



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIX, No. 1

January/February/March 2018



Vicki Umans, Richard and Carol Mellor, Cathy Peacock and Estelle Gellman enjoy holiday libations.

Holiday Party Combined with Silent Auction is a Great Success

By Joanne Samborn

The Unitarian Universalist Meeting House was filled with bargain hunters and revelers at our Holiday Party On December 7th. Over 45 items were donated for the Silent Auction ranging from lessons in playing mah jongg to a champagne brunch at Devon Yacht Club to 2 hours of silver polishing. League members and their friends came up with some wonderful “service” items and vendors such as Capelleitti’s Italian Restaurant, Saaz Restaurant, Herbert and Rist Liquor Store and Marcella’s Salon among others all provided gift certificates, Sue Wilson should be congratulated for having the idea to combine the Silent Auction and the party and Judi Roth, Joanne Samborn, Joan McGovern and Cathy Peacock provided ideas and help. Thank you cards will be going out to all donors.

The food and drink were plentiful and were enjoyed by between 60-70 guests, many non-League members joined us this year. Martha Potter was instrumental in obtaining the UU space for us and for getting us in early enough to set up. Everyone pitched in in setting up and cleaning up and we also got contributions for our charities: The Sag Harbor Food Pantry, the Springs Food Pantry and Southampton Human Resources.

Stay tuned for a spring Special Event and in the meantime have a happy and healthy New Year.

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SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, January 11
Planning Meeting and Concurrence
Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
12:30 – 3:30

Come join us to plan 2018’s programs and actions
and
to decide on a concurrence position on
“End of Life Choices”

Thursday, February 8
Annual Blahs Luncheon
Bobby Van’s Restaurant
12:00 p.m. \$28

Monday, April 9
Public Information Meeting on
“Journalism, Social Media and
the First Amendment”
Southampton High School Auditorium,
Southampton
7:00 p.m.

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 seven 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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Presidents' Message

By Susan Wilson

The confetti has settled and the New Year's Eve Ball in Times Square has completed the drop signaling the start of the new year -- 2018. If you are like many Americans you followed the tradition of singing Auld Lang Syne and made a list of New Year's Resolutions. A list that might include your resolve to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve your life by volunteering.

Volunteering and giving more to charity rank #25 on America's top 50 List of "New Year's Resolutions". Devoting your time and energy to helping those in need is a noble gesture and a reward in itself, but it is also an opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and for those of you still building your careers, it's a great way to boost your resume.

Before you dismiss volunteering because "it takes too much time," consider how many minutes you waste every day. Joining an LWVH committee won't require lengthy training, you can give as much or as little time as you have available and you can follow your passion whether it be Health, Government, The Observer Corps, Natural Resources, Membership, Special Events or Education. If you find yourself online all the time and love it, consider helping with our Facebook presence.

We also welcome your support. Your tax deductible donations to the League of Women Voters Education Foundation a 501(C3) entity help fund projects that empower our electorate through education. Simply go to our website: www.lwvhamptons.org and click on the appropriate link.

LWVH was highly visible in 2017 providing voter information, new citizen registration at the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip and registration at a number of local events, including the East Hampton Street Fair, Sag Harbor Fest, the Southampton Town Anti-Bias Task Force picnic in Hampton Bays, the East Hampton Primary Debate, and on September 26, as part of National Voter Registration Day, we fanned out to 11 different sites from Montauk to Westhampton Beach and the North Fork.

The League's highly successful Public Information Meetings: "Pros & Cons of the Constitutional Convention Ballot Issue", "Wind, A Clean Energy Solution" and "End of Life Issues and Decisions" are being aired on Sea-TV & LTV.

In this issue of *The Voter* you will see a terrific recap of all of the wonderful events and activities created by the LWVH's 100th Anniversary Committee under the leadership of Arlene Hinkemeyer and those events co-sponsored with other organizations such as The Rogers Memorial Library, The Southampton Art Center and The Southampton Historical Society to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in New York State.

Now it is time to get excited about what's in store for this new year.

