. Valeo* said in part that "Under the First Amendment, Congress could not restrict campaign expenditures. Spending money was like speech itself, because every means of communicating ideas in today's mass society requires

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Ratcheting Up Activities

by Anne Marshall

While a number of our committee members have been diligently providing voter registrations and related information since June, we will be involved in a more diversified effort during September and October prior to the General Election on November 6. The last day to register for the General Election by mail is October 12; for absentee ballot applications it is October 30.

As always, we have scheduled events connected to the core mission of our organization:

- * Disseminating Voter Information
- * Sponsoring Candidate Debates
- * Providing Voter Registration Materials and Assistance

DISSEMINATING VOTER INFORMATION

The NY State Primary election is now scheduled for Thursday September 13. For our area, the only contest is between two candidates for the Democratic Party nominee for State Senate District 1.

Since this is the first Presidential election using the Optical Scan system at the polls, we continue to provide information about the use of the machine. See a demonstration of the process at: www.suffolkvotes.com. LWVNYS is providing information about candidates running for Federal Office via www.vote411.org. This information intends to include replies from Congressional candidates.

SPONSORING CANDIDATE DEBATES

On August 29 the LWVH sponsored a primary debate between the two Democratic candidates for NY State Senate, District 1: Bridget Fleming and Jennifer Maertz.

Other debate events include:

- * Monday, October 15—State Senate, at 7 PM in Hampton Bays (Specific location TBA)
- * Tuesday, October 16—Sponsoring a community airing live at Bay St. Theater of the Presidential Debate held at Hofstra University.
- * Monday, October 22—State Senate at 7 PM in East Hampton (Specific location TBA)
- * Thursday, October 25—Congressional Representative, 1st CD at 7 PM in Westhampton Beach (Specific location TBD)

PROVIDING MATERIALS & ASSISTANCE

As part of our continued Get Out the Vote effort, the Voter Services Captains, Joanne Samborn, Ursula

Lynch, Gladys Remler and Julia Kayser have scheduled numerous dates and locations for handing out voter registration and absentee voter forms. The biggest day will be Tuesday, September 25 from 10 AM to noon when there will be a publicized coordinated effort to provide such material throughout the area. Currently the LWVH has scheduled 15 locations from Montauk to Westhampton Beach as described in our cover story.



The Government-Health Committee recently lobbied State Senator Ken LaValle in his office. From left: Nancy Marr, President of LWV-Brookhaven; Mr. LaValle; LWVH Co-President Glorian Berk and Committee Chair Naomi Epstein.

Your Mayors Speak

by Judi Roth

What would you like to know about the villages of Southampton, Sag Harbor, East Hampton and Westhampton Beach? Will there be new supermarkets? What is planned in terms of development and water runoff issues? Will Bay Street Theater move? What's going to replace the Parrish Museum? The villages are important as a focus of our shopping and cultural lives.

On September 10 at the Rogers Library in Southampton, Mayor Epley (Southampton), Mayor Gilbride (Sag Harbor), Mayor Rickenbach (East Hampton) and Mayor Teller (Westhampton Beach) will share their views of the economic and cultural vitality of their villages and answer audience questions.

Please mark your calendar and bring your questions to this informative meeting. All are welcome, so bring your friends! Monday, September 10 at 7:00 PM.

July Member Meeting Recap

Global to Local: PLANNED PARENTHOOD AT WORK

by Judy Samuelson

On July 9, an SRO group of League members and guests listened as executives from Planned Parenthood discussed their broad range of services to the insured and uninsured and described their challenges. One in five women go to PPHP at some point in their lives, according to Reina Schiffrin, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Hudson Peconic (PPHP). She spoke about the difficult political climate of the past 18 months, noting that politics at state and national levels threaten to limit Planned Parenthood's ability to provide information about family planning as well as services related to women's health. She noted wryly that the Komen Foundation's withdrawal of support for PP actually brought \$5 million in public contributions when the news broke.

