**Sightseeing Surprising Southampton**

By Judi Roth

We have taken you to Shelter Island, Riverhead, Sag Harbor and Amagansett – now Southampton awaits you and what a treat you have in store. We will begin by learning about oyster aquaculture at the very location where settlers arrived at Conscience Point. Howard Reisman, noted ichthyologist, oyster grower and harvester will tell us how sustainable methods are used to help restore shellfish populations and improve water quality in the Town’s bays. Conscience Point Historic Site, a short walk from the hatchery, is a property of the Southampton Historical Museum. The monument represents where the first English settlers arrived in New York in 1640 and founded the Town of Southampton.

Ann Reisman will then usher us to the Historic Tupper Boathouse which was built in 1932 as home to Tupper Boatworks. The non-profit North Sea Maritime Center, Inc. is working with the Town of Southampton to establish this center to revive wooden boatbuilding, maritime learning and recreation.

This first stop is located on North Sea Harbor, easily accessible by turning off North Sea Road at Conscience Point Road immediately after passing the Conscience Point Marina. Both the historic site and the hatchery are accessible using the common parking area.

*Continued on page 5*
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

Membership
Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

The Voter Newsletter
The newsletter of the Hamptons League, The Voter, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

The Voter is published seven times a year (January/February/March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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Presidents’ Message

By Susan Wilson
At all of LWVH’s Public Information Meetings, we encourage voters to “get involved”. Many voters join the League and become vocal advocates for the issues that impact their lives. Getting young voters involved however has always been a challenge because they often don’t see the immediate connection of community issues to their lives.

Gun control for example wasn’t an issue that young people were personally concerned about until the Parkland, Florida shootings. In the wake of this horrific event thousands of students (not old enough to vote) stepped up, participated in the National School Walkout and hundreds of thousands recently participated in the March for Our Lives events across the country, delivering a resounding message that Washington's inaction on the horrors of gun violence is no longer acceptable. They are speaking out with impassioned pleas for stricter gun control laws.

Young people are suddenly energized and want to make changes— they want to make a difference. Building on this momentum, The National League of Women Voters is preparing to launch the largest-ever Youth Voter Registration Program. The goal - Thirty-eight communities. Four hundred schools. Tens of thousands of newly registered, fully energized, empowered voters — ready to participate in our democracy.

The campaign is strategically focused to expand our electorate in 2018 and 2020 with first-time voters. The goals are high because it’s crucial that this next generation of voters has a say in the health care, immigration, environmental and other policies that will shape their lives.

LWVH’s Education and Voter Services Committees are working to register newly eligible young voters and in schools to educate all youth on how to effect change within the political arena and the importance of exercising their right to vote as a means of influencing election outcome within the political process.

If you want to help foster political activism in our community, join us. Become a member of LWVH and work with with Education or Voter Services Committees or both.
Albany’s Rollercoaster Ride on Early Voting

By Carol Mellor and Anne Marshall

Because of the vagaries of New York law, the process by which a proposed law becomes a reality can be seen as a series of peaks and valleys. This process is well illustrated by the road travelled by a proposal for early voting in New York. Early voting is one of the League’s most sought after goals, and so we were extremely attuned to the rollercoaster ride the proposal has been on so far this year.

Early voting takes many forms, but generally speaking, it is a system by which voters can vote, either in person or by mail, on dates, places and times other than the traditional presence at a polling place on the first day in November between certain set hours.

In January, by law, the Governor proposes as budget which, with changes made by both houses of the legislature, is due by April 1. A budget is not normally seen as an opportunity for legislative action but, in New York, the Governor’s budget contains “Article VII bills” which can include measures necessary to implement provisions of the budget.

So, when the governor’s budget was released, there was great excitement because a proposal for early voting was included. And, it appeared, that funding was also included. However, a closer look at the wording of the budget revealed that although it was noted how much money would be needed to implement the program, the actual appropriation was not there. So, if passed, early voting would be another unfunded mandate, with little chance of implementation.

In the budget process, the governor has thirty days to amend his budget and, lo and behold, the 30 day amendments included funding for early voting. So, as of the beginning of February, we had both a proposal to implement early voting in New York and money to do so. The rollercoaster was at the top height of the incline.