Check the Up-Coming Events section for more information about our January Planning Meeting, Death With Dignity Concurrence and Winter Blahs Luncheon.

New Citizens

By Anne Marshall and Carol Mellor

In part, the mission statement of The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons "...encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government....".

There is not much more important active participation than voting. And the Voter Services Committee assumes the primary role for the League in offering voter registrations and information opportunities multiple times and in many locations throughout the year.

And at eight times a year, one location produces not only many new registrants but also a deep degree of satisfaction among League members who participate. At those times committee members travel to the Federal Court House in Central Islip to offer voter registrations to people from all over the world who at those moments become new citizens of the United States of America.

At least two League members, Nancy Walter-Yvertes and Martha Potter are tutors of potential new citizens. They regularly volunteer their time to help their charges in multiple ways, including language acquisition and facility and citizenship preparation.

Recently Martha had the extreme pleasure of seeing three of her students become citizens when, in November, she was a League member who was in Islip to offer voter registration and assistance to a group of some 150 newly naturalized citizens.

The following is her description of the process:

The three students who earned their citizenship in November are from Costa Rica. Two of them started studying with me when the John Jermain Memorial Library was in its temporary space. We studied on Tuesday evenings in the middle of the library. People using the library listened in and commented that the students studying for citizenship knew more about the Constitution and American history than they did. The 100 questions are a challenge and for many new English vocabulary is also a challenge. Some students study for a short time to clarify some of the information they do not understand. Others study for over a year to perfect their English and understand our Constitution and highlights of American history. I have taught students from Ecuador, Columbia, France, Morocco, Latvia, Romania, Brazil, Mexico, Ireland and Peru.



Martha Potter, second from left with three new citizens and one applicant. This picture was taken in il Cappuccino Restaurant in Sag Harbor. We were celebrating their citizenship. The waitress also took a picture and gave them a card and picture from the restaurant welcoming them to America.

100th Anniversary Committee Report

100th Anniversary Celebration Committee Completes 11 Events for 2017!

By Arlene Hinkemeyer, Committee Chair

Our celebratory year is now over!—sponsoring or co-sponsoring 11 events to commemorate, and to educate the public about, the 100th anniversary of women winning the vote in New York State.

We thank all the libraries, historical societies, and other institutions who worked with us so enthusiastically.

And I thank my entire committee—Barbara McClancy, Cathy Peacock, Martha Potter, Judi Roth, Susan Wilson—and also Estelle Gellman, for their help in planning these events:

- ♦ April 23. LWVH co-sponsored at Amagansett Library, Syracuse University professor Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner’s talk on Belva Lockwood, Equal Rights Party’s woman presidential candidate in 1884.
- ♦ May 12. LWVH co-sponsored with Southampton Historical Museum, Rogers Memorial Library and Southampton Arts Center, “Freedom Sisters & Suffragists” program, by Dr. Georgette Grier-Key of Sag Harbor’s Eastville Community Historical Society, of readings from African-American and Suffragist leaders.
- ♦ June 2. Project with Village of East Hampton. Dedication of Pomeroy Foundation Historic Suffrage Marker to East Hampton suffrage leader May Groot Manson, in front of her home at 117 Main Street.
- ♦ June 11. LWVH co-sponsored L.I. Woman Suffrage Ass’n President Antonia Petrash’s PowerPoint talk on Long Island Suffragists, at Sag Harbor’s John Jermain Library.
- ♦ July 4. Southampton Fourth of July Parade. LWVH marched, wearing white and our “Votes for Women” sashes, and carrying signs celebrating the 100th anniversary. Received a huge trophy as “Best Patriotic Entry.”
- ♦ July 13. LWVH co-sponsored, with Southampton Historical Museum and Rogers Memorial Library, historian Natalie Naylor’s PowerPoint talk on Long Island suffrage leaders.
- ♦ August 19. At opening ceremonies, the 69th annual East Hampton Artists v. Writers Softball Game paid homage to the 100th anniversary, by calling onto the field the NYS Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, local women elected officials

and co-presidents of LWV Hamptons.

