Lawns: A Dangerous Obsession?

At our next membership meeting on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., the Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in conjunction with the Hampton Library, will present a program entitled “Lawns: A Dangerous Obsession?”

“American Lawn,” a 30-minute film produced by Cile Downs on behalf of the Accabonac Protection Committee, will be shown. It examines our obsession with the perfect lawn and its environmental consequences. A panel comprised of Kevin McAllister, Suzanne Ruggles, and Beth Fiteni will discuss the film and answer audience questions.

Kevin McAllister, the Peconic Baykeeper, acts as a watchdog over our bays and estuaries, protecting these waterways from pollution and other forms of abuse. Suzanne Ruggles (“The Barefoot Gardener”) is a landscaper based in Westhampton who specializes in wild, native, organically managed planting that avoids poisons as well as mowers and other machinery that pollute the air. Beth Fiteni of the Sustainability Institute of Molloy College educates the public about organic lawn care techniques.

The program will be held at the Hampton Library located at 2478 Main Street, Bridgehampton. Refreshments will be served. For further information, please call Sue Avedon at 631-329-1830.
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
Sally James, Production
Joy Cordery, Advertising Coordinator; Proofreading
Madison Lohrius Inc., Printing and Mailing
Printed on recycled paper.

President’s Message

Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant.

- Horace

If you attended the Annual Meeting on May 23, you know that the League of Women Voters began as an organization with a conventional structure, controlled from the top. It was not until the Depression, when the League suffered huge losses of membership, that we reconfigured ourselves as an organization driven by the members. For those of us who see the grassroots nature of the League as one of its greatest attributes, this consequence of adversity was, in itself, a very good thing.

One result of this change was that we are able to use the talents of all of our members to build our organization. We are a diverse group, many of us retired from employment that developed our individual talents. It was fascinating to watch these talents and backgrounds come to the fore at our recent consensus meeting. At this meeting, we explored the standards which the League should employ to measure legislation designed to streamline government by consolidation of governmental units and/or sharing of services. The topic was neither easy nor uncomplicated. The discussion (ably led by past president Sandi Ferguson) was wide-ranging, insightful, and intelligent. Each member who participated brought his or her talents to the issue, with the result that the questions were considered from a multitude of angles. We heard from people who clearly had experience in the workings of large organizations, small businesses, finance, labor unions, government, and education. Each of these perspectives added to our collective understanding, and all of these perspectives made us look at the issues more carefully and completely. It was an opportunity for our members to use their talents to guide and direct the organization.

Had the League not suffered the adversity of the Depression, we would not have the framework that allows the talents of our members to shine. It was great to watch this in action at the consensus meeting. I hope the League continues to present many opportunities for our members to use talents to make this a better, more effective, and more active organization.

Carol Mellor 537-6998
Members Come to Consensus on LWVNYS Consolidation - Shared Services Study

Twenty-seven members attended the Hamptons LWV meeting on May 10 and participated in the thoughtful discussion of the consensus questions prepared by the state LWV for the Government Consolidation/Shared Services Study, Part I. Part I of this study involved standards that can be used to evaluate future state or local legislation for dissolution/consolidation of governmental units or proposals for shared services. Group facilitator was former LWVH president Sandi Ferguson.

Chairman of the Government Committee, which studied the issue and submitted background articles for The Voter, was Naomi Epstein.

The consensus results from all Leagues throughout New York State were due in the state office by June 1. Local leagues will be notified of the results after the responses are tabulated and a position statement is approved by the LWVNYS Board.

This position statement will enable the League to take a stand on any upcoming legislation or state constitutional amendment on this topic. It is a timely study, since the NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act of 2009 just went into effect on March 21, 2010! This act establishes the procedure for consolidation or dissolution of several types of governmental entities, allowing the governing body, or the county legislature, or the citizenry to initiate the process.

We thank Starbucks of Bridgehampton for providing the coffee for the meeting.

