



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

Volume XXXI, No. 1

January-February 2008

HOUSING MADE AFFORDABLE BY "OUTSIDE THE BOX" IDEA

Joe Shaw, the Editor of the *Southampton Press* and the *East Hampton Press*, wrote an article in the Residence Section of both papers in the last week of November entitled "Affordable Housing: A Little More Action Please." His concept of a "Community Revitalization Fund" is worth repeating for those of you who may have missed the article.

The seed money for this proposed Community Revitalization Fund (CRF), amounting to \$2 million, would be funded by using some of the millions of dollars generated by the mortgage recording tax in each town instead of the towns using all of those monies to balance their own budgets. The fund would then be used to reduce to affordable levels the mortgage of an existing home by the town paying one-half of the cost of the house. For example, an eligible first-time home buyer would be given \$300,000 by the town as a down payment on a \$600,000 house, thereby reducing the mortgage to \$300,000 or less for the buyer. This approach may seem expensive, but it is actually cheaper than the amounts towns often are paying for empty lots, as some of them are being bought for over \$500,000.

When the family decides to sell their home, both the town and the family share equally in the profit. If the original \$600,000 house sells years later for \$1,000,000, the town not only gets its original \$300,000 back, it gets a profit of an additional \$200,000. The CRF continues to grow, thereby allowing more families to be helped every year.

Joe Shaw believes this approach has merit for the following reasons:

- "Government invests a set amount each year and thus can plan for it.
- "There is cash to fund it, especially the mortgage recording tax, which allows the same real estate transactions that create the problem to plant seeds to fix it.
- "You don't have to build a single new house—the CRF uses the existing stock.
- "It keeps a house affordable as long as a family stays in it, but it doesn't limit their freedom to move—and reap the financial benefit—when it's convenient.

continued on page 17



WINTER BLAHS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 22

See page 4 for details.

What's Inside

	page
President's Message	2
Voter Services Committee Report	3
Enforcing and Protecting the Right to Vote, Part I	3
General Membership Meeting Information	4
National Immigration Study Report	4
Winter Blahs Luncheon Information	4
Calendar	5
Suffolk County Voter	6
LWVSC Trip to Philadelphia Information	15
Project Sunlight	16
Letter to East End Hospice	17
Welcome, New Member	18
Wishes for a Speedy Recovery	18
Summary of December Board Meeting	18

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MEET YOUR TOWN SUPERVISOR

LINDA KABOT, Southampton
BILL MCGINTEE, East Hampton

Monday, January 14, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse
Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike
(just south of Scuttlehole Road
on the east side)

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 ten times a year by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

Maura F. Lester, Editing and Production
Joy Cordery, Advertising Coordinator; Proofreading

Madison Copy & Blueprint Center, Printing and Mailing

Printed on recycled paper.

President's Message

SHALL WE RING IN THE NEW?

Happy New Year to all! At this time of year we are supposed to examine ways we can improve our behavior while retaining the better parts of our complicated selves. I'm wondering if, as they say, "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." Shouldn't that apply to our institutions as well as to us as individuals? And an institution that seems to be getting much attention, but not a whole lot of action, is the election process and currently, of course, the election of our President. There have been critical editorials, proposed legislation, jockeying among states for first dibs on running primaries, endless debates—even debates about where to hold debates—movements to change campaign funding ...so much talk. And, admittedly, this column adds to the chatter!

In her insightful message in the December 2007 *Voter*, LWVH Co-President Carol Mellor summarized her experiences at a conference focusing on many of the above themes dealing with voting and the election process. Her closing remarks emphasized that the **Right to Vote** should be the basis for any reforms. But that doesn't seem to be the way that a number of states are heading. Even though there has been scant evidence of voter fraud—in terms of registration—several states have enacted stricter voter I.D. procedures, among them: Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, and Indiana. (The LWVUS has joined in a lawsuit in the Indiana case to be heard in January.)

It seems that hurdles are becoming more numerous rather than being reduced in retaining our precious right to vote. The focus seems to be on changing what doesn't seem to need repair, while retaining and extending what does need repair. The United States are hardly united in their approaches to voting. There are some bright spots. Some states allow same-day voter registration, voting by released prisoners, and voting by mail with no requirements for not being able to vote in person. (Such restrictions exist in New York.) But others, as illustrated above, under the guise of the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) legislation, are adding un-needed layers.