The Supreme Court's recent decision is critically important for women, as the Affordable Health Care Act assures that if an insurer includes prescription coverage, that must include birth control prescriptions without any co-pay. This is an economic issue: if a low wage earner has no co-pay, that money can be spent on family groceries or gas to get to her job. She stated that 75% of American voters agree that birth control should be covered. However, the main benefit of the decision is that women's health care is removed from the political arena and put into basic health benefits...where it belongs.

Chloe Cooney is Director of Global Advocacy, Planned Parenthood, operating out of Washington D.C. While advocating for reproductive rights globally, she emphasized the profound effect events in the U.S. have on the attitude of developing nations toward women's reproductive rights. These rights impact a woman's ability to provide for her family, get an education and improve her and her children's quality of life. Internationally, she said that family planning education has been most successful when partnered with local organizations, for example, (surprisingly) a faith-based health program in Nigeria, where religious leaders have great credibility.



Above from left: Reina Schiffrin, Chloe Cooney, Judi Roth on July 9 Members Meeting at Bridgehampton Library. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer

President's Message

Continued from page 2

the expenditure of money.”

All of the above laws and decisions are precedents for McCain-Feingold and Citizens United. Citizens United, a non-profit corporation, made a documentary for cable video (not TV) called “Hillary: The Movie,” which was critical of Hillary Clinton. The FEC prohibited the broadcast under McCain-Feingold and Citizens United challenged that decision. That, strange as it may seem, was the beginning of one of the most far-reaching Supreme Court decisions affecting political campaigns. But if you look back in our history perhaps it is not so surprising after all.

I look forward to our November 12 members meeting, where we can learn more about this fascinating subject. That meeting will be even more interesting coming, as it does, six days after Election Day.

JOIN THE FUN — aka The Special Events Committee

by Gladys Remler

LWVH works to make all our events special. We try to combine companionship and education but also fundraising. We are presently working on our annual Fall luncheon, which this year will be held in Sag Harbor in late October. The \$50 admission will include the luncheon and a guest lecturer—or perhaps two—to give us some historical perspectives on Sag Harbor. We also plan to offer raffle prizes as well. We welcome special donations for this.

Our efforts should always be collaborative—so if you have some new ideas about raising funds, please join us at our Special Events meetings or call me!

Natural Resources Committee & Voter Registration Reports

Green Tips

by Glorian Berk

Here are some simple ways to save water, money and energy (not yours, the universe's)



- When not in use, unplug appliances and electronics, including toasters, hair dryers, cell phone and other chargers. Estimated electric savings: 10% per month.
- Shorten your shower. Every minute uses approximately 2.5 gallons of water.
- Bring your own reusable bags when shopping even if it's not in East Hampton and Southampton Villages. Many supermarkets outside the Villages will give you \$.05 for each reusable bag you use.
- Buy local fruits, vegetables and fish. They taste better and you'll support your local farmers and fishermen.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and save between 300 and 800 gallons a month.

Check out www.southamptontownny.gov for other helpful hints. At the website, click on Boards & Committees and then click on Sustainable Southampton Green Committee, which is located at the bottom of the left-hand column.

Bad Weather Washes Out Good Intentions

by Judi Roth and Ursula Lynch

Intending to register eligible voters, Ursula Lynch and I met at the Flanders Farmers' Market on Saturday, July 28. The Farmers' Market, on Route 24 in the parking lot of the David W Crohan Center, isn't an ordinary farmers market; it's run by the Town of Southampton Youth Services, bringing fresh produce to an area with few farm stands. It was drizzling as we drove but not enough to make either of us turn back. In the parking lot, while it continued to rain, we sat in Ursula's car and watched the young people set up tables and tent poles and bring out the vegetables.

However, this wasn't to be an ordinary morning for the teens or their customers. While we watched, the drizzle became a full-blown thunderstorm. Thunder rolled, the wind delivered drenching rain and hail (!). The parking lot turned into a lake and the disheveled tent headed full tilt toward Rt. 24. From the safety of the car,

we watched in admiration as the undaunted staff and young people started after the tents. With Nancy Lynott, Director of Southampton Youth Services, they salvaged what they could and soaking wet, set up shop inside. By the time the rain let up, there were just sandbags in the parking lot, so we didn't get to register anyone—but we did buy some good veggies. We will try again!