Arlene Hinkemeyer 324-6713

The following article was produced by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force

A Properly Structured Public Health Insurance Plan Might Ensure Risk-Sharing, Cost Control & Quality Improvement

(Courtesy of the Berkeley Center on Health, Economic & Family Security, UC Berkeley School of Law, & Institute for America’s Future)

This is the first of two parts of an article by Sue Bredensteiner (LWVTN), a member of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force. The article from the website of LWVUS is based on a study published in April 2009 by Jacob S. Hacker, PhD, professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley and co-director of the Berkeley Center on Health, Economic & Family Security at the UC Berkeley School of Law. Titled the Healthy Competition brief, it noted that the health care reform debate included a “public plan choice.” Such a new public health insurance would operate within a national insurance exchange and be modeled after Medicare. It would allow Americans who are under 65 years of age and do not have employer-based health insurance to enroll in a quality, affordable care plan offered through a nationwide network of providers.

Properly structured, the new public plan would compete with private insurance on a level playing field, and have authority of bargaining power as one of its tools to achieve greater value in health care delivery. The goal: a health system where private and public plans compete side by side and are rewarded when they deliver better value and health outcomes to their clients.

What A Public Plan Would Do

❖ Promote healthy competition between public and private health insurance.
❖ Place a crucial check on public and private plans, encouraging fixing inherent weaknesses.
❖ Provide proven cost controls through lower premiums, lower out-of-pocket costs and a long-term ability to restrain costs.
❖ Spur improved quality of care.
❖ Establish a hybrid model that builds on the best elements of existing public programs and private benefits while ensuring health security that current health financing plans do not provide.
❖ Safeguard and improve the Medicare model by upgrading the program.

Continued on page 19
They Ran And We Won

The school board candidates from Oceanview, ShelterHampton, Susan B. Anthony, Wells, Flying Point and the Crayola school districts (among other names) had one thing in common at the League's second Running and Winning program on Thursday, April 15. They were all bright young women from our area's seven high schools (East Hampton, Pierson/Sag Harbor, Bridgehampton, Southampton, Hampton Bays, Westhampton Beach, and Shelter Island). The girls were tasked with selecting a candidate from their team and formulating and presenting a school board platform.

The candidates' platforms made us laugh and think. Vanessa Rojano (Bridgehampton High School) of the Wells School District represented an all-female school which specialized in science and math and vowed that the budget would have “no smoke and mirrors.” Laura Nikolich of Southampton presented herself as “a mother of two children in the school” who wanted to “keep art and music in Crayola.” Yoselin Calderon, (Hampton Bays) representing the Eleanor Roosevelt School District, and her team thought that students should pay for their drivers ed courses and pay 50% of the cost of taking SAT tests. This team also wanted to add Mandarin Chinese to the language offerings to give students an “edge in life.” Loulou Gaget (Westhampton Beach) of the Peconic Progress School District presented the idea of an all-laptop school for both writing and textbooks.

To raise funds for their candidates' campaigns and for their schools, ideas ranged from car washes and bake sales (lots of those) to charging fees to sporting events, and making up plastic reusable placemats from store business cards and charging fees to the businesses. There was a lot of emphasis on organic, healthier food (and gardens), having students teach computers to senior citizens, and Alyxandra Tortorice (Southampton) of the Susan B. Anthony Board plans to discontinue live animal dissections and convert to virtual!

Perhaps in the near future, Christina Strassfield, our keynote speaker and member of the Southampton School Board, may find herself introducing one of these ideas in her campaign for re-election. Introduced by Mary Blake who told us about our speaker's other accomplishments as Museum Director and Chief Curator of Guild Hall, Ms. Strassfield told the audience not only what a school board is responsible for, but related her own struggle as to whether or not she should run for office. Having served on many school board committees and been encouraged to run for many years, when she finally threw her hat in the ring and was one of six candidates for two positions, she wasn't sure she would succeed. But succeed she did and I shamelessly use this as a segue to a remark made by our newest elected councilwoman, Bridget Fleming of Southampton. Ms. Fleming said “Women are often asked to run—men think they are born to be president.”

Ms. Fleming's other advice to the young women considering a career in politics was to take a training course offered by either the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy or Emily's List, which trains women in how to run for office.