However, there are times when inaction causes problems. Because New York has failed to comply with part of HAVA to change its voting machines, the Department of Justice has weighed in to force the state to get rid of the lever machines by the November 2008 presidential election—a move that many groups, including the LWVNYS, have said will cause major problems, thereby possibly disenfranchising many voters. So much for the right to vote.

As Carol said in her column, she will be writing about some of the proposed ideas for reform in the near future. In the meantime, let's be vigilant about which election practices to change and which to keep as we ring in 2008.

**And remember to vote in the Presidential Primary on
Tuesday, February 5th!**

Anne K. Marshall, Co-President 537-3257

Voter Services

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Finally, we can say that the United States Presidential primary day is upon us in New York. It's **Tuesday, February 5** and despite the long drawn-out campaigning we have witnessed, some voters may be still be caught flat-footed. There is special concern for those snowbirds among us who will not be in the area on that date.

Please take note of these deadline dates and share the information with others:

- Last day to register: **Friday, January 11**. Applications are available at U.S. post offices and most libraries.
- Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail: **Tuesday, January 29**. Applications for absentee ballots are available at U.S. post offices and most libraries.

- Last day to obtain an absentee ballot in person: **Monday, February 4**, at Suffolk County Board of Election, Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank.

Primary Election Day: **Tuesday, February 5**. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For any information about one's status or where to vote: **Suffolk County Board of Elections: 631-852-4500**

Commissioners of Elections

Anita Katz—Democrat 631-852-4570

Cathy L. Richter Geier—Republican 631-852-4567

Anne K. Marshall, Chair

537-3257

ENFORCING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Introduction

We, as citizens of the United States, have the right to vote. Why, then, does the government (particularly the government of New York State) make it so difficult? To exercise our right to vote in New York State, we must ensure that we are registered to do so, and the registration must be accomplished at least 25 days before the primary or general election in which we wish to cast our ballot. Then we must make it to the polls on the appointed day, during the particular hours.

Don't think you can make it? Well, you may be entitled to cast an absentee ballot, but only if you know you are going to be sick or disabled, and you have been advised not to vote by your medical practitioner or Christian Science practitioner whose name and address must be disclosed. You can apply for an absentee ballot if you know you will be out of the county in which you are registered to vote for certain specified reasons, limited to absence by reason of your duties, occupation, business, studies or vacation, or unable to go to the polling place because you are a patient or inmate in VA Hospital, or in jail or prison, or a patient in a hospital, or will be accompanying a spouse, parent, or child, who falls within one of the foregoing categories. The New York State Board of Elections website states that these absences need to be "unavoidable" but, thankfully, the application itself does not require that you attest that there is no other time in which you could possibly plan your vacation in order to qualify to vote by absentee ballot.

If you do fit into any of these categories, you must realize that you need an absentee ballot early enough that you can apply by mail a week before Election Day, or can travel to our county Board of Elections office in Yaphank

to file your application in person the day before Election Day.

These impediments to the exercise of the right to vote are all the more astounding when one reviews the many ideas being debated and implemented in other states and countries, which treat the right to vote with the respect and honor to which it is entitled, rather than as a privilege to be accorded only to those who properly negotiate the roadblocks and barriers standing between the citizen and the voting booth. Among these ideas are universal registration, Election Day registration, early voting centers, universal voting by mail, and expanded and/or no fault absentee voting. These ideas will be explored in this and subsequent *Voter* articles; other impediments to voting, such as stringent ID requirements, will also be covered.

Part I. No Registration or Universal Registration

Why do we, as citizens who have the right to vote, have to assume responsibility for registering to do so?

There is ample evidence that the low voter turnouts that we experience and lament in this country may be caused, in large part, by onerous and cumbersome registration requirements. National election studies conducted at the University of Michigan showed that in every Presidential election from 1964 until 2000, at least 86 percent of those who were registered to vote did so. However, as of 2004, only 72 percent of the population was registered to vote, according to experts' best estimates based on U.S. Census surveys.

In countries with high rates of voter participation, such as Sweden, governments have active programs for seeking out and registering voters. They do not, as we do,

continued on page 16

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MEET YOUR TOWN SUPERVISOR

LINDA KABOT, Southampton
BILL McGINTEE, East Hampton

Monday, January 14, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Members and guests welcome.

Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse
Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike
(just south of Scuttlehole Road on the east side)

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION STUDY

Our League's study of National Immigration Policy and participation in the National League's consensus is now nearly complete.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to:

- the Immigration Study Committee members—Afton DiSunno, Joy Lupoletti, Ann Sandford, and Sue Wilson—and immigration history expert, Dr. Richard Gambino, who were the presenters on November 12;
- the nearly 70 Hamptons League members and community residents who attended the November 12 informational meeting;
- the 40 Hamptons League members who participated in the consensus meeting on December 10;

- our excellent December 10 consensus discussion leader and former LWVH president Jacqui Lofaro;
- and our December 10 consensus recorders and present LWVH co-presidents Anne Marshall and Carol Mellor.

The consensus results will be presented at the January 2 LWVH Board meeting and will then be sent electronically to the National League to meet the February 1 deadline.

In February and March, the LWVUS will formulate a position from the consensus responses throughout the United States and, by April 2008, we might receive the news regarding the national position.

Thank you all again for participating in this process!

Arlene Hinkemeyer, Chair 324-6713

WINTER BLAHS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

BOBBY VAN'S STEAKHOUSE
Bridgehampton

12:30 p.m.



Our LWVH luncheon will help you beat the "winter blahs."

Make new friends, catch up with old ones, learn about the League's plans for 2008.

Choose from the famous Bobby Van burger or lobster roll, chicken Parmagiana sandwich, rigatoni carbonara, or Chinese chicken salad. Dessert of apple betty is included.

Reserve by January 16; Pay at the Door.

To make your reservations please contact Pat Arceri (LAAscuba@aol.com or 631-267-3062) or Julia Kayser (KAYJULLEE@aol.com or 631-324-1498) by **Wednesday, January 16**. The price is just \$22.00 per person, including tax and tip. Please pay at the door with either cash or a check made out to Bobby Van's.

January-February 2008

Note: Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please confirm with committee chairperson.

The Education Committee will not meet in January. The Health Committee will be telephoned regarding the next meeting. The Membership Committee will meet only on an ad hoc basis in January and February.

January 1	Tuesday	Happy New Year!
January 2	Wednesday	LWVH Board meeting. Bridgehampton National Bank. 5:15-7:15 p.m. Members and guests welcome.
January 8	Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee meeting. Bridgehampton Library. 11:00 a.m. Contact Sue Avedon at 329-1830 or Cile Downs at 324-2435.
January 9	Wednesday	Voter Services meeting. Bridgehampton Library. 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Contact Anne Marshall at 537-3257.
January 14	Monday	General Membership Meeting. Meet Your Town Supervisor: Linda Kabot, Southampton, and Bill McGintee, East Hampton. Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton. 7:00 p.m.
January 16	Wednesday	LWVSC Board meeting. Riverhead Library. 9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
January 16	Wednesday	Fundraising Committee meeting. Starbucks, Bridgehampton. 2:00 p.m. Contact Susan Wilson at 283-6549.
January 22	Tuesday	“Winter Blahs” Luncheon. Bobby Van’s Steakhouse, Bridgehampton. 12:30 p.m. \$22.00 per person. See page 4 for details.
		No General Membership meeting in February.
February 5	Tuesday	Primary Election Day. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. See page 3 for deadline details.
February 6	Wednesday	LWVH Board meeting. Bridgehampton National Bank. 5:15-7:15 p.m. Members and guests welcome.
February 13	Wednesday	Voter Services meeting. Bridgehampton Library. 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Contact Anne Marshall at 537-3257.
February 15	Friday	Deadline for March issue of <i>The Voter</i> .
February 20	Wednesday	Fundraising Committee meeting. Starbucks, Bridgehampton. 2:00 p.m. Contact Susan Wilson at 283-6549.
February 20	Wednesday	LWVSC Board meeting. Riverhead Library. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
		LOOKING AHEAD
March 5	Wednesday	LWVH Board meeting. Bridgehampton National Bank. 5:15-7:15 p.m. Members and guests welcome.

OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

January 7	Monday	Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Tim Bishop. Community Room, Bridgehampton National Bank. 7:00 p.m.
January 10	Thursday	Assemblyman Fred Thiele discusses Electoral College Reform and the National Popular Vote. Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton. 7:00 p.m. Reservations required. Please call 283-0774, ext 523.
January 14	Monday	Congressman Tim Bishop. A Look Back at the Year 2007. Morris Meeting Room, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton. 7:00 p.m. Reservations required. Please call 283-0774, ext 523.



