



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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Photo credit to Georgia Green Ventures LLC

In East Hampton Town, an affordable housing project of 37 rental units in seven buildings on Montauk Highway in Amagansett, called Gansett Meadow, is planned to include seven buildings around a central green, with a playground, barbecue area and laundry facilities.

## Current Housing Issues to be Discussed at June Public Info Meeting

by Judy Samuelson

On June 17, the League will sponsor a public information meeting on the subject of housing needs and availability in the Towns of Southampton and East Hampton. Scheduled speakers include Diana Weir, Director of Southampton Housing & Community Development; Curtis Highsmith, Jr., Executive Director Southampton Housing Authority; Tom Ruhle, Director of East Hampton Housing & Community Development; and Catherine Casey, Executive Director EH Housing Authority.

This presentation will be focused, specific, and serve to clarify existing facts for our residents. There will be time for your questions. A list of relevant terms such as Affordable housing: Low-income housing; Workforce housing: Section 8; and Subsidized housing, will be distributed at the meeting, as well as definitions of acronyms.

We have asked the panel to address these questions:

- What are the needs for housing based on the five categories on our fact sheet?
- How do the needs compare to what is available?
- What are the sources of funding? Private, federal, county, town, other?

We hope you and your neighbors join the League on Monday June 17 from 7 to 8:30 PM at the Hampton Library on Main St. in Bridgehampton. Refreshments will be served at 6:30, prior to the meeting

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### Looking ahead

June 17 7- 8:30 PM

Government Committee PIM on  
Affordable Housing  
Hampton Library, Bridgehampton

### 4th of July parade Southampton 10 AM

It's a tradition: Join League members as we march to cheers of onlookers lining the streets of Southampton. (There is car for those who prefer to ride.) Contact Judi Roth at rothhandj@yahoo.com or 631-283-0759



## 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 Towns, 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 six times a year (October/November, December/January, February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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## Co-President's Message



As many of you know, our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31 and is initiated with our Annual Meeting. Our invited speaker this year was Assemblyman Fred Thiele who explained the election reforms passed this year by the New York State Legislature.

We have worked long and hard in lobbying for these reforms and they were very much welcomed by the League. Their passage not only makes voting easier for voters in New York State but is a reminder of the importance and effectiveness of the work of the League.

At the Annual Meeting, one of the items on the agenda is the vote to decide our priorities for the year. As recommended by those members who participated in our program planning meeting, the priorities for the coming year are:

- Education of the public of recently approved election reforms in NYS
- Affordable Housing
- Recycling
- NYS Standard Driver Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants

It is important to note that these priorities do not necessarily imply support for a particular issue but, rather, direct us to study and become educated about the issue. Regarding the NYS Driver License for Undocumented Immigrants, for example, we do not have a position and will only be educating ourselves and the public on the legislation being considered. As a consequence of previous study, we already have positions in favor of affordable housing and recycling. At this time, our charge is not only to educate but also to monitor the progress in these areas, and, if deemed necessary, lobby our local officials on means of improving their implementation.

We have already begun to work on these issues: our Government Committee is planning a Public Information Meeting on affordable housing that will be held on June 17th (front page), and in April the Natural Resources Committee held a public forum on Southampton and East Hampton Town recycling programs (see page 16). As you read though this issue you will also see the recent work of our committees on Education, Health, Special Events, Voter Services, and Membership.

None of this happens by itself - it is all dependent on the work of our members; the more members we have working with us, the more we can accomplish. We recognize that not everyone has time to devote to League activities and are indebted to those members who can only support us financially. If you do find you have a few hours here and there, please consider volunteering for any of our committees. You may contact me or my Co-President, Susan Wilson, at the numbers listed in on page 18.

Estelle Gellman

## Highlights of the Annual Membership Meeting



NYS Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. was the keynote speaker at the Hamptons League's 42nd Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 5, at the Water Mill Community House. Assemblyman Thiele detailed the new state voting reforms, such as early voting (in effect for November 5 general election), same day voter registration, and no excuse absentee voting (requiring a second passage by the legislature plus a public vote). Questions afterwards covered a wide range of issues, including the new tone in Albany and prospects for passage of a single payer health care system and standard driver licenses for undocumented workers.



Barbara McClancy, left, co-chair of Voter Services and secretary of both the Hamptons and Suffolk County Leagues, was presented with the Carrie Chapman Catt award "for exceptional service to the League" by co-presidents Susan Wilson and Estelle Gellman.



