



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. 30

December/January 2022-23

Good Time for all at LWVH/SI/NF Holiday Party and Silent Action

On December 13th, League members and their guests enjoyed holiday festivities at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bridgehampton. Thanks to Susan Wilson for organizing the event and to all who contributed food and drinks and items for the auction.



Appearing all in red and black were Arlene Hinkemeyer, Judi Roth, Terry Wildrick and Martha Potter, president of the UU Congregation.



Greeting Southampton Town Trustee Ann Welker, center, were Isabel Sepulveda de Scanlon, left, and Glorian Berk, right.

More photos on the next page.



Gathered around a silent auction table were Eva Moore, LWV President Susan Wilson, Dorothy Reilly and new member Olivia Motch.

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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.

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, Shelter Island and the North Fork, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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A Good Time for all

(Continued from page 1)



Leaguers who attended from Shelter Island were Cathy Kenny, Andrea Gabor and Valerie Levenstein.



(left to right) Barbara McClancy, LWV Suffolk County President Lisa Scott, new member Diana Leahy, Judy Samuelson and guest Jackie Leopold survey one of the refreshment tables.



Bob Wilson and Beth Barth, Howard Roth, Bob Riskin and Estelle Gellman.

President's Message



Happy New Year. Our Holiday Party and Silent Auction was a huge success, bringing members, advertisers and prospective members together to socialize for the first time in several years due to Covid19. Thanks to everyone who participated and to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation who provided the lovely setting for the event. We ended the year on a high that carried us into 2023.

Our new year began with the development of a month-by-month mini-Revitalization Plan to address the changing needs of our League and the results of our "What's Working, What's Not Survey" taken in November.

We will meet in person, more often whenever possible, work with diverse groups that share our goals, co-sponsor diverse programs, improve our Social Media presence, provide more interesting in-person Public Information Meetings, more advocacy and increase League membership. This plan is a tall order, to be sure, but with the commitment and talents of our Board of Directors, we are up for the challenge.

Here are some of highlights of that plan for this winter and spring:

January 30: Program Planning Meeting via ZOOM 4 PM

February: Development of a Member Mentor Program

March: A luncheon with a speaker to celebrate Women's History Month (details to come).

April is a big month with three major events:

1. An in-person Public Information Meeting titled "A Salute to Nursing Past and Present" in cooperation with Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and the Rogers Memorial Library. Note: The first part of an essay written by Health Committee chair, Valerie King, starts on page 4 of this issue.
2. Our Membership Drive gets underway.
3. Celebration of Earth Day via Social Media outreach.

May LWVH/SI/NF Annual Meeting

June: LWVNYS Biennial Convention in Albany, LWVH/SI/NF will host a Carbon CREW Caucus at the convention.

If these activities spark your interest and you would like to participate, please leave a message on our League phone **631-324-4637**. Our committees need you—your participation, your ideas and your energy.

Visit our website LWVHSINF.org to see more information about the New York State's push for passage of the New York State Equal Rights Amendment.

Susan Wilson

Mensaje del presidente

Feliz Año Nuevo. Nuestra fiesta navideña y subasta silenciosa fue un gran éxito, reuniendo a miembros, anunciantes y posibles miembros para socializar por primera vez en varios años debido a Covid19. Gracias a todos los que participaron y a la Congregación Unitaria Universalista que proporcionó el hermoso escenario para el evento. Terminamos el año en un máximo que nos llevó a 2023.

Nuestro nuevo año comenzó con el desarrollo de un mini Plan de Revitalización mes a mes para abordar las necesidades cambiantes de nuestra Liga y los resultados de nuestra encuesta "¿Qué está funcionando, qué no?" tomada en noviembre.

Nos reuniremos en persona, más a menudo siempre que sea posible, trabajaremos con diversos grupos que comparten nuestros objetivos, copatrocinaremos diversos programas, mejoraremos nuestra presencia en las redes sociales, proporcionaremos reuniones de información pública en persona más interesantes, más defensa y aumentaremos la membresía de la Liga. Este plan es una tarea difícil, sin duda, pero con el compromiso y el talento de nuestra Junta Directiva, estamos listos para el desafío.

Estos son algunos de los aspectos más destacados de ese plan para este invierno y primavera:

Enero 30: Reunión de planificación del programa a través de ZOOM 45pm

Febrero: Desarrollo de un Programa de Mentores para Miembros

Marzo: A luncheon con un orador para celebrar el Mes de la Historia de la Mujer (detalles por venir).

Abril es un gran mes con tres eventos importantes:

1. Una reunión de información pública en persona titulada "Un saludo a la enfermería pasada y presente" en cooperación con el Hospital Stony Brook Southampton y la Biblioteca Rogers Memorial. Nota: La primera parte de un ensayo escrito por la presidenta del Comité de Salud, Valerie King, comienza en la página 4 de este número.
2. Nuestra campaña de membresía se pone en marcha.
3. Celebración del Día de la Tierra a través de la difusión en las redes sociales.

Mayo: Reunión Anual LWVH/SI/NF

Junio: Convención Bienal de LWVNYS en Albany, LWVH / SI / NF organizará un Caucus de Carbon CREW en la convención.

Si estas actividades despiertan su interés y le gustaría participar, deje un mensaje en nuestro teléfono de la Liga 631-324-4637. Nuestros comités los necesitan: su participación, sus ideas y su energía.

Visite nuestro sitio web LWVHSINF.org para ver más información sobre el impulso del Estado de Nueva York para la aprobación de la Enmienda de Igualdad de Derechos del Estado de Nueva York.