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

January 2008

Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 Phone 631-862-6860



Wed. Jan. 16	LWVSC Board Meeting—Riverhead Library 9:15-11:00am Speaker Dr. J. Harder 11:00am-Noon
Wed. Feb. 20	LWVSC Board Meeting—Riverhead Library 10:00am-Noon

OFFICERS

Co-President, ATI, Legislative Issues
Katherine Hoak 667-8745
khoak@optonline.net

Co-President/DPO /County Voter
Lisa Scott 265-2198
lisawscott@optonline.net

1st Vice President/Webmaster
Adam Gaus 543-1446
adam.gaus@IEEE.com

Secretary
Barbara Jordan 324-6144
bjordlwh@aol.com

Treasurer
Marilyn McKeown 286-1169
mhmckeown@verizon.net

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Arlene Forwand 368-4577
aforwand@optonline.net

Voter Service
Judie Gorenstein 491-3177
judiel728@aol.com

Housing
Nancy Marr 730-6556
enpymarr@optonline.net

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Marilyn Brown 667-8911
msb11@optonline.net

Peg Caraher 325-1237
pegcaraher@cs.com

Financing Education
Edith Embler 474-0983
eembler@suffolk.lib.ny.us

Sondra Irvine 862-4042
fsirvine@hotmail.com

Arlene Lesser 265-4384
alstna@verizon.net

Special Events
Susan Wilson 283-6549
sswilson@hamptons.com

LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

Brookhaven
Nancy Marr 730-6556
enpymarr@optonline.net

Hamptons Co-Presidents
Anne Marshall 537-3257
apghnyc@aol.com

Carol Mellor 537-6998
camellor@aol.com

Huntington
Marilyn Brown 667-8911
msb11@optonline.net

Shelter Island
Cathy Kenny 749-1848
cathy_kenny@hotmail.com

Smithtown
Joyce Rosenthal 265-6463
ejrosen@optonline.net

OFF-BOARD SPECIALISTS

Budget
Jacqui Lofaro 537-3361
jacqlo@hamptons.com

Natural Resources
Dorothy Cappadona 549-6987
Doc.dot@verizon.net

Transportation
Allan Aronoff 736-1937

All League Members are invited to the Riverhead Library

Wednesday, January 16 at 11am

Lower level craft room, immediately following the monthly LWVSC board meeting

for a Special Presentation by **Dr. Joseph Harder** on

Suffolk County Health Centers:

Funding, Services, Privatization and other Issues for 2008

Our County established a system of health centers in the 1970's and worked out contractual arrangements with local hospitals for most of them. A few of them, like Riverhead, are run by the County itself. They provide comprehensive care, and are supported by a combination of insurances, self-pay, and funding from Suffolk County and New York State, which makes it possible to provide quality health care at a reasonable cost. In contrast with Nassau County, which chose to run a county hospital instead of creating a health center system, our health centers are supported by the private sector as well as government. Each Health Center has an Advisory Council, which advocates for community residents and also for the health centers.

Currently the Suffolk County Department of Health Services' Health Center Network has eight (8) family health centers (Amityville, Brentwood, Coram, Greenlawn, Patchogue, Riverhead, Shirley and Wyandanch) and three (3) satellite centers (East Hampton, Central Islip and Southampton).

Dr. Joseph Harder was medical director of the Marilyn Shellabarger Health Center in Shirley from 1977 to 1990. Thereafter he served as Chair of the Advisory Council for the Brookhaven Health Centers, East & West, from 1998 to the present. He has been Co-Chair of the Liaison Committee that represents all the Health Centers in their negotiations with County Executive Levy and the Legislature.

The Suffolk County Restorative Justice Project is presenting an all-day conference

Restorative Practices in Schools:

Re-Imagining Schools Through the Lens of Restorative Justice

Monday, January 28 from 7:15am to 4:00pm

Student Activities Center, Main Campus, SUNY at Stony Brook

Cost: \$75 (students \$35) includes lunch, workshops and plenary sessions

LWVSC is a cooperating sponsor of this conference, and encourages our local league members to become involved in restorative justice issues and practices.

For more information on attending this conference, please call 631 366 1717.



LWVSC Trip to Philadelphia:
Independence Hall Historic Park
& National Constitution Center
Thursday, April 10, 2008

Cost: \$50 members.....\$60 non-members
Include your name, address, phone, and email with the check

Send checks, made out to LWVSC, to Marilyn McKeown,
15 Mott Lane, Brookhaven, NY 11719

Payment should be received by March 1, 2008.
Seating requests will be honored in order of checks received.