Estelle Gellman and Susan Wilson, re-elected for a second two-year term as co-presidents, presented outgoing Board member Anne Marshall with a large bouquet and a personalized baseball cap in thanks for her many years of service to the Hamptons League, as president/co-president (2005-08) and as long-time co-chair of Voter Services.



Westhampton Beach High School senior Lindsay Rongo, left, was presented with the LWWH Betty Desch Student Leadership Award of \$1,000 by Education Committee co-chair Judi Roth. Lindsay will attend Stony Brook University next fall, with plans to major in the health sciences.

Other business conducted at the Annual Meeting included: adoption of the LWWH Budget for 2019-20, presented by Treasurer Cathy Peacock; the Presidents' Report of activity during the 2018-19 year; the election of officers and directors for 2019-20, conducted by Nominating Committee chair Afton DiSunno; the adoption of Program for 2019-20; and the review of LWWH Local Positions.

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

All members should now be receiving the minutes and meeting announcements of our committees and are more than welcome to join us in whatever way you can. It's not necessary to make a major commitment of time - you can, for example, work on a single project, help register voters at an event, make some telephone calls or help with a mailing; every bit is appreciated and we hope you will join us.

### High School Students Visit Suffolk County Legislature

**By Judi Roth**

Juniors and seniors from Westhampton Beach, Hampton Bays, Bridgehampton and Southampton High Schools – 30 in all – had a most interesting day at the Suffolk County Legislature on April 11, 2019 where they heard from legislators, learned about their mock-legislative topic, met in caucuses and then participated in a mock legislative session taking the roles of the legislators and the public wanting to make their voices heard on a topic. This is the third time that students representing Leagues from Brookhaven, Huntington, Smithtown and the Hamptons have taken part in this program and it keeps getting better.

Having learned from experience the legislative staff, Jason Richberg and Amy Ellis, introduced two “ice breakers” to get the kids, teachers and League members loosened up and ready to participate. After hearing from our County Legislator Bridget Fleming and Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory about their career paths and how the Legislature operates, Under Sheriff Keogh spoke to the resolution: “Should the Suffolk Legislature create a school safety division of the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department?”.

This topic generated a lot of “public comment” from parents, students, teachers and existing school resource officers. The student legislators were very animated in asking and responding to questions from the public and a lot of “listening” took place.

### More news

At the Annual Meeting on April 5, 2019, the Betty Desch Scholarship Award was presented to Lindsay Rongo of Westhampton Beach High School. Lindsay was selected over 36 other applicants. She is a lifelong Girl Scout who has done countless projects to earn her

Silver and Gold Service Award. One that particularly intrigued the Selection Committee (Judi Roth, Terese Wildrick, Anne Marshall, Nada Barry, Nancy Walters-Yvertes and Beth Barth) was her project to build a Puppy Playground at the Bide-A-Wee shelter in Westhampton in order to give the dogs exercise and make them more adoptable. She is captain of the school’s lacrosse team and always makes sure that younger players are welcomed, going so far as making sure they have someone to sit next to on the bus. She will be going to Stony Brook University in the fall.

### Running and Winning Back in Play?

As part of the LWV State Convention, the State Education Committee has asked that we do a trifold of Running and Winning and have a spokesperson available to talk about it. Judi Roth has done the trifold and Sue Wilson has graciously agreed to be the spokesperson. Having just reviewed a DVD of the 2011 program and thinking about all the women who have been elected to Congress in 2018, the Education Committee of LWVH will consider bringing back this popular program.



Students take part in a mock-legislative debate.

# Education Committee Report



Terese Wildrick(first row right) , co-chair of the Education Committee, with Student Day participants from Hampton Bays High School



Jason Richberg, Clerk, of the Suffolk County Legislature, has the visiting students' full attention during Students Day.

# Voter Services



Again this year, the Hamptons League took a table at the Saturday, May 11 East Hampton Street Fair on Newtown Lane. Giving out voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications, voting reform info, membership forms and answering many questions were, left to right, Judy Kron and Voter Services co-chair Barb McClancy, and on other shifts, Estelle Gellman, Arlene Hinke-meyer, Beverly Lepine, Ursula and George Lynch, Eileen Mercer, and Judy and Gene Samuelson.

### Cancer Health Services Closer to Home

**By Valerie King Ph.D. Chair LWVH Health Committee**

On Monday May 6th 2019 I was invited to tour the new Stony Brook Southampton Hospital Phillips Family Cancer Center, located at 740 County Road 39A in Southampton. The 13,800 square foot facility is a state of the art, full service cancer center. The reported twenty four/twenty five million dollar (including the nine million dollar donation of the Barbara Philips family), new cancer center is an example of the evolving positive transformation of health care services in our community brought about by the merger of Stony Brook Medical Center and Southampton Hospital.

Adult patients undergoing treatment at the Phillips Family Cancer Center are under the coordinated care of medical oncologists and medical radiation surgeons at Stony Brook University Hospital Cancer Center, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital/The Phillips Family Cancer Center. No longer will these individuals, and their caregivers have to travel west for the treatment of cancer. Pediatric treatment will continue to be conducted in Stony Brook by the specialists at Stony Brook University Children's Hospital.

The Center had its ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday April 25th and opened to serve patients on Monday May 6th. The facility, which once was a potato barn, is well designed with two separate entrances reflecting two major oncology treatments for cancer. On the upper level there is a welcoming reception desk and spacious well light individual rooms as well as a communal room for chemotherapy and other infusion therapies, formulated in the on-site pharmacy. In addition the upper level houses a multipurpose conference room for educational meetings, group therapy, as well as complementary activities such as meditation, yoga and, it is hoped, music. On the lower level designated for oncology

exam rooms, mobile computer stations, CT scanning, and radiation treatment. The center has the only Varian True Beam Linear accelerator on the East End of Long Island. This new technology provides more precise targeting of cancer cells during radiation therapy, sparing healthy surrounding tissue.

Partnerships of the new cancer center include the Ellen Hermanson Foundation which donates funds and provides support services and The Ed and Phyllis Davis Wellness Institute which offers wellness programming.

For more information regarding the new Phillips Family Cancer Center, contact Barbara-Jo Howard, Director of Communications & Marketing, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital ,240 Meeting House Lane, Southampton, 631-726-8700

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons Health Committee, works to provide information on health services in our community. If you are interested in the Health Committee's activities, please contact Valerie King Ph.D. at 631-267-3282 or [valeriekingphd@gmail.com](mailto:valeriekingphd@gmail.com)



Valerie King(right) with Lauren Richard-Holt LCSW, the new cancer center's full-time Oncology Social Worker, available for counseling and negotiating the system via the Fighting Chance annex office located on the first level of the center. Fighting Chance provides information and aid to patients and their caregivers.

# Suffolk County's Fair Elections Matching Fund Law

By Ann Sandford, Government Committee Co-chair

Legislator Bridget Fleming has been a longtime champion of campaign finance reform, a major issue also advocated for by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons. In conversation with the legislator this Spring, members of the Government Committee addressed the issue and we each received a copy of the reform legislation which was filed with the Secretary of State on January 30, 2018. The law is critical to restoring fairness to our electoral process by enhancing the impact of small dollar donations through multiplying those funds. Some of the highlights of Local Law No. 8-2018 are summarized below.

This small donor matching system applies to nomination and election campaigns in the county. One intent of the law is to address money in politics: The law reads in part, "Voters believe that a powerful few use campaign contributions to gain extraordinary access to, and favorable consideration from, government officials." Another intent is to increase voter participation. Among the numerous eligibility requirements for receiving the matching funds are that the applicant be a candidate for Suffolk County Executive or for the Suffolk County Legislature. Candidates for the legislature may not accept any single contribution which in the aggregate ex-

ceeds \$1,500 and candidates for County Executive may not accept any contribution that exceeds \$25,000 in the aggregate. Public funding will be available to legislative candidates beginning in the 2021 elections and to County Executive candidates beginning with the 2023 elections.

Under the 4:1 matching program, candidates for County Legislator must raise a minimum of \$5,000 from thirty individual donors who live in the candidate's district, up to a maximum of \$250 per donation, to receive matching funds. A County Executive candidate must raise a minimum of \$25,000 from 150 donors up to a maximum of \$250 per donation. According to the law, "Public funds may only be used for election efforts, including but not limited to mailings, political literature, polling and staff." The Matching Fund established by the law will be used mainly for "payments to eligible participating candidates" and shall come from a share of the proceeds from the video lottery terminals operated by the Suffolk County Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation. The law includes lengthy descriptions of reporting requirements and other management control requirements. A copy of the law can be found on the internet by searching for "Suffolk County's Fair Elections Matching Fund Law."