Take Two

by Ursula Lynch

The next Saturday, August 4, Mary O'Brien, a fairly new League member, joined me at the Flanders Farmers Market for another go at registering voters. In addition to having fun, we learned new stuff about veggies and about Southampton Town activities. I invited Mary to join us in registering new voters on Tuesday September 25, designated National Voter Registration Day.

Summer Intern Parker Wraps Up Youth Registration

by Judy Samuelson

Sophie Parker, a rising sophomore at Tulane University in New Orleans, had a busy summer. In addition to working at Soul Cycle in Bridgehampton, as our intern, she learned the ropes from Anne Marshall and Judi Roth, then planned and executed a voter registration campaign aimed at her own age group in Sag Harbor. Rain washed out a few planned visits to Haven Beach, but on sunny Saturdays, she confirmed that those eligible were already registered. On August 12, at YummyLicious, she successfully registered newly eligible voters.

"I'm fluent in Spanish since we lived in southern Texas," she noted, which helped reach the Hispanic community. And she had some successes at Soul Cycle as well. "The internship was such a good experience," Sophie said. "Some groups just have you making coffee, but the League trained me and then gave me autonomy to run with it." She is returning to school soon but has recruited a few Pierson H.S. students to continue the work in the community.

"I saw the respect for the League when I spoke to businesses," said Sophie. Her interest in public policy and government will continue as she earns a degree in public policy and later a law degree, she hopes. For the League, we found it invigorating to work with a young, dedicated volunteer.

LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Held on August 1, 2012

DISCUSSION ITEMS

* Don Kuss, investment adviser from Bridgehampton National Bank, presented an alternative to the CD we use for the Betty Desch funds. The intent is to explore options to maximize the fund's benefits without putting the principal at risk. Kuss suggested purchasing a "unit investment trust," which he described as a portfolio of bonds, in this case, a product called "ACT-Navellier-Dial Income Opportunity Portfolio." Kuss assured us that all bonds within the portfolio are investment grade and showed a sample listing from mid-July. He left printed info about AAM, the name of the advisors' company. We voted to ask another bank for a presentation at our September board meeting. Judi will invite them.

* Year to Date actual versus Budget analysis. Glorian created two new documents: a final reconciliation of 2011-2012 (YE 5/31/12) providing the dollar variance between budget to actual. This will be a useful tool to apply to preparing future budgets. The second document breaks down income and expenses in the 2012-2013 budget with YTD (year-to-date) actual and the variance to budget. This tool will help right the ship if a category drifts off course.

* Last month, we debated whether to raise dues or appeal to non-members/former members for a donation. We voted to create a mailing to this group and Judi and Judy volunteered to develop such a letter, including the information that if donor makes check out to our Education Fund, it qualifies as a tax deduction.

INFORMATION ITEMS

* Gladys Remler will chair the Special Events Committee following Ursula Lynch's resignation.

* NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection is preparing to shut down the City's water tunnels from the Catskills for needed repairs in 2020. They plan to reopen 50 wells in Jamaica, Queens. Nassau County is concerned about health issues and plumes of toxic water that will migrate as a result of the drawdown. A complete SEQRA may be required. County League will continue to monitor.

* NYS League will input all of the data for national and state elections into vote411. We may not be able to use vote411 for local elections this year without additional cost. This to be clarified.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Wednesday, August 29, 7-8 p.m. debate for State Senate Democratic Primary, between Jennifer Maertz and

Bridget Fleming. At Rogers Memorial Library, to be televised by SEA-TV. Primary election is Thursday, September 13.

* September 10 member meeting will feature the mayors of the Villages of Southampton, East Hampton, Sag Harbor and Westhampton Beach. Location is Rogers Library in Southampton. Eموke and Gladys volunteered to bring refreshments.

* National Voters Registration Day is Tuesday, September 25. Arlene reports 160 groups nationally will participate. We have most designated locations in the Towns covered from 10 a.m. to noon.