Hamptons pickup: 6:00AM at the Southampton Jitney Center
on County Road #39

Western Suffolk pickup: 7:00 - 7:15 AM at Exit 49N of the LIE
(Rte. 110) at the westbound Park and Ride

Arrive Philadelphia (Independence Hall area) 10:30 AM
Depart Philadelphia (Independence Hall area) 3:00 PM

Lunch is on our own.

A list of restaurants in area will be provided a few weeks prior to trip.
LWVSC will provide juice, water, and snacks for the bus in both directions.

Entertainment: The historic musical 1776 and
the PBS special on Benjamin Franklin will be shown on the bus

Return from Philadelphia: Arrive Exit 49 at about 6-6:30 pm
Arrive Southampton Jitney Center between 7-7:30 PM

Any questions call Barbara Jordan, 631 324-6144



RIGHT TO VOTE

continued from page 3

rely on the voter to take the initiative to register well before the election takes place. Throughout the United States, several ideas are being discussed and/or implemented which change the paradigm, removing the onus of registration from the voter and removing the barriers to registration from the process.

The most radical plan is that exemplified by the State of North Dakota, which does not require any form of voter registration. In order to vote in North Dakota, one simply must be 18, a U.S. citizen, a North Dakota resident, and a resident in the precinct for thirty days prior to the election. This plan has the advantage of enabling access to the polls for all voters, but it does make it difficult to plan for the logistics of the elections, for example, determining the placement and number of polling sites or even ballots.

A second model is called universal registration, under which all citizens are registered to vote, unless they affirmatively opt out. Most democracies, other than the United States, employ methods of universal registration, in which all citizens are automatically registered to vote by reason of their citizenship.

There are many methods of implementing universal registration. Some plans place the entire responsibility

of registering to vote on state and local governments and agencies, while others require the citizen to take some affirmative action to implement his or her right to vote, but all share the result that all eligible and willing citizens are registered to vote.

Several plans employ the schools as the mechanism through which universal registration could be achieved—which targets younger voters, a group notoriously under-involved in the electoral process. In 2004, just over half of eligible Californians between 18 and 24 years of age were registered to vote, and in nonpresidential elections that rate is even lower. Because students are a “captive audience,” high schools are an ideal place to engage young people and incorporate them into our democracy. A state or county could have high schools pre-register all their students who are 16 years of age or older. This data would be entered into the voter database as for any other voter registrant, but this registration would be coded by birth date. As each pre-registrant turns 18, the database would automatically activate that voter registration. The newly registered voter would receive a letter alerting her or him about their eligibility, the date of the next election, and their responsibilities when changing addresses.

This type of pre-registration is permitted in Hawaii, where eligible 16-year-olds are allowed to pre-register so that their voter status is automatically activated at age 18. In the states of Connecticut, Iowa, Florida, Maine, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Texas, pre-registration is open to 17-year-olds.

Other school-based plans make voter registration a requirement of graduation, or mandate registration to enroll for classes, or add voter registration to existing community-service requirements. Many of the plans that use the schools as the means by which to ensure universal registration couple the registration with an educational component designed to boost voter turnout among newly eligible voters (exemplified by the Vote 18 program in which the LWVH has been involved for several years).

Universal registration can also be accomplished by using motor vehicle licensing and income tax rolls to compile lists of all persons who would be 18 by the next election, and having the Secretary of State automatically register those people to vote, entering them into the statewide voter database and notifying these new voters about their registration.

Finally, there are universal registration plans that rely upon the voter for implementation. One such plan is patterned after the Massachusetts mandatory health-care coverage law. It provides that citizens would be required to assume the responsibility to register to vote and would thereafter be responsible for providing proof of registration—by means such as attaching proof of voter registration to the state income tax return.

Written by Carol Mellor

PROJECT SUNLIGHT

The unveiling presentation given on Project Sunlight by Blair Horner of the Attorney General's office was an exciting beginning to more transparency in state government.

The website www.sunlightny.com has been active since December 5. Please browse the website and be sure to submit any questions or comments you may have to the Attorney General's office by clicking on the Contact Us button in the top right-hand corner of the page. The Attorney General is especially interested in League input as we are a prime target audience for this website. This website will be extremely useful to high school participation in government programs, your local community colleges or SUNY system, your coalition members in other advocacy issues, and anyone else interested in open government. This website is for the novice and the expert alike.

