



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXVI, No. 1

**January-February 2013**



ABOVE At our annual holiday party, Co-presidents Glorian Berk and Judi Roth collected members' checks for this year's chosen charities—the food pantries in Southampton (Human Resources of the Hamptons) and Springs Community Food Pantry. More than \$600 was contributed. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer

## **MEMBER MEETING TO SET PRIORITIES FOR 2013 SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 10**

We hope every available member will join us for this important member meeting. At this annual event we discuss and then vote to determine the issues upon which we should focus in the coming year. Your opinions and ideas will be discussed before we vote.

### **HOW LOCAL PRIORITIES ARE IMPLEMENTED**

After local priorities are identified, the Board of Directors develops strategies for implementation, which often must then be executed by the committees. The committees develop action steps, such as sponsoring a public forum or developing an advocacy plan.

Our 2012 priorities were about protecting the environment, focusing on women's issues, shifting our education committee focus to the upper elementary grades and getting out the vote and election reform.

We'll provide the lunch. It's up to you to bring the ideas, opinions and enthusiasm for our work in 2013.

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### **SAVE THE DATES!**

### *Help Set Our 2013 Agenda*

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Jan. 10, 2013 12:30-2:30 pm**

Hampton Library, Bridgehampton

A light lunch will be served

### *Beat the Winter Blues at our Annual*

## **'BLAHS' LUNCHEON**

**February 12, 2013**

Bobby Van's, Bridgehampton

(Time TBD)

**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

by Glorian Berk

On October 29th, we all experienced the wrath of Super Storm Sandy. Here on the East End, we were spared much of the devastation experienced by those living further west on Long Island and at the New Jersey Shore. If—a very little word—the storm had waited a little longer to turn west, we would have had a very different experience. We “dodged a bullet.” But what about the next “100 year storm” that could come in a year or two or ten? Is it time to rethink how we live? Here are some things to consider while the storm is still fresh in our minds.

Let's talk about flood insurance. The federal government makes flood insurance available, since no insurance companies offer it. After Katrina, our tax money underwrote the payments made to homeowners. It is projected that the same thing will take place after Super Storm Sandy. A recent article in *Newsday* offered several examples of homeowners being reimbursed (up to \$250,000 for each occurrence) over \$1 million for multiple payments for different storms. Should there be a change to allow homeowners only one reimbursement and after that, it's their money if they choose to rebuild? Should the cost of the insurance more accurately reflect the cost of the insurance?

What about regular homeowners' insurance? The company pays you when you rebuild. What if you had the option of taking the money and using it to rebuild somewhere else? Rebuild in a place that is less vulnerable to storm damage?

That brings us to local zoning rules. Should they be changed to require homes that are partially or totally destroyed to be rebuilt smarter, stronger and more sustainable? Only within strict guidelines? For example, moving the house farther from the water, building on pilings, hurricane-proof roofs, windows, etc. What about prohibiting a home to be rebuilt? The Town of Southampton lost a law suit when the owners of property in Westhampton Dunes sued to rebuild their homes when the town wouldn't let them. So it's legally risky to prohibit rebuilding without compensation to the home owner for the loss of his property. What about a transfer tax similar to the CPF tax to create a fund to compensate a homeowner when they are not allowed to rebuild?

Westhampton Dunes survived Super Storm Sandy with very little beach loss and property damage. These homes are sited on an engineered beach completed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Is this the answer to our beachfront? Taxpayers in the eastern part of Southampton think so. They've created two taxing districts so that they can tax themselves for beach replenishment. The project was put on hold earlier this fall but since Super Storm Sandy it's been moved forward with the hope that the beach nourishment will take place next year. These homeowners are willing to spend millions of their own dollars to protect their homes. The Town of Southampton is pleased, as these homeowners are paying for half of the cost to replenish the Town owned beaches as well. And, by protecting their

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## Reflections On An Election Season — And Looking Ahead

by Anne K Marshall

As Voter Services Chair for LWVH for close to ten years (but who's counting?), I think I have some perspective on the extent of our local organization's efforts to fulfill the LWVUS mission. That purpose, among others, is to encourage voter participation by offering registration possibilities and information, while at the same time helping to educate citizens about issues they will be voting on, whether through candidates or actual propositions.

This past election cycle, thanks to a group of magnificent individuals, Voter Services participated in a wide variety of activities (see the November-December issue of *The Voter*). Here, I want to highlight some forces that contributed to that success and some of the frustrations as well.



At the LWVSC breakfast, LWVH Voter Services chair Anne Marshall, right, presented this year's Voter Services Award from the Hamptons League to Joanne Samborn, left, and Ursula Lynch for their help with voter registration efforts and candidate debates.

### SUCCESS FACTORS: THE HUMAN KIND

First the human forces who worked so diligently. First and foremost were Ursula Lynch and Joanne Samborn, captains of their respective geographic areas, who organized the voter registrations. For their efforts, Ursula Lynch of Westhampton Beach and Joanne Samborn of Southampton worked tirelessly to register many citizens. Each participated in the teams who traveled to the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip to register new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremonies. Perhaps it is no coincidence that both Ursula and Joanne are naturalized citizens themselves...Ursula from Germany and Joanne from Northern Ireland.

More than 30 people volunteered for various aspects of our committee's activities, making it a memo-

orable year. On the first National Voter Registration Day, League and non-League members worked in teams at 15 sites in both towns. This extraordinary effort was recognized at the national level by LWVUS. Moreover, we sponsored four very important candidate debates that had wide publicity, thanks to the immeasurable efforts of Arlene Hinkemeyer and the work of volunteers during the debates.

### FRUSTRATING FACTORS: THE BUREAUCRATIC KIND

In the process of educating and registering voters, issues surfaced, some long-festering, others coming to light because of Super Storm Sandy.

- \* Although recently improved, the state's voter application still needs work. The box asking voters to select a party does not distinguish clearly enough between being independent and selecting the existing Independent Party.

- \* The deadline dates for voter registration and absentee ballot requests are much too far from Election Day. Numerous voters were not able to vote because their requests to us came after the deadline. Due to Sandy, there was a reprieve in NYS, allowing citizens who were displaced to mail their absentee ballots. That should be made permanent.

- \* At the very last minute, 24 hours before Election Day, the governor allowed voters to vote in polling places other than their own. That decision was far too late and should have been announced earlier. Online-voting would have made moot all the above issues.

In short, New York State is woefully behind in making voting more accessible and available to all its eligible citizens. Let's continue to hold on to our successes and work at correcting the frustrations.



Speakers at the LWV Suffolk County Post Election Breakfast on November 11 at Bellport Country Club were LWVNY legislative director Barbara Bartoletti, right, who spoke about the legislative climate in Albany, and LWVH past president Carol Mellor, who explained the State League's new program materials on NYS campaign finance reform. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

## Government/Health Committee Report

### Meeting with County Legislator Jay Schneiderman

by Estelle Gellman

On November 26, Judy Samuelson and I met with Jay Schneiderman to discuss his role and his views on the issues facing the East End. Mr. Schneiderman, who represents District 2 (which includes the East End), was most forthcoming, responding to questions and explaining those issues.

“Suffolk County Legislators have a policy role rather than administrative, and deal with issues affecting the full array of services the county offers,” he explained. He made it clear that being a legislator is a full time job; in addition to time spent dealing with the issues, his responsibilities include attendance at full sessions of legislature and committee meetings, as well as meeting with constituents and working with other officials in addressing the issues. He chairs the Public Works Committee and is vice-chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

The Legislature has oversight of an annual budget of approximately three billion dollars. This is spent to provide services including, among others, the community college system, the penal system, the Suffolk County police, health clinics, county roads (e.g., CR 39 in Southampton), housing for the homeless and the administration of Medicaid.

According to Mr. Schneiderman, the County’s most serious problem is pressure on the budget. Pressure comes from increased costs such as pension and health-care, increased numbers of unfunded state mandates and reductions in revenue sources. For example, a large portion of the revenue comes from the sales tax—but with the recession, there were fewer sales of taxable goods. Consequences of budget pressure is seen in layoffs, sale of County-owned land and selling off the County health insurance plan as well as the Foley nursing home. Yet the legislature still faces difficult questions: Can revenues be increased by increasing the sales tax? Can fees be increased? Is deficit financing feasible? Mr. Schneiderman and his colleagues hope the measures already taken will create an economic climate that obviates the need for any of these actions.

Mr. Schneiderman points to largely realizing these goals:

- \* Assuring the East End achieves our fair share of county revenues
- \* The widening of CR 39
- \* The pool at Suffolk Community College
- \* Additional funds for dredging

#### \* County bus service

He expressed concern about access to health services and brought up the possibility of moving to a new model for the health clinics, i.e., FQHCs (Federally Qualified Health Centers). These would have federal money attached and would provide expanded hours of operation as well as offering dental services. Other goals include expanding Sunday bus service, revitalizing the Flanders-Riverside area, restoring the Montauk downtown area, providing an additional community swimming pool on the East End, transferring Long Wharf from the County to Sag Harbor Village and encouraging efforts to preserve open space and the environment.

### An Interview With Robert S. Chaloner

**PRESIDENT & CEO, SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL**

by Naomi Epstein (Chair) and committee members Judi Roth, Valerie King, Donald Peifer

The Health Committee of the League is in the process of researching changes that will be taking place in health care delivery systems on the local, state and national level. This is the first in a series of articles that will continue over a period of months in *The Voter*.

Robert S. Chaloner has been President and CEO of Southampton Hospital six years. With degrees from Dartmouth College, Columbia University, New York University, he has over 30 years of professional experience in the areas of hospital administration and finance, health care information technology and operations improvement. Over lunch, he recently briefed representatives of the League’s Health Committee about current and future plans for the hospital.

Foremost was the role Stony Brook Medical Center will play, ranging from the informal discussion past and present to the future merging of governance. One of Mr. Chaloner’s central concerns is preserving the unique features of a small community hospital while gaining the benefits of a large tertiary center.

There will be some loss of autonomy but the hospital will retain its philanthropic programs, local board, and focus on service to local community. Due to an excess of beds throughout the state, bed capacity could decrease from the current 125 beds to 90 or 100. However, the new hospital will have private rooms that could convert to semi-private if needed. This number is

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### My Wonderful Election Day Experience

by Judi Roth

Entering the John Marshall School in East Hampton on Election Day, I saw a group of students in front of an electoral college map. Teacher Joe Sanicola was holding forth on election activities. I volunteer in a first grade class taught by Irene Riva-Quinn, helping out with reading and writing. Today, I found the class of about 20 kids looking at flip charts and learning about the election process, the White House and the candidates.



Teacher Joe Sanicola addressing class at John Marshall

We escorted the children with their secret ballots to the polling place, passing other excited students in the hallway. At the polling place, Mr. Sanicola explained that if the majority of the class voted for the same candidate, that candidate would get all their votes – because that’s how the electoral college works. He used video game scoring as an illustration and described a class where one student’s absence caused a tie vote; had that student been there, her vote would have turned the election in her class! The fifth grade “election officials” guided each first grader to boxes for President Obama or Governor Romney behind a “privacy curtain.” After all votes were cast, Mr. Sanicola escorted our class back to the electoral college map and explained that each class had a certain number of electoral votes based on the number of students in the class. The map was showing a lot of blue and when our class’ vote was handed to Mr. Sanicola it joined the blue column for Mr. Obama.

Another exercise in the election process was tallying up the entire school’s votes. By 1:30, it was clear that President Obama had won re-election handily. On our way back to the classroom we stopped at another

exhibit showing how many Presidents had followed their father’s or relative’s footsteps into the White House. Mrs. Riva-Quinn knows of my association with the League, so she asked me to talk about it. I told the children about how different groups got the right to vote in our country and how long it took for women to gain that right.

I was elated by my day at The Marshall School where I’ve volunteered for about eight years, and by the kids’ and teachers’ opportunity to take part in this mock election. It made me feel that voting will be alive and well for a long time to come.

P. S. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at the Marshall School (grades K-5) can get in touch with me by e-mailing [co-president@lwvhamptons.org](mailto:co-president@lwvhamptons.org). It’s a great way to spend an hour or two a week helping these kids improve their reading and writing skills.

### Annual Fundraising Luncheon A Big Success

by Gladys Remler

Our annual fundraising luncheon took place at Muse Restaurant in Sag Harbor on Nov. 12. Originally set for October 29, the super-storm had other ideas. We were fortunate this year to have Katherine Szoka and MaryAnn Callendrilla, co-owners of Canio’s Books, discuss East End writers. Their talk was enlightening and most interesting.

All the guests were friendly and welcoming to each other and one of the guests was so impressed with the ambiance that she joined the LWVH. We always welcome new members! A huge thanks to Judi Roth, Joanne Samborn, Sue Wilson, Arlene Hinkemeyer and Judy Samuelson. Best of all, thanks to all whose presence made this day a success.



At the LWVH Fall Fundraising Luncheon, Special Events chair Gladys Remler, standing, greeted (left to right) Beth Barth, Joan Trabulsi, Maryann Callendrilla and Andrea Schiavoni.

# LWVH Board Meeting Summary

*Held on December 5, 2012*

## INFORMATION ITEMS

December 10 Holiday Party. North Sea Community House needs decorations and we must arrange furniture ourselves. Volunteer board members have covered all details to make event a success.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

\* Board accepted the following motion with regard to investing Desch bequest in Vanguard Funds:

\* We will not invest until Jan. 2013, following details regarding penalty for closing CD as well as effect on interest rates of any Congressional action in January.

\* A financial steering committee, governed by LWVH Investment Policy approved November 2012, will oversee the funds. Said committee always to include a (co-) president, the treasurer and one rotating board member. First group: Judi Roth, Eموke Forman, Estelle Gellman.

\* Entire CD will be put into a Vanguard Money Market, from which we will invest \$40,000 in three increments – once each four to six weeks. The remainder will continue in a money market.

\* We chose Vanguard Intermediate Terms Bond Fund Index (VBIIX) as our first vehicle.

\* “Blahs” luncheon to be Feb. 12 at Bobby Van’s. Gladys will ask Pat Arceri and Julia Kayser if they can arrange event.

\* Topics in place for member meetings: January, program planning; February, no member meeting; March, Education Committee; April, Natural Resources; May, annual meeting; June, Government/Health Committee.

\* Board members away for the winter. Achieving a quorum will not be an issue.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

\* Government-Health. Naomi reported that:

\* Judy and Estelle interviewed Suffolk County Legislator Jay Schneiderman for Jan/Feb *Voter*.

\* In East Hampton, Naomi is working closely with the GGG (Group for Good Government, a non-partisan organization) to arrange another public meeting to promote the model of Council-Manager form of town government. CACs will be included as will business groups. GGG suggested that Barbara Jordan moderate and hoped Larry Cantwell, EH business manager, and Steve Altieri, the administrator of Mamaroneck Town, speak.

\* Committee members will interview Southampton Hospital President Robert Chaloner for the Jan./Feb *Voter*.

\* At June 10 members meeting one of these topics to be presented: an overview of the Affordable Care Act or a forum with members of the Suffolk County Legislation’s Health Committee.

\* Public Relations. Arlene reported good coverage for postponed fundraiser-luncheon at Muse. She noted that including a speaker makes an event more newsworthy.

\* Voter Services. Anne reported that Ursula Lynch and Joanne Samborn were honored at the SC LWV post-election breakfast for their contributions to the success of voter registration campaign.

\* Special Events. Gladys reported on success of fundraiser-luncheon at Muse. There were 27 paid guests plus our speakers. Guests paid \$50, we received a few donations from non-attendees, and 50/50 raffle raised \$120. This gave LWVH a total net profit of \$694. Glorian thanked Judi for completing arrangements when Gladys became incapacitated.

\* Education. Terri and committee met Nov. 29, will meet again Jan. 2 2013. Topics of discussion:

\* Possible program for March meeting would be panel of school superintendents to explain to public how a budget is prepared, or how districts deal with the two-percent cap, shared services, etc. Must be at March meeting to be relevant, as taxpayers vote on school budgets in May.

\* Anne and Terri met with PTA of Sag Harbor

\* Committee will choose two students to send to SIA in 2013. We pay for one, state League for the second. In interest of fairness, will only work with Southampton and Sag Harbor schools this year.

\* Has subcommittee for Desch award process.

\* Natural Resources. Sue and committee met on Dec. 4.

\* Discussed the super-storm, how the towns responded and what committee can do to help plan for future.

\* April 8 (prior to Earth Day) member meeting presents pro-environment actions you can do every day, not just one day a year.

\* Trip to Brookhaven Labs will be week of April 16. Limited number of members may participate and invitation will go to board members first. Over half of those present indicated interest. Among possible topics: Nanotechnology.

**The next meeting will be held on Jan. 2, at 5:30 PM at the Bridgehampton Bank.** Members are welcome.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Samuelson,

*January-February 2013*

*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](http://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](http://www.lwvhamptons.org).*

<b>January 2</b> - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
<b>January 3</b> - 2 PM Thursday	Education Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton Contact Terri Davgin at 329-3217
<b>January 8</b> - 10 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton Contact Sue Wilson at 283-6549
<b>January 10</b> - 12:30 PM Thursday	General Membership Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton Topic: 2013 Agenda
<b>February 6</b> - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
<b>February 12</b> - Time TBD Tuesday	Annual 'Blahs' Luncheon	Bobby Van's, Bridgehampton Visit Our Website or Facebook for Details

**President's Message**

*Continued from page 2*

homes, they are protecting the tax base of the Town, without which a huge reduction in property tax revenue would take place with its commensurate reduction in Town services.

We escaped the most extreme physical devastation. Still, we did have extended post-storm power outages. Depending on your circumstances, you lost electricity, computer, telephone, heat, water and the ability to cook except on your outdoor grill. So we all complained about LIPA—and rightly so! Lack of communication, inspection requirements and running out of utility poles are no way to operate! The Governor has set up a commission to look at LIPA.

But what about the source of the electricity the

authority provides? While LIPA is being re-evaluated, shouldn't the electric power source also be questioned? Renewable Energy Long Island (reLI) commissioned Synapse Energy Economics of Massachusetts to study alternate sources of energy. The study's conclusions can be viewed on the reLI website ([www.renewableenergy-longisland.org](http://www.renewableenergy-longisland.org)). It projects that by 2030, 75% of energy on LI could come from renewable sources (wind, photo voltaic, nuclear, other). The other 25% would still come from fossil fuels to meet peak demand but its carbon footprint could be offset with energy credits.

I hope I created some food for thought. Let's keep a dialogue going within our community.



# Suffolk County Voter

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

January 2013

Wednesday January 16 LWVSC Board Meeting SCCC Riverhead, 9:15am - 12:00noon

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**Election Day, Nov. 6 was certainly a challenge.** Super Storm Sandy had resulted in hundreds of people in Suffolk County being displaced, missing deadlines for absentee ballot applications, and not being able to get to their polls. Some poll sites needed to be changed due to storm damage. The Board of Elections made efforts to enfranchise voters by changing the date for absentee applications and on Nov. 5, the day before Election Day, Governor Cuomo issued an executive order because of Sandy allowing people throughout New York to vote on affidavit ballots at any poll site. It seemed to many that based on all the changes and potential problems, Election Day in Suffolk County went smoother than expected. Do we know of some problems? Yes.

Do we know of some instances when voters were pleased? Yes. In January LWVSC board members plan to visit and meet with representatives from the Suffolk County BOE. We would like any League member who had a notable experience (positive or negative) to share this with the president of the local League so that it can be shared at the BOE.

### LWVSC continue our effort to monitor healthcare in Suffolk County:

In our October Voter we reported that Suffolk County Legislature had agreed that the county could sell the John J Foley Skilled Nursing Facility to the Sherman brothers, who said they would continue to serve patients as a nursing facility. Following necessary legal procedure in the case of plans to privatize, the County sent sixty day notices of layoff to most of the staff. At this date, they have taken back the notices since they will need the staff to keep running the facility. Nothing has changed. AME, the union representing the staff, along with Legislators Kennedy and Browning, has brought a lawsuit against the county, based on what they consider improper procedures in selecting the Sherman brothers. The Town of Brookhaven has made it clear that a nongovernmental entity running the nursing home would not be exempt from zoning codes, and that the new owners would have to seek a change of zone from residential to nursing home zoning. The Shermans hope to separate the fourteen additional acres from the site of the facility, and add a road. They will need permission from the Town to do that. (Brookhaven has not held the zoning hearing because information it needs from the county has not been received.) Funds to run the facility are not included in the 2013 budget, but the county cannot close it at this point and will have to find the funds. Questions still remain about whether it could be self-sustaining if the beds were all filled through more aggressive marketing and whether the new owners plan to keep the chronic long-term patients in the facility.

Legislator Kate Browning introduced a resolution last week requiring the county in the future to grant an extension of sixty days to employees who would be laid off in the case of privatization in order to allow them time to negotiate with their prospective employers. It was defeated partly because of possible conflict with labor law and union rules.

The Hudson River FQHC, which assumed control of the Coram Health Center, is being considered by the county for future management of some of the other health centers. The centers are funded in the 2013 budget, but may see changes later in the year. Reports about Coram under the FQHC indicate that although the fee for patients coming for care is lower than in the county health centers, many of the additional tests and services are paid for separately by patients. Members of the SC legislature, expressing opposition to laying off more county employees, have indicated that they want an evaluation of Coram as part of Hudson River before moving forward with any additional health centers.

### Natural Resources Issues Discussion now scheduled for Jan. 16 in Riverhead

Bob DeLuca, President, Group for the East End and passionate advocate for natural resources in Suffolk County, will join us at our LWVSC board meeting on Wed. Jan.16 at SCCC in Riverhead. Local league board/interested members are welcome— please arrive early- we will commence our discussion with Bob at exactly 9:30am. This will be followed by the regular monthly LWVSC board meeting.

**Change of date!**



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Marsha Kranes

#### Jana Hayden

Czech-born Jana grew up immersed in the art world of her native Prague, where she studied photography at the School of Graphic Arts. After graduating she produced a book of photographs about Prague's ancient Jewish cemetery that won her a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts. There she earned an MFA and married a fellow student.

The newlyweds lived and worked Hawaii for five years before heading to New York, where they established a successful graphic arts and commercial printing company and raised two children while living in Rockaway and then in Massapequa.

They moved to The Springs 12 years ago, where Jana's interest in photography continues and she creates abstract sculptural pieces. She is active in the Artists Alliance of East Hampton, the East End Photographers Group, and the Crazy Monkey Gallery Cooperative in Amagansett.

#### Joyce and Daniel Flynn

The Flynns met 44 years ago while working at summer jobs in Westhampton Beach. They married three years later and lived in western Long Island, most recently in Northport, until 2005, when they moved to Quogue.

Joyce holds degrees from Cornell (BA), Michigan State (MA), C.W. Post (administration) and St. John's (Ph.D.). She enjoyed a 33-year career in education – 13 years as a teacher in her hometown of Syosset and 20 years as an administrator, first in North Babylon and then in the Three Village School District in Stony Brook, where she was assistant superintendent of schools for instructional services. She retired in 2002.

Daniel grew up in Clearwater, Fla. and attended the University of Florida (BA) and Hofstra University (MA). He started out as a journalist, then switched to teaching, working in Syosset, where he and Joyce coached the girls track team together. Twelve years later, he made another career change, becoming a commercial real estate broker. He is currently affiliated with Jones Lang LaSalle in Melville.

The Flynns keep busy locally. Joyce, who recently became president of the Southampton Democratic Club, works with Mexican families through the North Fork Spanish Apostolate, and is chairman of

the board of her church, an officer of the Westhampton Garden Club and, with her husband, active in the Shinnecock Yacht Club in Quogue.

#### Armineh Ohanian

Armineh was born in Iran to parents of Armenian heritage. She attended the American Girls School in Tehran, where she studied creative writing. After marrying and having a daughter, she and her family moved to Germany, where she had a son and began a "nomadic" existence – with the family moving wherever her husband's work took them. Over the years they were based in 12 different countries, ranging from Abu Dhabi to Switzerland.

In 1984 they immigrated to the U.S. and lived in Manhattan for nine years. Then, with her children grown, Armineh and her husband resumed their international lifestyle – studying at the Open University in England, and then moving to Russia. But after a year, Armineh opted to return to the U.S. She explained: "I decided if we really wanted to belong to a country, we should be American."

She "discovered" the Hamptons in 1994 after she asked her son to rent them "a nice place on Long Island near water." That brought them to Remsenburg. A year later they bought a house in Westhampton. Armineh has kept busy writing two children's books and two novels. Her latest novel, *The Apple Tree Blossoms in the Fall*, was published in September.



A festive foursome at this year's LWHV Holiday Party were, left to right, Estelle Gellman, Sally James, Terri Levin Davgin and Nada Barry. Photo by Arlene Hinkemeyer.

## Health/Government Committee Report

*Continued from page 4*

consistent with future hospital plans to provide more comprehensive primary care units on the East End, with emphasis on wellness reducing the need for hospitalization.

Current status of the merger with Stony Brook Hospital is still a “letter of intent,” working toward a definitive agreement with a target date of June 30, 2013. Once a definitive agreement is in place, the formal process of merging the two hospitals and the program for building a new facility at the Stony Brook Southampton Campus will take the form of a Certificate of Need that the hospital will file with New York State’s Department of Health. The State’s approval process will consume at least one year. General time frame for completion of the building program at the Southampton Campus is five to six years to operation.

### **BENEFITS OF MERGER WITH STONY BROOK**

Mr. Chaloner cited some of the plan’s advantages:

- \* Current hospital infrastructure is antiquated. The new hospital will be more efficient economically, in a better geographical location and will provide an opportunity for technological and facility upgrades.

- \* The move and affiliation with Stony Brook will increase reimbursement rates, procure access to clinical programs, increase medical education and training and place the hospital in a better position with healthcare reform.

### **ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY**

Mr. Chaloner stated that:

- \* The hospital’s community reputation is more positive due to programs such as “Customer Experience,” a program incorporated into staff training as part of Human Resources.

- \* Nurse to patient ratio has decreased from 10 patients per nurse to 5.4 patients.

- \* To enhance primary care access, the hospital has formed an affiliated corporation, “Meeting House Lane Medical Associates,” that can purchase physician practices, employ the physicians and handle their overhead and billing, helping many single practitioners to stay in the area.

- \* Participation in medical training for future doctors of osteopathy (who specialize in family medicine and internal medicine) provides some 50-60 interns and residents to assist the hospitalists. This year saw the first gradua-

tion of 57 students from its medical education program.

- \* An aspect of care being given high priority by the hospital is the electronic record, which will tie primary care sites with both Southampton and Stony Brook hospitals and also meet a deadline of the Affordable Care Act for all providers to use electronic records by 2015.

Mr. Chaloner recognizes that a void exists in Mental Health services provided on site, especially for children and adolescents. Outpatient services also are still very fragmented in the community among voluntary and private providers. Inpatient adult mental health is only available at Eastern Long Island Hospital in Greenport and Stony Brook. The bias against mental health is a big barrier regarding access to care. He expressed the possibility of a grant-funded study of the mental health needs of the community and how the hospital could be of service.

The last topic discussed with Mr. Chaloner was what he considered would be the main impact of Healthcare reform. He believes the main impact will be the shift from fee for service to a block grant approach for medical/health organizations. He believes the Affordable Care Act will exacerbate the shortage of primary care doctors with more people seeking primary care physicians while lower reimbursement rates push doctors into specialties. He mentioned that the hospital intends through combined efforts to merge accreditation between Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathy to provide comprehensive case management and health care to the community.



After the meeting, clockwise from lower left: Naomi Epstein, Judy Roth, Don Peifer, Valerie King, Robert Chaloner

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## GREEN TIPS

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

\* Did you know that typical electric clothes washers and dryers generate five pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per cycle? Think twice whether after just one wearing our clothes need to be washed or dry cleaned. Perhaps a quick ironing to remove wrinkles or a spot remover might do the trick.

\* Hot water uses 90% of the energy to power a washing machine. Clothes washed in cold water get just as clean, and you'll save two pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per load.

\* Newer front-loading washing machines use half the amount of water and thus save more energy. The faster spin cycles remove more water, reducing the energy needed to dry them.

### CO<sub>2</sub> REDUCTION ACTION

- \* Wear clothes until they are actually dirty, and hang them up to air out after each wearing.
- \* Touch up creases with an iron or use a wet cloth and a drop of liquid soap for spot removal
- \* It's more energy efficient to run full loads in cold water instead of warm or hot water
- \* Use a clothesline instead of a dryer when weather permits
- \* Separate loads for fast and slow drying clothes and use moisture or automatic settings rather than the timer.

Adapted from *The Low Carbon Diet*, by David Gershon

# The Voter

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