- ♦ August 24. LWVH sponsored re-creation of August 1913 suffrage rally in East Hampton, starting in front of suffrage leader May Groot Manson’s house. Marchers, approximately 200 in all, wore white or period dress and “Votes for Women” sashes. Rally ended with program at East Hampton Library that included speaker Coline Jenkins, descendant of Harriot Stanton Blatch, who spoke at 1913 rally, and NYS Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, chair of NYS Suffrage Centennial Commission. Many community groups participated.
 - ♦ October 19. LWVH co-sponsored East Hampton Library’s Tom Twomey Lecture Series program celebrating the 100th anniversary, with talks by historians Antonia Petrash and Arlene Hinkemeyer, on Long Island and South Fork suffrage leaders. Moderated by Judith Hope, hosted by Brooke Kroeger. NYS Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr., presented an Assembly Proclamation to the League.
 - ♦ November 7. On Election Day, in a program encouraged throughout the state, LWVH paid homage to Southampton suffrage leader Lizbeth Halsey White and East Hampton suffrage leader May Groot Manson by placing “I Voted” stickers at their graves.
 - ♦ November 19. LWVH co-sponsored, with Southampton Arts Center, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton Historical Museum, a stupendous suffrage musical revue titled “Ladies of Liberty: Songs to Celebrate the Centennial of Women’s Suffrage in New York State,” created/performed by Valerie diLorenzo and Amanda Borsack Jones.
- Our committee will now rest for a spell...until November 19, 2019, which marks the 100th anniversary of formation of League of Women Voters of NYS; February 14, 2020, which marks the 100th anniversary of formation of National League of Women Voters; and August 26, 2020, the 100th anniversary of certification of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting suffrage to women throughout the nation.
- We hope you enjoyed the events and learned a lot about New York’s suffrage leaders, who labored for 70 years to win us the vote! We stand on their shoulders.

100th Anniversary Committee Report



At the East Hampton Library's Tom Twomey Lecture by Arlene Hinkemeyer and Antonia Petrash on October 19, Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr., presented an Assembly Proclamation to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, "Honoring the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage." Accepting was Arlene Hinkemeyer.



Valerie diLorenzo wowed all with the suffrage musical revue she created for the "Ladies of Liberty" program on November 19 at the Southampton Arts Center.



Just a few of those present on Election Day, November 7, to pay homage at the grave of East Hampton suffrage leader May Groot Manson were, left to right, Estelle Gellman, Barbara Borsack, Vicki Umans and Valerie King.



Susan Wilson, with descendants of Lizbeth Halsey White and members of the Southampton Historical Museum, gathered on Election Day at the LHW grave in Southampton.



The LWWH 100th anniversary committee, in suffrage garb, gathered for a final photo on November 19 before the suffrage musical revue: left to right, Cathy Peacock, chair Arlene Hinkemeyer, Susan Wilson, Judi Roth, Barbara McClancy and Martha Potter.

Highlights of December 6, 2017 LWVH Board Meeting

Prior to the start of the Board meeting, Leonard J. Skuggevik, the new Superintendent of the Tuckahoe Common School District arrived to introduce himself to the Board and to have a brief meeting with Co-Presidents Susan and Estelle and Education Committee Chair, Judi Roth.

President's Report:

- Congratulations are extended to Valerie and the Health Committee on the success of the "End of Life Choices and Decisions" PIM.
- The Presidents were informed by Barbara Herbert Jordan's attorney that her estate will be gifting us approximately \$2,700.
- We received a lovely thank you letter from Andrew Wilson, our most recent Betty Desch Scholarship winner. He has begun his college career at Seton Hall and recently completed his Eagle Scout requirements.
- The Annual Appeal letters were mailed last week. We await the response. Next year we should get them out prior to Thanksgiving.