From Sundy Schermeyer, Town Clerk of Southampton, came the advice that students should put attending this program on their resumes

From Deborah Kooperstein, the first female elected judge in the Town of Southampton who spoke about how her position on the LWV Board helped her seek public office, came the words that we should always aim high — why do anything else?

From Nancy Graboski, Town Council of Southampton, came words of reality that once you enter public life the public owns a part of you.

Joan Levan, Trustee of Westhampton Beach Village, followed up on my comments from Gail Collins's book, When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of Women from 1960 to 2000. I recalled the beginning years of the women's movement—for example, tennis star and Wimbledon winner Billie Jean King couldn't get a credit card without her husband's signature. Ms. Levan, who went on to become a CEO of a large company, was told in the 70's when she was working in retail, that she didn't get a job promotion because she was a woman and wouldn't remain with the company, would get married, have children, etc.

So, it was quite a day for League members and the 46 girls (and their accompanying teachers) and 15 elected women officials who joined us at the Southampton Cultural Center. The girls, in their teams of four or five, interviewed the officials in four 15-minute sessions, heard from Ms. Strassfield (who took an active part in the whole day's activities), worked on their speeches and posters, and then made their 2-minute presentations.

A new part of this program was to have the students fill out a “contact sheet,” and a quick look reveals that we will be able to follow-up with many students who want more information about the League, want to attend Town Board meetings, shadow officials, or work in campaigns. If we have ignited a spark in just one or two (or more?) young women, then our efforts are worth it!

Thanks to all who worked so hard on this project and hopefully will continue to do so in the future. But a special thanks is due to Arlene Hinkemeyer who always keeps me
Education Committee Report

on track and manages to have copies of every paper I have somehow mislaid or misfiled. And to the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls (www.lifwg.org) which, I hope, will be proud of this project and their first grant to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons. Thanks also to Jason Belkin of Hampton Coffee for supplying breakfast, to Longhouse Reserve and Human Services of Southampton Town for photocopying services, and to our hosts, the Southampton Cultural Center.

A closing comment from a conversation that Jane Lapple and I had with a very bright young lady. She described herself as very opinionated in class and sometimes felt too challenging to her teachers. She said she didn’t think they liked this about her and never thought she would be picked for the program. The fact that she was made her feel proud and wonderful.

What more can we ask?

Judi Roth  283-0759

TOP At the end of the workshop, all 45 students from seven local high schools gathered on stage for a group photo.

CENTER L-R After lunch, each table of students presented its platform for running for school board. Here Alexandra Lantieve, left, of Pierson High School in Sag Harbor interviews Southampton Town Justice Deborah Kooperstein. On right is LWVH table facilitator Beth Barth. LWVH vice president and "Running & Winning" chair Judi Roth introduced the day’s program. Students at each table—here, left to right, Sophie Parker of Pierson H.S., Alexandra Pandolfo of Hampton Bays, Brie Ostreicher of Westhampton Beach, and Ana Vallejo of Bridgehampton—worked on developing a campaign to run for school board.

BOTTOM L-R Table 2, led by candidate Joselin Calderon of Hampton Bays, called for the school district to pay half of AP exam fees; for students to pay for drivers ed; for Mandarin Chinese to be introduced into the curriculum; and for more teacher workshops. Each of the 16 women elected officials who attended introduced themselves at the beginning of the workshop. Here, Southampton Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer. Table 3 candidate Lilian Bennett from Southampton High School emphasized the importance of music and the arts. Keynote speaker was Christina Strassfield, Museum Director/Chief Curator at Guild Hall in East Hampton, who spoke about why she ran for the Southampton School Board and the role/responsibilities of a school board member.

Photos by Arlene Hinkemeyer
3rd Annual Trivia Quiz
Thanks to everyone who helped make the 3rd Annual LWVH Trivia Quiz a success. This year’s event benefited The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons and The Ellen Hermanson Breast Center at Southampton Hospital.

Thanks to Dr. Julie Ratner, President of the Ellen Hermanson Foundation, and to Susie Roden of Ellen’s Run for all of their assistance, and to Janet Sadowski, Southampton Hospital Foundation. Special thanks to Hamptons radio personality Walker Vreeland who emceed the event with a sense of decorum and who kept the crowd entertained with his quick wit.