Once again, the website is designed to receive your thoughts and comments. It is the plan of the Attorney General's office to incorporate your ideas to further strengthen the website by the end of the calendar year.

The League was there at the inception of this idea, and it was exciting to see the culmination of the hard work done by our colleague Blair Horner.

Lastly, many thanks to the members of our local League who attended the news conference. It was a standing-room-only crowd in the theater at the museum. I am sure the Attorney General felt the League presence.

Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWVNY
62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207; phone: (518) 465-4162;
fax (518) 465-0812; lwny@lwny.org, <http://www.lwny.org>.



League of Women Voters
of the Hamptons

December 17, 2007

East End Hospice
PO Box 1048
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Dear Hospice Fund Raising:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons we are very pleased to include individual checks (and cash in the amount of \$40) totaling \$890 as a donation to the East End Hospice. Each year the League selects a charity and donations are collected at our annual holiday party. The amount collected for the Hospice far exceeds previous fund drives attesting to the important role the Hospice plays in all of our lives on the East End.

There are addresses on individual checks should you wish to acknowledge these gifts.

From all of us our very best for a healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Carol Mellor, Co-President
Anne Marshall, Co-President
Judi Roth, Exec. Vice Presiden

/enc.

HOUSING MADE AFFORDABLE

continued from page 1

- “Any house in town is eligible—which means you don’t have dwellings set aside and stigmatized as ‘affordable.’ The family living next door might be in the CRF, and you wouldn’t even know it.
- “CRF recipients will have a vested interest in keeping their properties up.
- “Instead of working against the local real estate market, you’re working with it, simply giving people a much-needed boost into the appropriate price range.
- “The towns aren’t actually spending a dime—they’re investing in the community, just like the families who buy the properties. Eventually, if the towns desire, they can slowly shut down the program. As money is repaid, it simply doesn’t get loaned back out again.
- “Again, in a very tangible way, you see the result of your affordable housing spending, in a way we rarely do.”

This proposal represents another tool that governments could use in their desire to provide affordable housing within their communities, but limits must be set. There needs to be a cap on the amount of monies a town would pay out for the down payment, otherwise towns would be providing housing for people with household incomes in excess of \$130,000. Household income levels that high do not usually qualify people for affordable housing assistance.

Most impressive is the fact that by using existing housing, this proposal is density neutral. This is important because many citizens equate affordable housing with increased density.

The League hopes that our town governments will give this proposal serious consideration as it represents one more approach to solving the affordable housing crisis.

Barbara Jordan, Housing Chair

324-6144

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER

Maira Pessano

P.O. Box 1506, Sag Harbor, NY 11963

631-725-5791

Mairahamptons@aol.com

For Maira, attending the December 10 consensus meeting on the LWVUS Immigration Study confirmed that she was right to join the League of Women Voters. "I was struck by both the diversity of opinions expressed and the respect each view received," she said. A native of Brazil, she was also impressed by how freely attendees voiced an opinion.

Her friends in AAUW, Terry Davgin and Anne Blake, assured Maira she would find both friendship and intellectual stimulation within LWVH. Asked her reason

for becoming a member when she's already so busy raising two young teenagers and working part-time, she noted, "As women, as mothers, and as thinking individuals, it is important to have a voice in our communities. On important issues such as housing and immigration, the League may not give us a bigger vote, but as a group, we can speak with a bigger voice in the community." With an MBA from the U.S. and a law degree from Brazil, Maira plans to offer her talents to the Government Committee.

Written by Judy Samuelson

WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Joy Cordery is recovering from an unfortunate encounter with her treadmill. As she said, "getting fit can be hazardous to your health!" We all wish her well.

SUMMARY OF LWVH BOARD MEETING, December 5, 2007

Information Items

- A thank you note was received from Mireille Lister, the most recent recipient of our League's Voter Services Award.
- Four LWVH members attended UN Day sponsored by the LWVNYS, and Joy Lupoletti reported that both state and national League representatives lobby UN delegates on nearly a full-time basis. The speakers were interesting and enlightening, the tour guides were knowledgeable, and the lunch was delicious. She encouraged other League members to attend the special day in the future.
- Carol Mellor reported on the Claim Democracy Convention she attended and noted that forty organizations supported the conference.