But the proposal had to survive the next step, which was to survive the process by which the Senate and the Assembly approve the budget, and the negotiations which take place among all three players to include or exclude items from the budget. Again, there was a certain amount of optimism because a majority of the members of the Assembly were thought to be in favor of early voting, and so only Senators needed to be convinced. However, as time went on, rumors were heard that the Assembly was backing away from early voting, and neither the Assembly nor the Senate was on board. As it turned out, the proposal was dropped from the final version of the budget, which, at the end contained no appropriations for early voting. The roller coaster hit bottom.

So, insofar as the budget process is concerned, the proposal was dead. However, the actual legislative session is just getting under way and a law authorizing early voting can still be passed, although it would be without funding until next year. The LWVNYS office has again asked us to lobby in favor of this bill.

Voting turnout rates are bad throughout the United States and abysmal in New York. We consistently have among the lowest turnouts of the states, with rankings such as 47 or 49th out of the 50 states not uncommon.

Urge Congress to Support the Automatic Voter Registration Act

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017 on June 14, 2017. The League is proud to support legislation that enhances access for eligible voters in our elections and works to modernize our electoral system. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems while supporting implementation in states across the country.

Expanding voter registration has been a principal goal of the League since its founding in the wake of the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We are proud to see Congress embracing new technology that expands access to the ballot while still taking the necessary safeguards to secure personal information.

The League fully supports this bill and urges all members to contact their U.S. Senate and House Representatives to urge their support this important legislation.
Education Committee Ventures to Jamesport for the Riverhead Girl Scouts

By Judi Roth
On the first really nice day of April, Saturday the 14th, Anne Marshall, Martha Potter, Sue Wilson and I drove to the Jamesport Community Center to present our Girl Scout Suffrage Patch program to 11 Brownies and Juniors, ages 8-10 and in grades 3-5. What fun we have doing this! The girls are especially good listeners and just jump into every activity whether it is playing “Mother May I” to take giant steps or side steps to the voting booth, making up sentences using words like majority, voting booth, candidate, etc., voting for whether or not boys should be allowed to join the Girl Scouts (voted down by a vote of 9-2) or listening to the story of Esther Morris, the woman who brought suffrage to the Territory of Wyoming.

We are looking forward to our next foray which will introduce us to middle and high school Girl Scouts and we are already at work on a program which will challenge this age group.

Anne Marshall and I attended a meeting in the home of Gigi Morris of Sag Harbor where we met with students from Pierson, East Hampton and the Ross School who are eager to do voter registration and get young people to vote. It was very exhilarating to listen to these students talk about themselves and how they do or don’t use social media and how they face the same issues we face with interested versus non-interested groups of people. The students and a teacher from Pierson are very eager to have the League come into the schools and talk about voting --something we have done in the past – but which seems to be having greater resonance now. I have contacted the Suffolk Board of Elections which is just rolling out their VIP effort (Voter Information Program) and they have agreed to bring their voting booths and all equipment out to the East End high schools. We hope to start with East Hampton and Southampton together in May and then move west. Voter registration for students age 17 and up who are eligible to vote this November will take place. We will also talk about the history of voting and the importance of every single vote in close local elections.

The Betty Desch Scholarship applications are starting to come in and we will be awarding a $1,000 scholarship to the winner at our Annual Meeting on May 6th.
Sightseeing Surprising Southampton

The next stop on our excursion takes a 10-15 minute drive down North Sea Road which becomes Main Street, Southampton. Go to the end of South Main Street and turn right onto Gin Lane to St. Andrew’s Dune Church on the beach. This historic church founded in 1879 has beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows. We will have a tour by Reverend W. Patrick Edwards. Returning to the Village proper we will have a docent led tour of the historic Halsey House on South Main Street built in 1680 by Thomas Halsey.

Our lunch will be in the First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Main Street and Jobs Lane. Not many people know that this church works with Maureen’s Haven and offers shelter to the homeless population on Friday nights during the off-season. Henry Hildreth will talk to us about this 1642 church (the oldest Presbyterian church in America) and its connection to suffrage through Rev. and Mrs. George Russell. An added attraction, is a welcome by Southampton Village Mayor Michael Irving.

Our not to be missed last stop is at the Southampton Arts Center on Jobs Lane. There Program Director Amy Kirwin, will lead us through Shawn Heinrichs incredible marine photography done in collaboration with the Blue Sphere Foundation. The Arts Center has become a seat of cultural events including art, music, film and community activities in Southampton Village.