Congratulations to the winning Trivia Team: Arlene Hinkemeyer, Mike Hinkemeyer, Barbara Jordan, and Richard Mellor who donated ½ of their prize money back to the event. The 50/50 Raffle winner was Ann Sandford. Congratulations to the team of George Lynch, Ann Sandford, Ursula Lynch and Jerry Korman who won the Table Top Design Contest. Their winning design will be displayed at the Annual Meeting. Thanks also to:
- The Hampton Jitney for providing packaged snacks
- Gurney’s Beach Bakery for the tasty cookies
- Kathie McLaughlen and The Water Mill Bridge Club
- Carol Mellor, LWVH President, and Stanley Badzinski, judges for the event
- Artist Gene Samuelson who graciously judged our Table Top Design contest.
- Afton DiSunno, scorekeeper, and Arlene Hinkemeyer, Publicity

And last but not least, thanks to the Trivia Event Committee for all their hard work: Joy Cordery, Julia Kaiser, Mireile and Peter Lister, Marilyn Montgomery, and Gladys Remler.

Sue Wilson  283-6549

“Albany On The Record”
Five members of the Hamptons local—Anne Marshall, Arlene Makl, Julia Kayser, Glorian Berk and Carol Mellor—traveled up to Albany on May 5 to attend “Albany on the Record.” We joined an audience of 300 attendees (mostly League members) and heard from Governor Paterson, Comptroller DiNapoli, and the four legislative leaders, who outlined their plans to fix Albany. Jay Gallagher, former Gannett Bureau Chief, questioned each of the speakers. Representatives from good government groups described the goals of those organizations on the issues of member items, campaign financing, ethics, redistricting, and lobbying.

Carol Mellor  537-6998
Photo by Tom Loughlin, Jr.
At Last—A Simplified Absentee Ballot for New York State Voters

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:       Sandy Galef (914) 941-1111
               Judy Close (for Senator Addabbo) (718) 738-1111

Historic Legislation Passes NYS Legislature Reforming Absentee Ballot Application

New Absentee Ballot Application Minimizes Voter’s Invasion of Privacy, Eliminates “Traps” That can Invalidate the Ballot

(April 16, 2010) New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Member of the Assembly Election Law Committee, and Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr., Chair of the Senate Elections Committee, announced today that their historic legislation, S.2868/A5276, passed both houses of the New York State Legislature and will be delivered to the governor for his approval. This bill simplifies the absentee ballot process for all New Yorkers, no longer requiring a complicated and intimidating explanation from someone who requests an absentee ballot.

This legislation would change the process by which a voter requests an absentee ballot. It allows an absentee ballot to be provided as long as the voter affirms, in good faith, that he or she will be out of the county or unable to appear at their designated polling site on Election Day due to illness or disability. The new absentee ballot application will simply require a sworn statement signed by the voter stating that the voter does not anticipate being able to access their polling site on Election Day for one of those reasons.

Currently voters are asked a series of lengthy questions that provides information of little value to the Board of Elections. These questions not only burden the voters with the complex task of explaining why they cannot appear at the poll site, but invade their privacy and jeopardize their safety by requiring such minute details. These details include the dates that voters will be away from their residences, where they are going, and who they will be with. If voters will be unable to go to the polls due to illness or disability, they must specify their physician’s name and address; and if they will be in a hospital, they must disclose where it is located.

In addition, S.2868/A.5276 also allows voters to request absentee ballots for more than one election. Voters who have second residences or go on extended trips are currently forced to apply for absentee ballots for each election, often preventing their participation in elections, such as special elections to fill vacant offices, which could occur within weeks or months of each other. This will allow more people to exercise their right to vote by making it easier for people to vote who are constantly away from their homes and polling sites, and who know they will not be able to vote in person.

“This legislation simplifies the absentee ballot application to ensure that qualified registered voters are free to vote in each and every election without the invasive personal questions that are currently required,” said Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (90th AD). “These hurdles are unnecessary and disenfranchise people who are not comfortable answering such personal questions. I am delighted that this legislation will change all of that and encourage more people to vote in elections.”