Board Discussion / Action Items:

- The Voter still does not have an assigned editor. It will be edited on a month by month basis by the following:
 - Jan/Feb/Mar, Judi. Deadline is Dec. 15th. Sue will do the President's Letter.
 - April, Glorian
 - May/June, TBD
 - July/August, Arlene
 - September, Arlene
 - Oct. Joan McGivern. She would like some training and Arlene volunteered.
 - Nov/Dec. TBD.
- Publicizing events for other organizations: A discussion was held regarding publicizing other organization's events on any of our electronic media sites. In the spirit of impartiality and non-partisanship we do not want to appear to endorse any organization or their agenda not approved by the LWVH, LWVNYS or LWVUS. This is especially true if there is any fundraising involved. Any informational publicity involving other agencies can easily imply our endorsement of their positions. Therefore, a motion was presented that the BoD's

will not publicize other organizations events, except in the event of a co-sponsorship or coalition with that other agency. The motion passed. This guidance does not include the casual exchange of information and upcoming events within committees or other informal groups.

- The Holiday Party will take place on Dec. 7th between 5 and 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse. The room will be open to us at 3 PM for setup. The food list is prepared as is the Auction Catalogue for the Silent Auction. There are three food pantry's for LWV donations; Southampton, Sag Harbor and Springs.
- The Blah's Luncheon will take place at Bobby Vans. Julia, assisted by Anne Marshall, will set up the reservations. Our first choice will be on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

Suffolk County LWV News:

- Sue, the Chairwoman of the DPO Funding committee will be meeting again after the holidays. An auto dealership has shown some interest in funding part of the costs.
- LWVSC had a Nov. 15th lunch with Rick Brand, a Newsday reporter, as the featured speaker.
- The SC League is looking into holding a fundraiser in the new year in conjunction with Nassau County and LLs of both counties.

Committee Reports:

- **Education:** Met last week and have decided to meet with first grade Girl Scouts to offer assistance in earning their Suffrage Badges. The "Ladies of Liberty" revue created for the 100th Anniversary celebration has generated interest in some of our local High Schools.

Government:

- DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) – The committee will invite Martha Potter to their next meeting to discuss possible actions for the league in both East and Southampton.
- Affordable Housing – Investigate having the Amagansett affordable housing project named after Barbara Jordan in recognition of her tireless efforts in spurring this project.

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Suffolk County Voter

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LWVSC Board Meetings: 10:00am Wednesday Jan. 17 at Cornell Coop Ext in Riverhead

10:00am Wednesday Feb. 21 at Cornell Coop Ext in Riverhead

January 2018

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Charter Law to Establish a Fair Elections Matching Fund Approved by SC Legislature

Although a similar bill was withdrawn last year, a replacement was re-introduced in late November and “fast-tracked” with strong support, resulting in quick passage in the Ways and Means Committee on December 12 and approval at the final 2017 General Meeting of the Legislature on December 19. County Executive Bellone was expected to sign the bill.

LWVSC, represented by Nancy Marr, spoke at both Ways and Means and the General Meeting. The League strongly supports steps to improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process. Other good-government groups (Common Cause, the Long Island Progressive Coalition and NYPIRG) spoke strongly in support of the legislation.

This law, which was written and introduced by SC Leg Calarco, will introduce Suffolk County voters to public financing to empower average voters to have a voice in the political process. We are facing an era of unlimited and increasingly secret spending on elections. The successful experience of New York City and other places in public funding proves that a public financing option can counter the potentially corrupting influence of big money in politics.

Public financing enables candidates to run competitive campaigns while relying on a base of small donors back home. It will encourage small donors to contribute and will promote accountability and diversity in governance while revitalizing our participatory democracy.

The program will allow legislative candidates to receive up to \$50,000 in public money starting with the 2021 election. It would achieve that by providing a 4-to-1 public match to individual contributions of \$250 or less from residents in a candidate’s district. An individual contribution to a legislator would be capped at \$1,500. Current contributions are limited to between about \$1,600 and \$3,000 depending on a legislative district’s voting population. The money would come from the county’s share of earnings from Jake’s 58, the Suffolk Off-Track Betting casino that opened this year.