* October Luncheon at Muse in Sag Harbor. After discussion we agreed we do not want to exceed a fee of \$50, which will cover a luncheon and a guided tour of historic homes focused on famous women writers from Sag Harbor. We continue to explore prices of two Sag Harbor restaurants to maximize value.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Voter Services — Anne Marshall

- Primary debate between Jennifer Maertz & Bridget Fleming for Democratic slot in race for NYS Senate will take place August 29 at 7:00 at the Southampton Library.

- Primary Election will be Thursday, September 13.

- Congressional Debate is set for Thursday, October 25 at 7:00 pm. Location will be west of the canal.

- Isabel Sepulvada translated palm cards containing important election dates and deadlines into Spanish.

* Special Events — Gladys.

- Antique Appraisal Day has been cancelled as a fundraising event because the cost in time and money are too great to expect to raise a decent amount.

- Idea proposed of selling bulbs through the mail. We would have to collect all the money, hold back League's percentage and send balance to the grower/catalog. Unresolved whether to do this fundraiser.

- The Community picnic in Hampton Bays is Sunday Sept. 9 and is a good place to register voters. Gladys volunteered to attend. We voted to give a \$100. donation, as in the past.

* Membership – Glorian. Vickie Umans has sent out renewal letters to current members.

* Education – Terri.

- Asked for and received board approval for an ad in the journal at the annual breakfast of the Long Island Fund for Women & Girls.

- In keeping with focus on educating younger (5th and 6th graders) students, Terri is considering various education programs for this age group. Once one is cho-

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September 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.

Sept. 4 - 9 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Home of Sue Wilson Contact Sue Wilson at 283-6549 for directions.
Sept. 5 - 7 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
Sept. 9 - Sunday	Community Picnic	Hampton Bays
Sept. 10 - 7 PM Monday	General Membership Meeting	Topic: Meet The Mayors. Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton.
Sept. 12 - 12:30 PM Wednesday	Voter Services Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Anne Marshall 537-3257.
Sept. 12 - 2 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton. Contact Gladys Reimler 288-9021.
Sept. 13 - Thursday	Primary Election Day	Local Polling Stations
Sept. 25 - 10 AM - Noon	National Voter Registration Day	Towns throughout our area
Sept. 27 - 10 AM Thursday	Government Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Naomi Epsteinl 324-9371.
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
September 6 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
September 11 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
September 20 - 7:00 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
September 25 - 6:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
LOOKING AHEAD		
Late October - Day & Time TBD	Annual Luncheon	Sag Harbor
October 15 - 7:00 PM	State Senate Candidate Debate	Hampton Bays
October 16 - time TBA	Presidential Debate	Live Community Airing, Bay St. Theatre, Sag Harbor
October 22 - 7:00 PM	State Senate Candidate Debate	East Hampton
October 25 - 7:00 PM	Congressional Representative Candidate Debate	Westhampton Beach



Suffolk County Voter

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

September 2012

Wednesday Sept. 19 LWVSC Board Meeting, SCCC Riverhead 10:00am - 12:00noon

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LWVSC Statement before the Suffolk County Legislature on August 7, 2012 Re: the sale of the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility

We learned from the media of the County Executive's intention to sell John J. Foley, the county's Skilled Nursing Facility to Sam and Israel Sherman of Absolute Care for \$23 million. As we have made clear in the past, we believe that the facility is an intrinsic and important part of the health care system of Suffolk County because only JJ Foley provides excellent local care for county residents who have no other access to such facilities at the same cost in our area.

Earlier this year, members of 227 League chapters throughout the United States studied the issue of transferring government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. Then, at its national convention in June 2012, the LWVUS approved a position that community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and a thorough analysis of the implications and accountability to ensure preservation of the common good.

Members of the SC League attended the Health Committee meeting this past week and heard speakers raise a number of questions and concerns about the proposed sale. Also Legislator Kennedy listed a number of objections that the League thinks should be addressed. We note that 3 new resolutions concerning John J. Foley are being laid on the table today and we hope many of these issues will come up at the next Health Committee meeting August 16th which we will attend.

