



THE VOTER

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

Volume XL No. 36

January-March 2024

March 9: League Launches ERA Education Project with Impressive Women’s History Month Program



The organizers of the NYS ERA event, left to right, Barbara Moss, Andrea Gabor and Valerie Levenstein. Photo courtesy Durell Godfrey



Left to R: LWW member and member of the Southampton Town Planning Board, Jacqui Lofaro with event greeters former Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, LWW member Lisa Michne and LTV Executive Director Michael Clark.

by Arlene Hinkemeyer

Recognizing the need to educate voters on the newly broadened NYS Equal Rights Amendment which will appear on the November ballot, producer Barbara Moss with LWW members Andrea Gabor and Valerie Levenstein, worked for months organizing a March 9, 1-5 p.m. program at LTV Studios in Wainscott for Women’s History Month, titling it “The Other November Decision:

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Save the Date

COME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, May 19

East Hampton Library, 159 Main St.
1 p.m. Mingle, refreshments
1:30 p.m. Business Meeting
2:30 p.m. Speaker Steve Long, Exec. Dir.,
East Hampton Historical Society
Followed by complimentary tour of
newly-opened Dominy Shops Museum,
73 North Main St. (across from IGA)

New York State and the Equal Rights Amendment.” The trio garnered large donors to fund the event, invited the panelists and speakers from near and far, created the program, prepared the extensive tech work including relevant and amusing film clips, arranged for music by the HooDoo Loungers, a spoken word performance by Kate Mueth, complimentary wine from Channing Daughters and Suhru Wines, coffee from Hampton Coffee, and food for purchase from Insatiable Eats. The event received widespread publicity in all the local media.

More photos on pages 4-5



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 four times a year: Jan-Mar/ Apr-June; July-September, and October-December by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island, and the North Fork
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Voter Services Report

Did you know that many Presidential elections have been decided by only 50 percent of eligible voters? Or that only 25 percent of possible voters participated in our last local elections?

If encouraging more Americans to become involved in our democracy is one of the reasons you joined the League of Women Voters, you might be interested in learning that your Voter Services Committee is launching a big voter registration drive this spring.

We are reaching out particularly to those groups who have been under-represented in our voting community. These include new citizens, high school students, members of the Latino and African-American communities and the Shinnecock Nation.

To reach new citizens, we have been tabling at the naturalization ceremonies at the Alfonse M. D'Amato United States Courthouse in Central Islip. This is an inspiring event at which new citizens receive their certificates and are sworn in by a judge as their proud families cheer them on. In January and March of this year, we registered 571 new voters, and we will be going back for more.

For high school seniors, we have partnered with another national non-partisan organization, The Civics Center, which provides instructions and a kit (Democracy in a Box) that empowers students to register other students. We have already worked with students at East Hampton and Southampton high schools and will be adding high schools in Bridgehampton, Greenport, Hampton Bays, Sag Harbor and Shelter Island this Spring.

Our work to register members of minority communities is still ramping up, but we plan to have a presence at many outdoor events as the weather gets warmer. We have created new literature, including some in Spanish, for these under-served communities.

The purpose of the Voter Services Committee is to provide information and assistance to voters and would-be voters. Toward that end, we sponsor debates between candidates for Congressional, county, and town offices. We go to community groups to answer questions about propositions we will be launching a Get Out the Vote campaign in the fall.

Wherever there is a voter to register, educate or just help to participate in our democracy, we will be there. Please join us.

Contact Neil Cohen at neilcohen.8@gmail.com or (917) 880-7304.

President's Message

Kudos to the Voter Services team co-chaired by Neil Cohen and Anne Marshall for registering 571 new citizens to vote this year at the Long Island Federal Courthouse in Central Islip.

Congratulations to Producer Barbara Moss, friend of the League and League members, Andrea Gabor, Arlene Hinkemeyer and Valerie Levenstein for organizing and executing the successful, highly visible program titled: The Other November Decision: New York State and the Equal Rights Amendment held on March 9, 2024.

This program educated voters so they can make an informed decision when they go to the polls in November and helped expand our vision of a more inclusive democracy where all Americans, regardless of gender, sex, race, ability, or party affiliation can see themselves represented in our government. To build this vision the League brings an anti-racist social justice lens to the issues of expanding voter access, fighting voter suppression and money in politics; redistricting and safe and fair elections.

In addition to raising awareness, the event brought in new members, raised money, broadened our outreach to a diverse population and re-energized our current membership. If you would like to be involved in future educational efforts, contact Susan Wilson at 631-495-9288.

See more about the event in this issue and watch it on LTV's Youtube channel.

At our Annual January Program Planning Meeting members identified the following priorities to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. When approved these topics will constitute the LWVH/SI/NF "Program" for the 2024-2025 year:

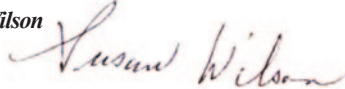
1. Additional ERA Ballot Amendment education meetings
2. Discussion of Richard Haas's "Book of Obligations: Ten Habits of Good Citizens"
3. Continued Carbon Crew Sessions to reduce climate change
4. An Update on Affordable Housing
5. A Public Information Meeting (PIM) to educate citizens about social media & misinformation
6. Projects to educate voters on new Voter laws and voter propositions on the ballot

The "Teens Talk Voting Survey" is an annual project developed by Kathleen Mulcahy and Martha Potter of the Youth Committee. The survey identifies how teens get their news/information, topics that are important to them and reasons why they do or do not vote. The most recent survey reveals that the economy and the environment are their top concerns.

The survey has been praised by many other New York State Leagues and is being used across the state as a tool to connect with our youth. Locally the survey has identified 66 high school students who are interested in joining the League of Women Voters as student members. Hats off to Kathleen, Martha & the Youth Committee!

Following this year's Annual Meeting on May 19, 2024, members will have the opportunity to enjoy a complimentary tour of the newly-opened Dominy Shops Museum in East Hampton conducted by our guest speaker, Steve Long, Executive Director of the East Hampton Historical Society. Hope to see you there. Remember to RSVP for the meeting and tour: 631-324-4637

Susan Wilson



Mensaje del presidente

Felicitaciones al equipo de Servicios al Votante, copresidido por Neil Cohen y Anne Marshall, por registrar a 571 nuevos ciudadanos para votar este año en el Palacio de Justicia Federal de Long Island en Central Islip.

Felicitaciones a la productora Barbara Moss, amiga de la Liga y a los miembros de la Liga, Andrea Gabor, Arlene Hinkemeyer y Valerie Levenstein por organizar y ejecutar el exitoso y altamente visible programa titulado: La otra decisión de noviembre: el estado de Nueva York y la Enmienda de Igualdad de Derechos celebrada el 9 de marzo de 2024.

Este programa educó a los votantes para que puedan tomar una decisión informada cuando vayan a las urnas en noviembre y ayudó a expandir nuestra visión de una democracia más inclusiva en la que todos los estadounidenses, independientemente de su género, sexo, raza, capacidad o afiliación partidista, puedan verse representados en nuestro gobierno. