



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork  
Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIX, No. 23

October/November 2021

## LWVH/SI/NF In Action

Registration Drives, Debates, Workshops – and a parade



Dressed in suffrage white, Leagues members marched in the parade celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the village of East Hampton on September 25th



Barbara McClancy with future voters

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## The League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork

### Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork 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, Shelter Island and the North Fork, 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, Shelter Island and the North Fork recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork 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, Shelter Island and the North Fork 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.

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## President's Message

LWVH/SI/NF members, wearing white and Votes For Women sashes, carried signs honoring former East Hampton Suffragist May Groot Manson in the East Hampton Parade celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of the incorporation of East Hampton Village. Participants also carried "Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport", and "Every Vote Counts" signs. This was our first in-person gathering since the onset of Covid19 and we were thrilled to be all together outside on such a beautiful day.

We were also pleased to receive this handsome plaque from the parade committee.

Thanks to Mary Blake and Vicki Umans who lent us their red and blue convertibles for the parade, and to Arlene Hinkemeyer for making all the arrangements and to everyone who participated.

OUTSTANDING  
PARTICIPATION  
AWARD  
EAST HAMPTON  
CENTENNIAL PARADE  
Celebrating 100 years  
1920-2020



The League moves into high gear every election season beginning with National Voter Registration Day, this year September 28th, with 13 registration sites throughout the region. We held Zoom Candidate Debates for the Southampton and East Hampton Town election and for the Suffolk County Legislature. Kudos to Arlene Hinkemeyer, Publicity Chair, and Barbara McClancy, Voter Services Chair, who pulled the debates together and expertly handled two East Hampton candidates who ultimately refused to participate in the East Hampton debate.

Shelter Island's Annual Candidate Forum was scheduled to be held in person this year but at the last minute was turned into an online event. There was concern that changing it to an online event would lower voter participation but that was not the case - it was a huge success. The questions were in-depth and it was very well attended.

Likewise the Zoom presentation on The Electoral College and the National Popular vote had good audience attendance.

We have completed another 5-week Carbon Crew Project, and since it was so successful, we plan to continue to recruit members and non-members to participate. See the separate article: Do Your Part to Reverse Global Warming, elsewhere in this Voter.

Susan Wilson



### The Future of the Electoral College

by *Cathy Kenny*

On September 13th the Government Committee sponsored, with Cathy Kenny as moderator, an hour-long Public Information Program aired on SEA-TV entitled, “The Electoral College and the National Voter Interstate Compact: What Every Voter Should Know.”

The last presidential election brought to the fore several controversial issues about the power of an elector to change his or her vote, viz., “a faithless elector;” about the one-man-one vote principle; the very future of the Electoral College itself; and a renewed interest in the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NVC). We were very fortunate to have as panelists three distinguished law professors who were able to slice and dice all the complicated aspects of the two presidential voting processes—Professor Bruce Ledewitz of Duquesne University School of Law, Professor Rebecca Green of William and Mary Law School and Eric W. Black of South Carolina School of Law—all constitutional scholars.

At the outset, according to Professor Black, the Electoral College was a compromise reached by the Founding Fathers that reflected their skepticism about how the fledgling country would elect their leaders. In addition, since both small and large states elect two senators, the Electoral College is, de facto, a malapportionment of the one-man-one vote concept.

Professor Ledewitz commented that because each state legislature under Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution has the power to establish the method by which its electors are selected, we should be concerned about state legislatures that try to manipulate the selection of elec-

tors. For example, the Georgia state legislature recently enacted a law that gives itself the power to suspend county electors and to name its choice for the state electoral board. Feasibly, the Georgia legislature could overturn the voters’ choice decided on election day by selecting electors faithful to a particular party. Speaking about faithless electors, Professor Green noted that the U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that a state may replace or punish faithless electors if it chooses to do so. But the punishment, if a state adopts such a statute at all, varies from state to state.

Discussing the NVC, Professor Ledewitz indicated that this work-around of the Electoral College brings its own problems because the electors in some states where the majority, for example, voted Republican would have to vote for the Democratic Party candidate for President who won the popular vote. None of the panelists thought the NVC would succeed in the current political climate, nor did they see any attempt to amend the Constitution plausible. As Professor Black commented, “the rule of law should prevail and everyone should play by the same rules,” if the public is to gain any confidence in the outcome of presidential elections. With the existing patchwork of rules for the selection of electors and the very qualifications for voting that are so variable from state to state, that confidence may be waning.

The program, viewed by over 80 individuals to date, speaks to the current interest in this topic and as well as its complexities. The program may still be viewed on SEA-TV’s YouTube channel.



From left to right : Cathy Kenny, moderator, Rebecca Green, Bruce Ledewitz, Eric W Black

## Voter Services Committee Report

### National Voter Registration Day, September 28

League volunteers were out in force, giving out registration forms, forms for ordering absentee ballots, and information about early election dates.



Anne Marshall and Ann Sanford, Bridgehampton Post Office



Bonnie Doyle, Hampton Bays Dollar Store



Arlene Hinkeyer and Jane Hastay, East Hampton Post Office



Eva Moore, Judy Samuelson, Estelle Gellman, Montauk Post Office



Glorian Berk, Southampton Rogers Memorial Library



Valerie Levenstein, Shelter Island



## Voter Services Committee Report



Shannon Nelson and Bill Owens, Hampton Bays  
King Kullen



Loring Bolger, Springs General Store



Eileen Mercer, Judi Roth, Stephanie Snider,  
Southampton Stop & Shop



Alexis Mayer and Ursula Lynch, Westhampton Free Library



Vicki Umans, Eva Moore, and Tracy Grathwohl got an early start at the  
Springs Farmers Market on September 18th

Also participating: Ethel Sussman and Edana Cichanowicz, Riverhead Free Library (no photo)

## Shelter Island Candidate Forum, September 17

*by Lois B. Morris*

Marking the first local election since we became the SI in LWVHSINF, the 2021 Shelter Island Candidate Forum was also our first on Zoom. As usual, we partnered successfully with the Shelter Island Association. Lucky we were all there this time that our newly expanded chapter offered us technological assistance to pull this off so smoothly. We recorded the event the day before it became available to view on YouTube and on our local cable channel 22.

This year, our incumbent Town Supervisor, was running unopposed until truly the last minute, when a rival declared a write-in campaign. The forum concentrated on three other formally contested Town races: Council candidates were incumbent Amber Brach-Williams, and Brett Sureus, Bar-

bara Jean Ioanfolla, Meg Larsen, and Marcus Kaask; running for Town Clerk were incumbent Dorothy Oger and Kristina Martin Majdiova. This last was truly a first for us: the incumbent had been unopposed since she first took office in 1978—and she served as her mother's deputy clerk for 16 years before that!

The whole forum lasted well over two hours, but experienced moderator, Cathy Kenny, and off-camera timekeeper Valerie Levenstein kept the candidates tightly to their time limits. We even managed to include questions solicited earlier by email. Our in-person forums are usually a bit more raucous, but being stuck in virtual boxes and being unable to overtalk one another kept everybody unusually well-behaved.

## Voter Services Committee Report

LWVH/SI/NF conducted October debates for candidates in local elections on Zoom, You Tube, SEA-TV, and LTV.



October 4  
Southampton Debate for Town Council [2 openings]  
Top row: Barbara McClancy, timekeeper;  
Tommy John Schiavoni  
2nd row: Robin L. Long, Cynthia McNamara,  
Ann Thomas  
3rd row: Susan Wilson, moderator



October 18  
Suffolk County Legislator for the 2nd district  
Top: Cathy Peacock, moderator; in-  
cumbent Bridget Fleming  
2nd row: Eileen Mercer, time-  
keeper; challenger Robert J. Car-  
penter



October 21  
East Hampton Town Supervisor  
and Town Council [2 openings]  
Top row: Estelle Gellman, moderator;  
Eileen Mercer, timekeeper.  
John Whelan, candidate for Town Council  
2nd row: Candidate Cate Rogers, in-  
cumbent Kathee Burke-Gonzalez

### Workshops on the Topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

by Terri Wildrick, Chair of the Education Committee



On October 19th, the LWVNYS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force offered two workshops, one on August 17 and the other on October 19, based on the book *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving.

My first experience with the book was listening to it as I drove to Vermont and back. It kept me wide awake. It also compelled me to reread the book because each chapter ends with a thought-provoking question. I couldn't think deeply enough about the questions while driving. Sparks and bells were going off with each concept or phrase that named something that hadn't fully formed in my own mind. This is not a book to read at bedtime.

Debby recounts her childhood background of growing up in an affluent family, in a white suburb, where all unpleasantness was swept under the carpet. Topics such as race, sex and politics were not discussed. Like many of us, she took her privileges for granted, unaware of what we now know as systemic racism. Each reader will find aspects of Debby's experience that parallel their own, and some that don't. Debby de-

scribes how she became aware that people of other races, religions, and economic status have a completely different perspective on the world. She details some of the systemic racism that has passed through generations to leave some groups of people at a huge disadvantage. Examples include voting rights, segregation of schools and housing, the GI Bill, and Social Security. She also describes her process of wanting to improve the situation, failing, persisting, and figuring out how to go about it. She cautions against a do-gooder ideal, where privileged white people try to "fix" and "rescue."

On nearly every page, we encounter words and phrases that spark awareness of issues we haven't faced before. Randomly flipping and opening pages, these phrases pop out: racism vs. classism, stereotypes, cultural icebergs, white comfort zone, Robin Hood Syndrome, and dysfunctional rescuing. So where does that leave us? The answer is unique to each of us after delving into our memories and experiences in so as to understand our part in perpetuating or changing the way our society works. By sticking with *Waking Up White*, thinking deeply about the questions and concepts, we can continue with Debby Irving on the journey toward an antiracist society.

Our local League has seven copies of this book available to you. It is also available as an audiobook through public libraries. Information about other workshops and activities from the DEI Task Force comes in emails from LWVNYS and our local league. Please be on the lookout for these messages. If you would like to read the paperback version of *Waking Up White*, please email me at [mswild@optonline.net](mailto:mswild@optonline.net).



### Do Your Part To Reverse Global Warming!

#### Join The Carbon CREW Project

*By Susan Wilson*

The Carbon Crew Project is sparking the regenerative transformation for a flourishing planet bringing together small teams of climate friendly folks to plan, proclaim and live a 50% carbon reduction lifestyle!

CREW, the acronym for Carbon Reduction for Earth Wellbeing, was developed by the environmental organization Drawdown East End.

Using the 2040 handbook based on Project Drawdown, CREW guides lead participants in creating Personal Carbon Action Carbon Plans and in replicating the strategy for exponential growth, peer to peer accountability, and overall 50% carbon reduction by 2030.

It's easy to get involved. The reading is easy, the personal interactions are inspiring, the homework is enlightening, and the time commitment is manageable: Five one-hour Zoom sessions over a 5-week period. There is no cost other than the book if you want your own copy (about \$18), or it can be found at local li-

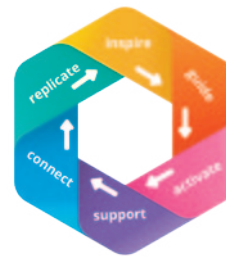
braries. When the sessions are over groups will stay in touch to confirm progress. Best of all its fun and you will be making a difference.

Go to this website to check Your Carbon Footprint: [www.3.epa.gov](http://www.3.epa.gov).

Thanks to Sustainability Chair, Terese Wildrick for bringing this important project to the League, working with Dar Reilly and Jo DeVincenzi of Drawdown East End, and to members of The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork who have participated in and sponsored this important environmental project.

We will schedule another series of 5- week sessions as interest grows and the project gathers momentum.

***If you would like to participate, contact Susan Wilson at: [hamptonssw@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonssw@gmail.com). or call 631-495-9288***



#### NOT A MEMBER?

#### JOIN OR DONATE NOW

Membership Dues / \_ / \$60 Individual / \_ / \$90 Household / \_ / No Charge Full-time Student / \_ / \$\_\_\_\_ Donation

Dues Year is June 1 through May 31.

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637. Send this form and payment option (with check or credit card information) to League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937. Make checks payable to LWVH.

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Additional Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in these committees: \_\_\_\_\_

/ \_ / Check or / \_ / Credit Card

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**The League of Women Voters  
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The League of Women Voters

Nonpartisan. Political. Grassroots. Volunteer.

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