Clearly the League is aware of the financial crisis affecting Suffolk County revenues, and acknowledges the pressing need for expense reduction to close the budget gap, as required by the New York State Comptroller's office. However, we believe that selling JJ Foley appears to be a "quick fix" in that with one bid in hand our County Executive can show financial progress – but of course we would again be looking for a new "quick fix" in the next fiscal year. The "hard way" to close the gap – studying which possible cuts would have the least impact on our most vulnerable neighbors and instead focusing on privatization of more easily replaceable services would be the right thing to do for long term results.

In summary, the League hopes for a more transparent process, a more thorough analysis of not only the cost benefits of the sale, but also the benefits and implications for health and welfare of vulnerable citizens of our county.

Update: Members of the LWVSC attended the Health Committee meeting on August 16 and heard speakers raise a number of questions and concerns about the proposed sale. Also Legislator Kennedy listed a number of objections that the League thinks should be addressed. We note that 2 new resolutions concerning John J. Foley were laid on the table this week and we hope many of these issues will come up at the public hearings in Riverhead on Tuesday August 21 at 2:30pm.

It was obvious that there were basic disagreements between members of the health committee who opposed selling the facility and the members of the County Executive's office: the legality of waiving the RFP process and paying a fee to someone who was not a real estate broker, the lack of certainty that the buyer will retain the existing patient load and staff into the future, a price that did not reflect the value of the licensed operation and the real estate, and questions about the quality of care offered by the other Sherman facilities.

The League of Women Voters (of the United States) Education Fund (LWVEF) has awarded the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County a pass-through grant to support a First-time Voter Registration project. The LWVSC project aims to engage new citizens in the electoral process in order to redress the fact that they remain severely underrepresented in our nation's electorate. LWVEF is providing funding and materials to utilize during registration activities at the naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip.



Left: The highly successful Rose Garden fundraiser was co-chaired by Gladys Remler (left) and Ursula Lynch (right).

Right: Guests enjoyed the garden, a light luncheon with wine and an entertaining lecture by Harvey Feinstein, President-Emeritus of the Southampton Rose Society. Photos by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

Minutes

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sen, she will apply for funding. Longhouse has a list of grant sources.

✿ Natural Resources – Susan (read by Glorian).

- This year's focus is to have "eyes & ears" across all environmental spectrum and monitor the two Towns' activities.

- April 8, 2013 is Earth Day. The Rogers Library is holding the date for this committee to host the April members meeting. The committee agreed to have meeting in late afternoon instead of 7 pm. Committee has timeline and is preparing for this event.

- Committee is exploring possibility of an Environmental Road Trip in 2013.

✿ Government and Health – Naomi. Her team met with NY Senator LaValle.

✿ Public Relations – Arlene. SEA-TV is showing our July meeting seven times this week. They'll also be taping the State Senate Democratic Primary debate on August 29.

✿ *The Voter* – Sally and Joy. Sept deadline is Aug. 15. Joy reported income from advertisers to be \$9,427. That section now at printer.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Samuelson

The next meeting will be held on September 5, 7:00 PM at the Bridgehampton Bank.

LWVH's Kayser Garners Award

Longtime member Julia Kayser was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by the Friends of Guild Hall at their Annual Luncheon in June in recognition of her outstanding service to the organization. In addition, Guild Hall gave Julia a certificate of appreciation stating that a seat in the John Drew Theatre had been named for her.



Thank You

Among the many organizations who have supported our efforts to get out the vote, special thanks goes to the Westhampton Free Library and its director Danielle Zubiller for providing a venue and publicity.

Natural Resources Committee Report

Critical to the Health of Our Bays & Eco-systems...

WHERE DOES WASTE GO?

by Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

A septic system is a mini on-site sewage treatment system used when municipal sewers are not available. Septic systems on Long Island usually consist of a primary receiver (septic tank) and a drainage area (cesspool or drainage field). For most homes, especially those built after 1972 and some built earlier, a septic tank is the primary receiver and a cesspool or multiple cesspools serves as the drainage area. Overall, 70% of homes in Suffolk County have septic tanks or cesspools. Eastern Suffolk has greater than 90%.