Support for the bill was far from unanimous. Concerns raised by the legislators included the contention that wealthy donors can still make large donations to political parties or independent expenditure committees. Legislation to limit contributions to \$2000 in countywide races and prevent lawmakers from voting on contracts if they receive union donations (introduced by SC Leg Trotta) had failed to gain support in the legislature.

A strong opposing argument was that the best use of the casino revenue was to balance the county’s severe budget shortfall instead, thus benefiting all of the residents of Suffolk County as the county’s budget and financing is deteriorating and major cuts are anticipated.

In her LWVSC statement on the morning of December 19, Nancy Marr said “The League is known for its role in voter registration. But our goal is beyond that; we want to encourage citizens to become voters. We believe that the campaign finance program will make it possible for more candidates to run for office. New voices will be heard, and the candidates will have to reach out to neighbors and friends in order to raise the funds to qualify for financing - building connections that will involve them in their governments in the future.”

A New Suffolk County Law on Carryout Bags In Effect on January 1

Several towns and villages already had local laws, however the new law is more restrictive, including paper and plastic bags. Store clerks will charge shoppers 5 cents for each bag provided at checkout.

Government Committee

By Cathy Peacock and Ann Sandford

On Monday, April 9, 2018 at 7pm in the auditorium of the Southampton High School, the Government Committee is sponsoring a public information meeting entitled “**Journalism, Social Media and the First Amendment**”.

This forum will feature four speakers all of whom will be specialists in first amendment issues. We are planning to have two lawyers and two journalists. Some of the potential speakers we are pursuing have written articles with tantalizing titles: “What the Internet is Hiding From You?”, “Did Twitter Kill the First Amendment?”, etc. In this time of accusations of fake news and growing reliance on social media, this public information meeting promises to be exciting.

In addition to planning this meeting, the Government Committee is working in a number of other important areas:

We are discussing the need for and identification of possible action by our league on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival).

We are assessing the status of current work force housing work in both Southampton and East Hampton to determine a role for the League.

We are working with the County League and Bridget Fleming to identify legislative agenda items on which we may want to lobby.

After the January planning meeting, additional areas of focus may be identified.

You can see we need a lot of committee members. Please consider joining this vital committee. Call Ann Sandford at 631-537 – 2382 for information on the next meeting.

In Memoriam

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

The Hamptons League of Women Voters mourns Barbara Herber Jordan, 81, of East Hampton, who passed away on September 6, and whose memorial service was held at the East Hampton United Methodist Church on November 5. Her husband Rudy pre-deceased her.

Barbara served as co-president of LWVH with Susan Wilson during the 2003-05 term and over the years was elected to many other offices of both the Hamptons and the Suffolk County Leagues.

She worked as a social studies teacher, starting in 1959 at Valley Stream Memorial Junior High, and became guidance department head in 1977, retiring in 1985 and moving to East Hampton where her husband had a retirement home.

Barbara did enormous good in the world, effecting positive social change. As chair of the LWVH Housing Committee, she led the five-year consensus study on the issue, raised the funds, and in 2006 produced a professional 40-minute video, “Trouble in Paradise: The Affordable Housing Crisis on the South Fork,” also taking it on the road to speak to over 25 community groups. She was a strong advocate for affordable housing, was the League’s representative to East Hampton Town’s Comprehensive Planning Study, was appointed to East Hampton Town’s Housing Advisory Board, and served as vice chair of the Town’s Housing Authority. In 2006, she was awarded the Carrie Chapman Catt Award for outstanding service to the LWVH.

Barbara was also instrumental in initiating the project and



Barbara Jordan

gathering the supplies to house the homeless on alternate Friday nights in the winter at her East Hampton Methodist Church, through the Maureen’s Haven program. Other churches and temples soon joined her lead.

In the League, she also proposed the local study of a Town Manager form of government and advocated for its creation.

At her memorial service, many civic leaders spoke of Barbara’s contributions to the community and her strong commitment to worthy causes. Her life force, personality and values made her a person who is sorely missed.

The League extends its condolences to her daughter Pamela and son-in-law John Ogno and her other surviving relatives. Memorial donations can be made to an organization of one’s choice.

“End of Life Choices”

By Valerie King + Information relating to upcoming Consensus/Concurrence Study with the Utah League as directed by the New York State League

During the 2017 State Convention, the New York State LWV requested that regional and local leagues explore the issue of End of Life Choices toward the process of concurrence/consensus with the Utah LWV's position on Death with Dignity.

On a chilly and wet, Monday November 13th, from 6:30-8:30pm, League and community members crowded into Parish Memorial Hall, Southampton where the LWVH Health Committee held a Public Information Meeting on the topic of “End Of Life Choices and Decisions”, with a panel presentation from five experts. The goal of the panel was to provide a balanced mix of viewpoints. Our next step will be to hold a consensus/concurrence meeting as part of the League planning meeting on January 11th from 12:30 – 3:30. This will enable us to meet the February 15th deadline for approval or rejection. More information on this topic and the process of the concurrence meeting will be distributed to LWVH members in advance of the meeting.

Below are some of my comments as moderator followed by a recap of the speakers' presentations:

Individuals, family members, significant others, health care professionals, lawyers, state legislators and a host of other stake holders are challenged consistently on complex and sensitive End Of Life (EOL) issues.

There is a long history regarding human mortality and death dating back to ancient times when tribal, familial-cultural attitudes prevailed. With the advent of formalized religions, and medical technology, decisions regarding dying and death shifted and life sustaining attitudes in healthcare became more prominent and institutionalized.

Fast forward to the present. Each individual expects a range of options regarding healthcare. We desire a good healthy life, and we anticipate at some vague point, that we will have a modern death.

In our country healthcare options and choices depend on state laws, professional ethics, and health insurance, in addition to socio-cultural, religious, spiritual, familial and individual concerns.

In our modern society, some families have generations living together and some live apart. Most families despite their closeness or distance, grapple with issues of self-determination, authenticity, transparency and the difficulties of declining health of family members.

When the value of life supporting medical treatment is improbable, and time is shortened, priorities may change. The question of whose needs are being met, arises in the balancing of hope for more time and the concern of physical and psychological pain.

For many individuals with terminal illness, there is a mortal existential awareness of dying, yet wanting more time. Autonomy, control, depression, lack of family support, lack of finances and declining cognitive capacity for decision making are among the many complex factors that can impact end of life choices.

The development of the field of gerontology has added new perspectives to aging and the field of medical ethics has expanded our concepts of the process of dying at any age, where safeguards have become essential for physicians, patients and their families.

The panel began with David Leven J.D. Emeritus Executive Director, End of Life Choices, New York (EOLCNY). Mr. Leven encouraged the audience to consider what it would be like to have “control” over when and how an individual death occurs. His organization has advocated for more than 15 years for more choices for the dying through advocacy, education programs, and free counseling for patients and their families. In addition, EOLCNY advocates for establishing Medical/Physician Aid in Dying (M/P.A.I.D.) through litigation or by legislation.

Although historically M/P.A.I.D. has been legal in some European countries, it was first legalized in the United States in Oregon in 1997. Over the past 20 years it has become legal in 5 additional states (California, Colorado, Montana, Washington State, Washington DC, and Vermont). M/P. A.I.D. is currently illegal in New York. Several bills have been introduced to New York legislative sessions. None have passed as yet. Most states that have proposed or passed a M/P. A.I.D. law, mainly follow the Oregon model of strict requirements for patients to qualify.(M/P.A.I.D) Criteria for each state varies but are usually that :1) An individual has to be an adult diagnosed with a terminal illness with the expectation of approximately 6 months to live. 2) Physicians must interview the patient and determine their capacity to make a life-ending decision and voluntarily request M/P.A.I.D 3) The individual patient cannot have a diagnosed psychiatric disorder and disability 4) A physician may provide the individual with the knowledge, means and a prescription for a lethal dose. 5) The physician does not administer the lethal dose. 6) The individual patient must be able to self-administer the lethal dose. You can reach EOLCNY at 212-726-2010 www.endoflifechoicesny.org.