## Heroes of the Women's Movement

**This is the first of a new LWFH series spotlighting the women (and men) who advanced the status of women throughout the decades.**

### Lucy Stone

born in Brookfield, MA in 1818; died Pope's Hill, MA 1893

How could a woman with a beautiful bell-like voice and quiet ways be called a rebel? Just look at the life of Lucy Stone. From the time she went to Oberlin College in Ohio (which she paid for herself from money she earned as a teacher after her father said college was a crazy idea for a woman), Lucy spoke up – in public! She refused to write her graduation essay unless she was allowed to read it at the ceremony like the men did. Other students approved; but the college did not.

Lucy was the first woman from Massachusetts to graduate from college. After college, Lucy traveled across the country speaking out against slavery and the unfair treatment of women. She began to petition state legislators for a

woman's right to vote as early as 1849.

In 1850 she helped organize the first National Women's Right Convention that took place that October in Worcester, MA.

She continued her rebel ways, wearing the newfangled bloomers and keeping her birth name after her marriage to Henry Browne Blackwell. They decided that it was to be a marriage of equal partnership.

Lucy Stone was active in the movement as president of the New England Suffrage Association when she died at the age of 75, always propelled by her conviction that, although she would be ridiculed and hated by some, she must "pursue that course of conduct which, to me, appears best calculated to promote the highest good of the world."



Young Lucy Stone

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## Membership Committee

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Join me in welcoming Loring Bolger, Jean Mackenzie and Mackenzie Koster, Lynn Dawson and Ivy Miller, who became members of the League this year. They join the 2018 new members Kathleen King, Jeannie Dowling Twomey, Barbara Hill, Doreen Quaranto, Mary Busch, Beverly Lepine, Dianne Marx, Helene Burgess, Isabel Sepulveda de Scanlon, Lorraine "Bonnie" Doyle, Eileen Mercer, and Alexis Mayer.

Some of our 2018 new members are already active on committees; three are now Appointed Directors.

Now is your chance to join the devoted people, men and women, who are passionate about helping preserve our democracy.

Vicki Umans, Chair, Membership Committee

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## Membership Application

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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Other Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:membership@lwvhamptons.org)*



# Suffolk County Voter

June 2019

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

LWVSC Board Meeting: Wednesday June 19, Riverhead Library 10am-12noon

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**Secretary**  
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## Making Democracy Work: Population Data; Partisan Redistricting; Independent Commissions

After each decennial Census, the Constitution requires each state to re-draw the lines for election districts in order to allocate the number of Congressional house seats fairly if they have gained or lost population. In 42 states they are drawn by the state legislature, while in six states they are drawn by independent commissions and in seven states by politician commissions, where elected officials may serve as members. We know that technology makes it possible to mine data for many socio-economic factors, but do you realize that candidates who are drawing the lines can access records on political party registrations of the voters in their district and which elections they've voted in to configure legislative districts that will protect their incumbency? Drawing the lines so that members of the opposition party are diluted by being spread out among many districts ("cracking") or concentrated in only one district ("packing") denies the right to an equal vote to those in the minority party.

The Supreme Court had found complaints about apportionment to be a purely political question outside of their purview, but 1962's decision in Baker v. Carr it held that federal courts had a role in forcing states to correct inequities in the makeup of electoral districts, leading to the rule of "one person, one vote." Under the Equal Protection clause in the Constitution, inequality in voting power is unconstitutional, especially when it affects the rights of minorities.

Advocates in many states have challenged gerrymandering in the courts, based on partisanship or race. Currently, many of the cases heard by the Supreme Court have been denied because the plaintiffs lacked standing, without a finding on the whether the claims were justiciable. The League of Women Voters of the United States and many state and local Leagues have been involved in court cases with other groups or on their own. LWVUS is waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court on a gerrymandering case it brought in North Carolina, and Leagues in Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, Tennessee, and Texas have been involved in challenges to unfair districting or registration practices. The relief that is sought are often independent redistricting commissions to draw the new lines.