Salute to Nursing Past and Present

Valerie King Ph.D. Chair of the Health Committee, focuses on the role of nurses in American women's long fight to gain voting rights in a two-part article for the Voter. Here we feature Part I; Part II will appear in the February/March issue of The Voter.

The League of Women Voters has a deep history of social reform and public health. This is most clearly represented in the numbers of women who were members or leaders during the suffragists' movement in the mid 1840's. In addition to working for voting rights, these women advocated for a range of women's concerns such as family planning and employment and fair wages, issues which were controversial at the time and continue to be so. The development of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (circa 1900) into The League of Women Voters (circa 1920) is reflected in the multi-dimensional activities of the League over the years to the present day. The current president of the national League, Deborah Turner, holds both medical and legal degrees and has maintained a steady leadership during the challenging time of the global COVID pandemic and recent threats to established laws protecting women's rights. The support of women through awareness of legislation and voting issues are on the agendas of state, regional and local Leagues. One of the major issues confronting all Leagues today is healthcare. What better way to view healthcare, than through the lens of nursing.

Nursing in the past and the suffrage movement

While the English nurse **Florence Nightingale** is famous for her work caring for soldiers during the Crimean War (1854), women around the world have nursed family members in home and in service to others outside of their homes for centuries. These



Florence Nightingale

women at times defied social conventions pursuing education in many fields, including healthcare. To bring the past closer to home, the League of Women Voters New York State (circa 1919) has been the birthplace of many League initiatives, particularly in the area of healthcare and women's rights.

Susan B. Anthony, based in Rochester New York during the mid-1840's, is often credited with spearheading the 19th amendment. Her social re-



Susan B. Anthony

form work and the development of nursing activities dovetailed into training for women to provide nursing inside and outside the home. Susan B. Anthony was the keynote speaker at the 1902 New York State Nurses convention.



Clara Barton

Clara Barton, who resided in Dansville New York, became the founder of the American Red Cross (1881) and developed a close relationship with Susan B. Anthony, joining her friend in

working for women's rights.

Lillian Wald graduated from the New York Hospital Training School of Nursing in 1891, and originated the concept of public health and the provision of nursing in public schools. She opened the Henry Street Settlement on the Lower East Side of New York City (1893) which provided a venue for her



Lillian Wald

visiting nurses. She also founded The Visiting Nurse Service Of New York (1944) which has provided nursing to the poor, immigrants, women and children, to the present day.

Health Committee Report

Lavinia Dock graduated from the Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing in New York in 1886 and became a pioneer in nursing education. In 1893 she served as secretary of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses of the United States and Canada which became the National League for Nursing. That year she formed the Nurses Associated Alumnae, now the American Nurses Association. Lavinia became friends with Lillian Wald and moved to the Henry Street Settlement where she was very active in writing and demonstrating on behalf of suffrage. On June 27th, 1917, Lavinia was arrested along with several of her fellow suffragists, for standing silently



Lavinia Dock

on a public sidewalk with banners and sashes in support of women's right to vote. They spent three days in jail. In 1918, the first year that women had achieved suffrage in New York, **Ida Bunce Sammis**, a suffragist, won her New York State Assembly campaign. Ten of the fourteen bills she introduced were successful, including one equalizing pay for men and women in state hospitals doing the same work. This was important for doctors, nurses and aides at Long Island's large state mental hospitals.



Ida Bunce Sammis

Don't miss Part II in the February/March issue.

Government Committee Report

NYS Assembly District and Suffolk County Legislative District Lines Redrawn

by Arlene Hinkemeyer

After the 2020 census, new Congressional District lines and new NYS Senate District lines were created by the courts in time for the 2022 elections.

Hearings on New NYS Assembly District Lines for 2024

Now the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission is conducting hearings throughout the state on the draft redrawing of all NYS Assembly District lines that they agreed to on December 1. The hearing for Assembly District lines in Suffolk County will take place on Wed. March 1, 5 p.m. at the Suffolk County Community College campus in the Van Nostrad Theatre on Crooked Hill Road in Brentwood. Those interested in speaking must sign up by February 28.

Our Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr., of the 1st A.D., has said that with the redrawing, he would lose Shelter Island and Southold to Jodi Giglio's 2nd Assembly District, while his district would move west to include Mastic and Mastic Beach.

After the conclusion of the hearings, the NYS Legislature is expected to approve the new district lines by the end of April.

New Suffolk County Legislative District Lines for 2023

On September 28, the Suffolk County Reapportionment Commission voted 7-0 on the proposal to redraw the legislature's 18 districts for the 2023 elections. Each district will have a population of about 85,000. The Suffolk County Legislature voted its approval on November 9, and it was signed by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone on November 29.

With this redrawing, our Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, 2nd L.D., loses Shelter Island, which now belongs to Al Krupski's 1st L.D., and also loses part of Westhampton. The loss of territory is because of the rising population in the Hamptons due to COVID, and the need to equalize each legislative district to approximately 85,000 residents.

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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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You can also join or donate on our website LWVHSINF.org

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“League of Women Voters Votes to Let Men Join It” was major news in the May 8th, 1974, edition of the New York Times.

The vote on the hotly debated issue was a reverberating 969 to 433 and announced by the jubilant president Lucy Wilson Benson. “We did it!” she cried. “Welcome, ladies and gentlemen of the league.” She went on to note that “We’re not a feminist group and never have been. We work on issues that affect men, women, and children.

We’re a nonpartisan public interest organization and gender has nothing to do with that.”

Since then, men have been valued members. We just wish we had more of them in LWVHSINF. We invite you guys to join in our efforts to protect democracy and voting rights for all Americans. Fill out the form on the facing page, or join on our website, LWVHSINF.org.



The Voter

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