This wonderful day, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending about 3:00 is available for $50 including lunch. Please send your check for $50 made out to LWVH to Joanne McEvoy-Samborn at 14 Cedar Crest Road, Southampton, NY 11968
Reports needed for the Annual Meeting to be mailed next week are as follows:

- Non-Partisan Policy.
- By-Laws.
- Local Positions.
- Nominating Committee Report.
- Budget.
- Minutes from May, 2017 Annual Meeting. These minutes needed to be approved and they were done so.
- Agenda for this year’s meeting.

Board Discussion / Action Items:

- LWVH Annual Meeting is on May 6th at the Water Mill Community House from 2:00 – 4:30. Set-up will begin at 1:30 PM. Anne suggested and will contact Hampton Coffee to cater the event with coffee and nibbles.
- The selectees for the LWVUS Convention in Chicago are Susan, Estelle and Barbara.
- Anne Marshall and Ann Sanford presented their revisions of the Non-Partisan Policy and By-Laws. The Non-Partisan Policy was rewritten to clarify the responsibility of the BoD’s and Committee Chairs to ensure their activities do not compromise the non-partisan policy of the league. Individual members are encouraged to participate in the political process. The By-Laws were changed for clarity and understanding.

Information:

- LWVUSA has a position against asking one’s citizenship status on the census form.
- Southampton Town will be holding an Earth Day event at Good Ground Park in Hampton Bays on April 21 from 12 – 4 PM.
- The EH GGG will be holding an informational meeting on Deepwater Wind on Saturday, April 7th at the EH Library.
- There are no PIMs scheduled after June, 2018. Judi is working with Valerie who has indicated she might want to do something on Mental Health in October. The Board suggested this be changed to September or November because we will be running debates in October.

Committee Reports:

- Natural Resources – Their next PIM, June 11, at the BH Library will be a panel discussion with two trustees each from EH and SH to discuss their unique duties and responsibilities.
- Membership mailed out 132 renewals for the early bird dues request.
- Voter Services will hold a debate on May 24 for the Democratic primary candidates for the First Congressional District at the Hampton Bays High School at 7:00 p.m.
- Members of the Health committee and the East End Mental Health Awareness Advocacy group (EEMHA) will screen the movie “Crazy” in preparation for a PIM in the first week of October highlighting Mental Health Awareness Week.
- The Government committee’s focus for next year is on how the League can help address workforce needs by examining housing, transportation and education.
- Special Events is planning a June 7th “Sightseeing in Southampton” day with lunch at the First Presbyterian Church. In the Fall they will sponsor a lunch honoring current female elected officials. A Spring, 2019 event is still being planned.
- The Education committee will meet with Riverhead Girl Scouts on April 14th to help them work on earning their Suffrage Badges. Our League will not be participating in “Students Inside Suffolk County” this year because the date offered by the Legislature conflicts with student AP exams. Two students from Hampton Bays High School will attend Students Inside Albany in May.
- Arlene is Publicizing the April 9th Immigration Forum.

Suffolk County LWV News:

- Members of the LWVSC met with the SC Board of Elections on 3/26 in Yaphank. They received an

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The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons appreciates the support of the businesses and individuals listed in this section. In return, members are encouraged to patronize these businesses and mention The Voter when doing so.

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Living Legacy

Please consider providing for the ongoing efforts of the League Of Women Voters with a bequest included in your will, trust or estate. You can help us for many years to come by designating The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons as a beneficiary.

Here is sample language that may be given to your attorney: “I give, devise and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons (insert amount, percentage of estate, nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.” Current and future members of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will be very grateful for this commitment.

For additional information, please contact Cathy Peacock at treasurer@lwvhamptons.org

Membership Application

Not a member of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons?

Please join us by mailing this application form and a check payable to LWVH to:
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons; P.O. Box 2253; East Hampton, NY 11937

Individual Member’s Name__________________________________________________________

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Address__________________________________________________________________________

Email(s)______________________________ Home phone____________ Cell phone____________

Membership Dues: □Full-time Student $15 □Household $90 □Individual $60

Donations to our local league may be made payable to LWVHamptons and may be included in your dues check. Tax-deductible donations may be made by separate check payable to: LWVNYS - Education Foundation

I am interested in:

___ Education Committee ___ Membership Committee ___ Voter Services Committee
___ Government Committee ___ Natural Resources Committee ___ Communications
___ Health Committee ___ Special Events Committee

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637 or email: membership@lwvhamptons.org
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## Appointed Directors

| Peggy Olness              | 751-2655              | maolness@yahoo.com        |

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<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Jacqui Lofaro</td>
<td>537-3361</td>
<td>jacojilhamptons.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Issues</td>
<td>Mary McLaughlin</td>
<td>427-1925</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marymclaughlin54@gmail.com">marymclaughlin54@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## LWV of Suffolk County Annual Convention

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018 10:30 - 2:30**

180 Little Neck Road, Centerport, NY 11721
http://www.vanderbiltmuseum.org

**Speaker:** Stephanie Gress
Director of Curatorial Affairs, Vanderbilt Museum
Alva Belmont, Suffragist

Cost includes lunch buffet with dessert, admission to museum and tour
$25 LWV members in advance
$30 at door for LWV members and all non-members

Send check (made out to LWV of Suffolk County) before May 8 to:
Glorian Berk, PO Box 766, Water Mill, NY 11976
please include your phone number with the check

Agenda (subject to change):
10:30- museum doors open, check in, coffee/tea
11:00- business meeting
12:00- buffet lunch and speaker
1:15- complimentary mansion tour

All local League members are invited to attend the annual convention and learn more about LWV of Suffolk County
email lisawscott@gmail.com or call 631 523-1653 if questions
Impact of Immigration on the South Fork

By Ann Sandford & Cathy Peacock

The April Public Information meeting featured a lively discussion on the importance of immigrant labor to the local economy, focusing on agriculture and hospitality. Over 60 people attended the forum, which was taped by SEA-TV for viewing on public access TV.

Martha Potter, League board member and historian, provided an overview of immigration and federal laws affecting immigration, setting the stage for the panel. With the opening of Ellis Island in 1892 and a period of tremendous growth in industry and agriculture, 12 million people came to the US. With the passage of the National Quota Act in 1924, this flow was greatly reduced. Since then a number of programs and laws have both discriminated against certain groups and provided access to certain groups.

Michael Nenner, manager of Gurney’s Inn in Montauk, stated that the inn employs about 400 people. He admitted that hiring on the East End is harder than in big cities where there is a larger pool to choose from and housing is more accessible. Of the 400 he hires each year, 300 are US based and the remainder are part of the H2B or J1 programs. This year the H2B program changed to a lottery and he missed the timing, even after reaching out to Congressman Zeldin for help. The major problems he sees in hiring is the uncertainty surrounding the H2B program each year and that the hospitality industry here is becoming more year-round stimulating the need for more workers.

Rob Carpenter, administrative director of the Long Island Farm Bureau, pointed out the importance of agriculture to the East End. Suffolk County’s dollar value of production has been at or near the top of all NYS counties for many years. In addition, agriculture provides a backdrop to tourism and our quality of life. Over 7500 people work in agriculture. However, most Americans don’t want to work on a farm—at any wage—because “it’s too hot and too hard.” Workers come from the H2A program and from people living in the US that move from location to location depending on the crop.

In both agriculture and hospitality, effort is made to ensure that their workers are documented. H2A and H2B programs are more expensive than hiring local workers because the employer must offer the prevailing hourly rate, as well as pay an expeditor, transportation and housing.

Former East Hampton Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell talked about the impact of immigrants on the community. The East End growth in the 60’s and 70’s came from two parallel paths. The second homeowners brought money, paid taxes and used few resources. People employed in service industries are generally poorer and their families use more Town resources.

For example, the school system, particularly in Springs and Montauk, has 40-50% Spanish speaking pupils leading to a need for dual language teachers. The lack of housing for seasonal workers has led to overcrowding, often resulting in problems in safety and health for the immigrants and their neighbors. These situations create enforcement issues for firefighting, ambulance and health care. Some progress has been made by local governments in addressing the East End’s changing demographics, including the expansion of bi-lingual training.

Mr. Cantwell cautioned the audience to avoid using perception without facts about how many and who are undocumented in our population. All of the panelists agreed that an increase in affordable housing is key for our workforces as are more reliable visa programs.

The LWZH Government Committee organized the League’s April 9 forum on “Immigration and Its Impact on the South Fork.” Participating were: seated left to right, forum panelists Larry Cantwell, Rob Carpenter, Michael Nenner, Martha Potter; and standing, left to right, LWZH co-presidents Susan Wilson, Estelle Gellman, and Gov’t Committee co-chair Ann Sandford.
Potential Collaboration between League and East End Mental Health Advocates

By Valerie King

A new project is being worked on that includes a special collaboration between the LWVH Health and Education Committees and the East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative (EEMHAI). These two groups met on April 12th to preview a film entitled “CRAZY” that was shown at the Hamptons Take II Documentary Film Festival in December. The film depicts the dilemma of individual choice regarding psychiatric treatment in the current environment of a mental health system which focuses on psychiatric medication, public health and safety.

Planning is beginning for a PIM in November that would use the film as a starting point for a brief panel discussion. The focus of the meeting will be to educate the public on current state mental health laws, address public perception and stigma toward mentally ill individuals, explore the professional considerations of mental/behavioral health providers, highlight the dilemma of psychiatric treatment and medication with individual choice and indicate efforts to overcome barriers to access mental health services in our local community.

I invite past and present LWVH Health Committee members to participate in the planning and development of this important project. Planning meetings will be held electronically. Contact Valerie King Ph. D. at valerieking-phd@gmail.com or at 631-267-3282.

How to Cut Down on Home Water Waste

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

According to the EPA the average family of four uses 400 gallons of water per day. Much of that is hidden inside the products we buy, the energy we use and the food we eat; but our laundry, hygiene, dishwashing, and personal habits do consume more than the global average.

Here are some simple and inexpensive ways to cut back on water use at home.

Use less water, shorter showers, filling the dishwasher and laundry machine before you run them, turn off the faucet when washing your teeth.

Check for leaks: look at faucets and pipes to make sure that water is not leaking.

Choose smart appliances: water saving shower heads, low flow toilets and faucet aerators can lower your water bill.

Go meatless: it takes 4,000 to 18,000 gallons to produce one hamburger because of the food water, and facilities that cows need.

Plant drought-resistant vegetation: Some native plants, shrubs, trees require less watering. The traditional lawn turf is one of the most environmentally unfriendly types of landscaping.

Go renewal: half of the water we use goes to power generation.

This is one of two articles on water waste.

Source www.earthshare.org
Census Citizenship Question Will Result in Inaccurate Count

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross’ decision to include a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census:

"Including a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census will damage the chances for an accurate count of our country’s population. This unprecedented change to the way we count the number of people living in the United States is a betrayal of the idea that in America, every person counts.

"Make no mistake: this decision isn’t about improving demographic data on citizenship. It’s designed to frighten immigrants—citizens and noncitizens alike—so they won’t participate in the Census. It’s a blatant political maneuver meant to disenfranchise these groups and deny them equal representation. So Secretary Ross’ claim that this question helps enforce the Voting Rights Act is preposterous. Indeed, including this question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy.

"For more than 200 years, the Census has collected information about the geographic distribution of our population so we can provide representation and invest in our communities equitably. A fair and accurate Census is essential to the way the federal government allocates resources for infrastructure, education, and transportation. Census data is critical when determining resources for fire, water and trash collection. Without a complete count of our nation’s people, businesses will not have the tools to make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

"Adding this question to the Census now is not only unnecessary and jeopardizes the accuracy of the report, but it comes at a huge financial expense. Taxpayers should not be held responsible for the time and cost of changing the forms and making the report less accurate.

"The United States Constitution mandates an accurate count of all people living in the United States – not all citizens. Non-citizens are an integral part of our economy and need to be included in the 2020 Census to paint a complete picture of our great country. The clock is ticking toward 2020. We call on Congress to take action and correct this issue before it is too late."

Contact: Sarah Courtney | 202-263-1332 | scourtney@lwv.org

Highlights of December 6, 2017 LWVH Board Meeting

Continued from page 6

abbreviated version of the training given to local poll workers. The BoE’s is still not willing to try half day poll workers fearing the ability to cover all the positions they have to cover on election days. They reminded us that they are always in need of poll workers.

• Their Annual Meeting will tentatively be held in the week of May 14th at the Vanderbilt Mansion with a speaker, Stephanie Gress, who will talk about Alva Belmont.

• The SC league appeals to all the LL’s for suggestions in nominating SC BoD’s members

Upcoming Events:

• PIM- “The Impact of Immigration” sponsored by the Government Committee, April 9th at the Hampton Library @ 7 PM.

• Annual Meeting, May 6th at 2 PM at the Water Mill Community House.

• PIM, “The Role of our Town Trustees”, June 11 at 7 PM at the Hampton library.

Housekeeping:

The upcoming “Voter” editors are as follows:

• May/June, Judi Roth

• July/August. Arlene Hinkemeyer.

• September, Arlene.

• October, Joan McGivern with training from Arlene.

• November/December, TBD.

The next business meeting scheduled for May 2, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara McClancy, Recording Secretary
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The League of Women Voters


Making democracy work through voter education, issue advocacy, and civic participation.