In 2008, Common Cause led an effort to pass Proposition 11 in California. It placed the power to draw electoral boundaries for State Assembly and State Senate districts in a Citizens Redistricting Commission, as opposed to the State Legislature. The Act, proposed by the initiative process, amended both the Constitution of California and the Government Code. It was passed by the voters in the November 2008 elections and was extended in 2010 to include U.S. House seats as well. It passed by a small margin despite opposition from the California Democratic Party, including Barbara Boxer and Nancy Pelosi, and Asian, Hispanic and African American groups. They argued that it would not prevent politicians from hiding behind the selected bureaucrats, and would not guarantee protection for minority groups.

HR1, on the 2019 Congressional calendar, includes proposals that would mandate the use of independent

commissions and the establishment of redistricting criteria, including racial fairness, protection for communities of interest and a ban on partisan gerrymandering. It would require public hearings before and after a plan is drafted, and a requirement that the responses to public comment be included alongside the final plan. The Brennan Center for Justice interviewed a diverse group of 100 stakeholders who were involved with redistricting in state-level redistricting and municipal commissions. It concluded that commissions can significantly reduce many of the worst abuses associated with redistricting but only if the commissions are carefully designed and structured to promote independence and incentivize discussion and compromise.

Despite efforts to require the use of independent commissions, or amend state constitutions to prohibit gerrymandering, fair competition among candidates can only result if all voters believe their candidate can win. As long as information about party membership or voting patterns is available to those drawing lines, redistricting will not be a blind process. Today's technology and algorithms make it too easy to configure districts that include voters who would consistently return incumbents or elect officials of a given party. For our democracy to prosper, all citizens must have the opportunity to vote and to know that their vote will count.

by Nancy Marr

Printed in the six local editions of the May 16 TimesBeaconRecord newspapers and online at <http://tbrnewsmedia.com/making-democracy-work-population-data-partisan-redistricting-independent-commissions>

### Recycling 101: The Inside Story

On April 8, the LWVH presented a public information meeting about recycling in Southampton and East Hampton.

Co-president Susan Wilson opened the conversation with a summary of the League's past activities to promote successful recycling. Christine Fetten, Southampton Town Director of Municipal works and Director of the Office of Sustainability, and Joe Glorioso of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Sustainable Southampton Green Advisory Committee represented Southampton. Kathleen Kirkwood, Chair of the Sustainability Committee for East Hampton, informed us of progress there. Christine and Joe updated attendees about the current status of recycling in general and in Southampton. We learned that most people use carters who face challenges in disposing of our recyclables. The condition of the recyclables is important. Corrugated cardboard and paper must be dry and clean. A big part of the reason why China has decreased its purchase of plastic for recycling is the contamination from foodstuff. You can imagine what a mess that would be!

Although there was an effort to expand plastic recycling to include all number codes, currently only those with 1s and 2s in the triangular recycling symbol are useful.

When a load of recyclables is unsuitable, it is rejected and ends up in the garbage. We can all make a stronger effort to separate plastics from paper, flatten cardboard such as cereal boxes, and keep our recyclables clean. Since the ban on plastic bags in our area, we can now recycle thin film plastic packaging with paper in Southampton, but it must be bundled together so that it can be easily separated from the paper.

Kathleen Kirkwood provided photos of the new signs at the East Hampton Recycling Center. The signs are clear and specific about what goes in each bin, and what is just trash. The rules are different there. They accept specific types of packages, mostly bottles, and do not use the number-

ing system. More people in East Hampton use the recycling center instead of a carter. Kathleen also shared information about green entrepreneurship. Here, and around the country, new businesses are developing ways to reuse and recycle items we might usually put in trash. As consumers become more aware and concerned about the condition of our planet, they are willing to pay a little more for "greener" products. Kathleen's business, Bra Recycling Agency, recycles bras into carpet padding! She is happy to share more if you contact her online.

Although they were unable to attend, Peconic Recycling and Transfer Corporation on the North Fork has offered a tour of their state-of-the-art facility to those of us who are interested. We have not determined a date in the hope that more people join in. Please contact Terese Wildrick at 631 728-6897 or by email at [mswild@optonline.net](mailto:mswild@optonline.net). We will look for a date in mid-June.

After all the washing, sorting and recycling, the best solution to the problem is still to reduce the amount of plastics that stay in the land, air and water is to use less. Packaging is another issue altogether.

Our thanks to Christine, Joe and Kathleen for helping us understand how we can be more confident in the results of our recycling efforts.