Our next speaker was Lara Siska M.D., Director of Palliative Care at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. Dr. Siska talked about her professional experiences as a local family doctor, and her recognition that the hospital needed a program to assist patients who were diagnosed with serious illnesses that may result in terminal disabilities. Palliative Care includes prevention, identification and treatment of suffering through assessment of the physical, psychosocial, intellectual and spiritual needs of the patient. The goal is to support and optimize the patient's quality of life, appropriate at any

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“End of Life Choices”

Continued from page 17

stage of a serious illness. Dr. Siska encouraged the audience to plan individual advance directives regarding health care choices and life support preferences. In addition she spoke on the importance of carefully selecting a health proxy (for when an individual is incapacitated, and unable to express health care choices). Dr. Siska provided a handout listing: Stony Brook Southampton Hospital Palliative Care Service- 631-726-3200, Meeting House Lane Medical Office Based & Home Based Palliative Care-631-283-2100 and East Hampton Family Medicine/Home Based Palliative Care-631-324-9200.

Corinne Carey Esq., is Campaign Director of Compassion & Choices N.Y. Ms. Carey spoke about her background with the Civil Liberties Union and her interest in EOL issues. In particular she shared with the audience an experience with a personal friend who received a diagnosis of a terminal illness and needed help to make healthcare decisions on end of life preferences. Ms. Carey’s program works in conjunction with Mr. Leven’s EOLCNY,

Priscilla Ruffin R.N., M.S., NPP, President and CEO of East

End Hospice located in Westhampton Beach. Ms. Ruffin described hospice as in-home or in-facility caring, providing comfort and hope to patients and their families in the conclusion of life. She spoke about the many accomplishments her hospice program, such as The Kanas Center for Hospice Care, and Camp Good Grief for children who have lost a loved one. Ms. Ruffin also gave many poignant illustrations where she and her staff were able to assist patients and families during the process of dying.

The LWVH Health Committee’s End of Life Choices & Decisions Panel Presentation is available for viewing on Sea TV. You can check their website for the viewing schedule.

In addition to the information provided above, as chair of the Health Committee, I attended the Hamptons Take 2 Film festivals showing of the film “Into The Night: Portraits of Life and Death” directed by Helen Whitney who received the Annual Filmmakers’ Choice Award. The film features the voices of a wide range of people in an intimate and life affirming view of death.

Highlights of December 6, 2017 LWVH Board Meeting

Continued from page 6

- Assess the current housing needs in both Hampton towns and SC as a whole.
- The committee began looking at a PIM addressing Free Speech. The working title of the forum is “Journalism, Social Media and the First Amendment” and will tentatively be held on April 9, 2018.

Health: On Nov. 13th the health committee held their very successful “End of Life Choices” PIM. This leads to a discussion to take place on Jan. 11th to explore Utah’s Death with Dignity position. The LWVNYS deadline for this concurrence is Feb 15th.

Natural Resources: The Hills project in SH failed to reach a Super Majority to move ahead.

Publicity: The PIM, “End of Life Choices” was broadcast for 2 weeks on LTV and generated a comprehensive article in the East End Beacon. The “Ladies of Liberty” revue played on Sea-TV last week.

100th Anniversary: On election day members of our committee, the SH Historical Museum staff, Halsey &

White family members and EHV Mayor Paul Rickenbach, Jr. placed the “I Voted” stickers on the graves of Lizbeth Halsey White and May Groot Manson in SH and EH respectively. These two women were local suffrage supporters. Our musical revue, “Ladies of Liberty” was a smash hit with a great book and music assembled by Valerie diLorenzo. The audience was enthusiastic and there is growing interest in taking the show to local high schools. The 100th Anniversary events are now completed and Arlene plans to write an article for a future edition of the Voter.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 7th - Holiday Party, from 5-7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse.

Jan. 11th – Planning Meeting / Concurrence at the BH Library from 12:30 – 3:30 PM.

Barbara McClancy, Recording Secret

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