“The Elections Committee has made common sense reforms a priority because, under no circumstance, should voters question their role in our democracy,” said Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr. (D-Queens), Chair of the Senate Elections Committee. “Voters should not be intimidated by an unnecessarily complicated absentee ballot application, or afraid to exercise their right to vote because the application requires them to compromise their safety and security by disclosing when they will be away from their homes or too ill to leave them. This legislation will right that wrong.”

“The League of Women Voters of New York State applauds the NYS Legislature for increasing opportunities for eligible New York voters to choose how and when they can exercise their right to vote. This bill simplifies the absentee voting application process for voters by eliminating unnecessary and intrusive personal information from the application form,” said Aimee Allaud, Elections Specialist, for the League.

###

Anne Marshall 537-3257
League of Women Voters of Suffolk County  42nd Annual Convention

Gala Dinner and Celebration of the League’s 90th Birthday

Recognition Award recipients:

- ABCO by the Brookhaven League
- GAIN by the Hamptons League
- Cinema Arts Centre by the Huntington League
- Arlene Lesser by the Smithtown League
- Edie Embler by LWV of Suffolk County

Keynote Speaker Blair Horner, NYPIRG’s Legislative Director, spoke about the issues which need to be addressed in order to reform Albany now: Redistricting, Campaign Finance, Ethics and Member Items.

SC Legislator Kate Browning congratulated LWV on our 90th birthday and offered proclamations from herself and Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay. LWVSC also received a proclamation from CE Levy.

Congratulations!

Carol McNally receives 2010 Liberty Award

Carol, a board member of LWV Smithtown, has been driven to action in the areas of Alternatives to Incarceration and Youth Issues, especially breaking the “School to Prison Pipeline” via community intervention using the methods now known as Restorative Practices. She assisted LWVSC in receiving a Suffolk County grant for a series of seminars on Restorative Practices in Schools in 2008, also filmed by Jacqui Lofaro/Justice Productions. In 2009, Carol’s tenacity and efforts resulted in the establishment of the Center for Restorative Practices at the Center for Public Advocacy, Touro School of Law.

Thanks to Susan Wilson for organizing this special event, and in particular for inspiring comments on the league’s history and celebratory (and delicious) cakes for all!
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton</td>
<td>Sue Avedon 329-1830</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Location to be determined.</td>
<td>Carol Mellor 537-6998</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Organizational meeting of the Board to plan</td>
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<td>upcoming year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Candidates Debate</td>
<td>Westhampton Beach Candidates for Mayor</td>
<td>Anne Marshall 537-3257</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>and Board of Trustees, Westhampton Beach</td>
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<td>Village Hall 165 Mill Road, Westhampton Beach.</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Membership Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton</td>
<td>Arlene Makl 324-9662</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Special Events Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Eckart's Luncheonette, Westhampton Beach.</td>
<td>Sue Wilson 283-6549</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Member Meeting</td>
<td>Film and Program on “Lawns: A Dangerous</td>
<td>Sue Avedon 329-1830</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Obsession?” Hampton Library, Bridgehampton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway.</td>
<td>Members and guests welcome.</td>
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<td>Bridgehampton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Member Meeting</td>
<td>Showing of film “Iron-Jawed Angels” in</td>
<td>Barbara Jordan 324-6144</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>commemoration of League’s 90th Birthday.</td>
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<td>Location to be determined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 14-15</td>
<td>Flea Market</td>
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<td>See page 18 for more information.</td>
<td>Gladys Remler 288-9021</td>
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**Looking Ahead**

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<td>July 3</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East</td>
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<td>June 8</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall,</td>
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<td>116 Hampton Rd., Southhampton</td>
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<td>June 17</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall,</td>
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Ambitious Schedule Of Events Planned

In celebration of the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters, your Membership Committee has decided to be “everywhere” this year. We will have several members at events such as fairs, festivals, community picnics, and runs. We will give out LWVH information and talk to the people of the communities. We plan to attend activities from Westhampton Beach to Montauk. Some of us do some of these activities each year. We have a wonderful time! One of the rewards is hearing the terrific things people have to say about the LWVH, and they congratulate us on the good job we do. Most people stop to chat, and some people stop to chat and join. Did I mention we have a wonderful time?