Moderator Susan Wilson, left, and co-chair of the Education Committee Terese Wildrick, second left, with members of the panel, left to right, Kathleen Kirkwood,; Joe Glorioso, and Christine Fetten,

### Special Events Committee Hosts Book-and-Author Event with Former Congressman Steve Israel

By **Arlene Hinkemeyer**

It was a special “Special Event” at the beautiful venue, Seasons of Southampton, on April 4 when former eight-term Long Island Congressman Steve Israel spoke to the Hamptons LWV and guests about his political satire *Big Guns*, which was set both in the mythical Hamptons village of Asabogue and in Washington D.C., and included a candidates debate hosted by a mythical League of Women Voters.

Congressman Israel explained that he left Congress in 2017, not running in 2016, after serving in many leadership posts, because of the “screaming partisanship and gridlock.” “My therapy,” he said, “was writing—on planes, trains, cars and in meetings” and in many diners on the East End. Over the years, he wrote and published *The Global War on Morris* (2015) and *Big Guns* (2018) and has finished a third, as yet unpublished, novel. Meanwhile, *Big Guns* has been optioned by Goldie Hawn and Kate Hudson for a screenplay.

“I’m most comfortable writing political satire,” said Israel, referring to the tradition of Mark Twain and Joseph Heller, who in their novels exposed the issues of slavery and Viet Nam, respectively.

With former East End Congressman Tim Bishop emceeding the Q&A, Congressman Israel revealed whom many of the characters in *Big Guns* were modeled after. In answering questions about what can be done to correct the gridlock in Congress, Israel emphasized the importance of re-drawing gerrymandered Congressional districts.

Besides writing novels, Congressman Israel is now busy as director of the Institute of Politics and Global Affairs at Cornell University, with offices in both NYC and Locust Valley, and regularly serves as a commentator on various news programs.



Welcoming Doreen Crosier, left, and other guests were members of the Special Events committee—co-chair Joanne Samborn, Mary O’Brien, co-chair Ginny Poveromo and treasurer Cathy Peacock. Taking photo is committee member Arlene Hinkemeyer, who planned Congressman Steve Israel’s and Tim Bishop’s appearances and introduced them at the event.



Greeting Congressmen Tim Bishop and Steve Israel, center left and right, were LWWH co-presidents Susan Wilson, left, and Estelle Gellman.



After the reception and talk, many including LWV members Ann Sandford and Nada Barry, lined up to purchase and have Congressman Israel autograph copies of his books, provided by nearby Southampton Books.

# Highlights of May 1, 2019 Board of Directors' Meeting

## Presidents' Report:

- The co-presidents met with members of the Shelter Island league. They have lost membership and would like to merge with the LWVH. They would like to retain their identity and continue with their activities exclusive to Shelter Island. The NYS league encourages us to merge with them. A motion was presented and seconded to incorporate the SI into our membership and assume administrative responsibility for them. This motion was passed unanimously.
- Estelle presented a letter from State urging all LLs to study and consider joining a group called the Coalition to Simplify NY Courts whose purpose is to simplify our NYS court system. Estelle will send a copy of this memo to the board and asked the Government Committee to study it and make recommendations.

## Discussion Items:

- The Annual Meeting is on May 5, 2019 from 2-4 PM at the Water Mill Community House. The Special Events Committee will oversee the setup for the meeting.
- Summer Schedule – There is a retreat and board meeting on June 5. There is no board meeting in July. There will be a meeting on August 7th.

## Committee Reports:

### Education Committee

- 22 high school students attended the SC Legislature on April 11 for a discussion about School Safety Officers in conjunction with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. On April 16 another group of students attended a SH government work session with town officials to familiarize them with their local government and explore job opportunities
- Sue Wilson will present a "Running and Winning"

program during the NYS Convention in June.

- The **Government Committee** will hold a PIM on Affordable Housing on June 17th at the Hampton Library in BH.
- The **Health Committee** would like to partner with Government to explore health care issues and availability in the Shinnecock Nation for a future PIM.
- The **Natural Resources Committee** is assessing interest in touring a North Fork recycling center. Interest in the tour depends on the date.
- Publicity continues to publicize the Annual Meeting in our usual outlets.
- Special Events: Ginny reports the Springs Tour is on May 30th with a buffet lunch. Judi will coordinate the 4th of July parade in SH.

## Happy Birthday, USA 243 Years



Celebrate by marching with LWVH in the Southampton  
4th of July parade.  
Contact VP Judi Roth for details.

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# The Voter

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