HOW SEPTIC SYSTEMS WORK

Water flows down the drains and through a series of pipes into a septic tank that's usually buried in the yard. This tank holds wastewater and allows some wastes to either sink down or float up, while the relatively clear water in the middle is slowly piped out into a leaching ring system. However, this relatively clear water still contains nutrients (which can be harmful to the bays) and can contain chemicals you use in your home (which can also be harmful to the natural environment).

The heavy digested solids, or sludge, accumulate at the bottom of the tank. The lighter materials, grease and oils, or scum layer, float to the top of the liquid. Natural bacteria generated by the solid waste partially decompose the waste in the septic tank and reduces the amount of solid material by as much as 60%.

IMPORTANCE OF MAINTENANCE

When the septic tank is not pumped on a regular basis it gets overloaded with solid waste. This overloading causes the solid waste to enter the cesspool (drainage area). Then the cesspool becomes clogged, as it is not designed to handle solid matter, causing the system to overflow, leading to the possibility of waste backing up into the household.

SIGNS OF A FAILING SYSTEM

1. Sluggishness when flushing the toilet
2. Plumbing back-ups in the sinks, bathtubs, showers, etc.
3. Gurgling sounds in the plumbing
4. Grass in the yard growing faster and greener in one particular area
5. Ground mushy underfoot
6. Obnoxious odors inside or outside your home
7. Low spots appear in your yard, even if none of the above symptoms have occurred

KNOW YOUR FLOW

Do you know where your septic system is located on your property? Has it been inspected in the past five years? Has it been serviced in the past five years?

“DO’S” OF SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- Know where your septic system is located
- Have your septic tank (main receiver) inspected every two years by a licensed septic tank pumper and pumped out as necessary.
- Direct all storm water runoff away from the system
- Conserve water by using water saving fixtures
- Fix all leaking plumbing fixtures

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE “DON’TS”

- Drive or park over the septic system
- Plant trees or build anything over your septic system
- Dispose of non-biodegradable materials in the system, e.g. dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, hair, diapers, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, latex paint, pesticides or other chemicals
- Use toilets as trash cans
- Use garbage disposal units as this adds grease and oils to the system

AVAILABLE COUNTERMEASURES

- Improved performance of our individual systems, taking into consideration cost & need for continued inspections
- Community scaled collection and treatment systems: one point monitoring instead of hundreds
- Maintenance responsibility transferred from individuals to the community
- Small diameter PVC vacuum collection systems which are least costly and least invasive
- Alternative treatment community treatment plants which run the gamut from active to passive “machines” to construction of wetlands and other “natural” systems
- Eliminate chemicals that go down your drains
- Make sure your septic system is as far from water as possible

As density increases on the East End so does the stress on our environment. But we can all reduce our impact on this beautiful area by conserving water, recycling, mulching and maintaining healthy septic systems.

Data and direct quotes for this article were obtained from materials from the Group for the East End, Long Island Liquid Waste Association “Understanding Your Septic System,” and notes from the lecture by Bill Chaleff at the Water Forum in Hampton Bays on 5/15/12.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Marsha Kranes

Sylvia Baruch

Sylvia, who was born in Brooklyn and raised in East Meadow, L.I., has been living in Hampton Bays since 1985 – part-time at first, full-time since 1996. Before that, Greenwich Village was her long-time home. She moved there to be near NYU, where she earned a BA and MPA, and later served as an administrator, rising to deputy chancellor and vice president for planning.

In retirement, Sylvia's primary interest has been the local immigrant community. She founded Neighbors in Support of Immigrants, an advocacy and educational group that sponsored the well-received video "Immigrants Among Us." She also does volunteer work assisting Mexican women and children for the North Fork Spanish Apostolate. Sylvia decided to join and support the League after seeing its presentation on the work of the Retreat.

FIND US AND FRIEND US

by Judy Samuelson

Having trouble finding your League's Website? Would you like to "like us" on Facebook?



Here's how to access information online about your League's activities, past, present and future.

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Go to www.lwwhamptons.org

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<http://Facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfTheHamptons/info>

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The Voter

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