This year I am asking more of “us” to participate. Some of the places we will be this summer include: the Montauk fair, Westhampton Rotary Flea Market, Ellen’s Run, Springs Fisherman’s Fair, farmers markets in Southampton, Sag Harbor, and East Hampton, the Great Bonac Foot Race, the West Hampton Picnic, and more. If you would like to join us at one or more of these events, contact me at ARLENE.MAKL@gmail.com, and we can review the dates and times. Whether you are a long-time member or a new member, the pride and pleasure of being a LWVH member is returned double-fold by participating.

The Membership and the Voter Services committees work hand-in-hand this time of the year. Voter registration will be going on during the next several months. This is also an opportunity to participate and work with other members. Please contact Anne Marshall, the Voter Services chair, at APGHNYC@aol.com.

Participation is what makes an organization function.

Arlene Makl 324-862

Westhampton Rotary Flea Market: August 14-15

We would like to remind everyone that we have begun planning for our fun-filled event at the Westhampton Rotary Flea Market on August 14 and 15. We were very successful last year in raising the visibility of our League as well as earning much-needed funds. Please start thinking about what you would like to donate. At our table last year, we had a wonderful selection of jewelry, beautiful home accessories, and much more. Our only request is that everything be in good condition. You will be hearing more about this, and we look forward to hearing from you.

We welcome all to join our committee.

Gladys Remler (288-9021) and Ursula Lynch (288-4721), Co-chairs

League Of Women Voters Suffolk County 2010 Annual Meeting

Many members of the Hamptons league attended the County annual meeting on May 17 to hear Blair Horner of NYPIRG speak and to welcome Naomi Epstein and Ursula Lynch as new directors. We now have quite a contingent of representatives of the Hamptons on the County Board—Sue Wilson, Barbara Jordan, Naomi, Ursula, and Carol Mellor, ex officio. Our continued influence on the Board is assured by Judi Roth accepting the mantle of Nominating Committee chair from Arlene Hinkemeyer.

At the meeting the Hamptons honored the organization G.A.I.N. (Green and Involved Now) as representing the principles and goals of the League. G.A.I.N. shares many attributes with the League: it is a grassroots organization, it is concerned with the preservation of natural resources, and it recognizes the necessity of keeping a careful eye on the workings of government. It also shares many members with the League, including Hamptons Board members Glorian Berk and Joy Cordery, as well as Education Committee members Joanne Samborn and Dorothy Reilly. We look forward to continuing our relationship with G.A.I.N., which has thus far shared sponsorship with us at two forums at which we invited our local elected officials to share with the public their ideas, goals, and accomplishments in the quest to keep the East End green.

Carol Mellor 537-6998
Welcome New Member

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East Hampton resident Selena retired from a career in education but continues to broaden children’s horizons as a fulltime volunteer and co-chair of the Education Committee at LongHouse Reserve. This commitment to children’s education (as well as input from members Mary Blake and Terri Levin Davgin) prompted Selena to join LWVH in time to participate in the Running and Winning program in April. The appeal was the program’s ability to “give young girls the opportunity to shine and to look at the world in a different way.” Selena says she’s always been “very political” but is impressed by LWVH’s firmly nonpartisan policy and comfortable working within it. After June, the height of the Education Committee’s work at LongHouse, she intends to explore committee work within the League.

Judy Samuelson  267-3055

Health Committee Report

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❖ Offer a sensible, practical way based on established programs and models for non-elderly Americans without workplace insurance to obtain group coverage for quality, affordable care through a broad choice of providers.

Although the legislation passed in 2010 does not include such a public option, the question is still open to debate. Congressman Tim Bishop’s website (http://timbishop.congressnewsletter.net/mail/util.cfm?gpiv=2100056233.110107.110&gen=1) offers valuable information about the legislation passed in March, 2010.

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Sources:

Hacker JS. 2009. Healthy Competition. www.law.berkeley.edu (search for “healthy competition” to find pdf of brief.)

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