Committee Reports

The Fundraising Committee reported that the bulb sales project netted \$270 for the League. The committee is considering a "green" event in the Fall and is looking into honoring local women in politics as another event. The Membership Committee reported that 19 members from last year are still unpaid and their names will now be deleted from the membership list. The Government Committee reported on the progress of the National Compact—an effort to enable the popular election of the president. The Board unanimously supported a resolution to request the national League to place the topic on the June 2008 convention agenda. Assemblyman Fred

Thiele will speak on this topic at the Rogers Memorial Library (Southampton) on January 10 at 7:00 p.m. The Natural Resources Committee drafted a letter in support of a Suffolk County legislative proposal to ban certain chemical fertilizer practices. Also, this committee is considering a joint forum with GAIN (Green And Involved Now) and the Southampton Library on "green" issues. The Voter Services Committee has developed a script on the issue of new voting machines to be used at civic groups, church groups, and other organizations. The Housing Committee drafted a letter in support of the proposal on affordable housing made by Joe Shaw of the *Southampton Press*. The Health Committee and Maura Lester were thanked by the Board for the pullout on the presidential candidates health care positions that appeared in the November *Voter*.

Discussion Items

- Many discussion items concerned December events that have already passed and, therefore, will not be recounted here.
- The Board reaffirmed support for the topic, Art and Politics, at the Annual Meeting.
- For the January meeting, Supervisors Linda Kabot and Bill McGintee will be invited to explain their programs and answer questions.

The next board meeting will be January 2, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. at the Bridgehampton National Bank. All LWVH members are welcome to attend.

Submitted by Joy Lupoletti

Officers

Co-Presidents

Carol Mellor
537-6998
camellor@aol.com
Anne K. Marshall
537-3257
apghnyc@aol.com

Executive Vice-President

Judi Roth
283-0759
rothhandj@yahoo.com

Vice-Presidents

Afton DiSunno
786-6209
aafton26@optonline.net
Arlene Hinkemeyer
324-6713
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net
Maura F. Lester
324-6522
maura912@optonline.net

Secretary

Ann Sandford
537-2382
asandford@optonline.net

Treasurer

Emoke Forman
283-2175 (work)
aces@hamptons.com

Elected Directors

Sue Avedon
329-1830
sueden@optonline.net
Ursula Lynch
288-4721
umllynch@gmail.com
Arlene Makl
324-8662
Arlene.Makl@Gmail.com

Gladys Remler
288-9021
gremlerdesign@aol.com

Appointed Directors

Joy Cordery
283-7863
jcord@optonline.net
Joy Lupoletti
324-1127
joylup@aol.com

Portfolio Chairs

Education & Social Policy
Judi Roth
283-0759
rothhandj@yahoo.com

Fundraising
Susan Wilson
283-6549
sswilson@hamptons.com

Government
Carol Mellor
537-6998
camellor@aol.com

Health
Anne Kellett
329-7341
annekellett@optonline.net

Housing
Barbara Jordan
324-6144
bjordlwvh@aol.com

Membership

Arlene Makl
324-8662
Arlene.Makl@Gmail.com

Natural Resources
Sue Avedon, Co-chair
329-1830
sueden@optonline.net

Cile Downs, Co-chair
324-2435

Publicity
Arlene Hinkemeyer
324-6713
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

Voter Services
Anne K. Marshall
537-3257
apghnyc@aol.com

The Voter Editor
Maura F. Lester
324-6522
maura912@optonline.net

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues may be sent to: LWVH, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937

_____ Full-time Student	\$15	_____ Supporting	\$ 85
_____ Individual	\$55	_____ Education	\$125*
_____ Household	\$85	_____ Donation	\$_____

Dues Year is June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008.

_____ Member Renewal _____ New Member

Please make checks payable to LWVH and mail to:

LWVH, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937

*For Education membership, amounts above dues level are tax deductible. In this case, please make checks payable to EDUCATION FOUNDATION—LWV/Hamptons.

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

P.O. Box 2253

East Hampton, NY 11937

Phone: 631-324-4637

www.lwvhamptons.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

HAMPTON BAYS, NY 11946

Permit Number 2

MAKE A DONATION

in Honor of and/or in Memory of
a friend, family member, or neighbor.

Call Arlene Makl at 324-8662 or e-mail at Arlene.Makl@Gmail.com.

We will send a card to notify the friend or family member
that a donation has been made.

INDIVIDUAL'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional) _____

MEMBER'S NAME _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____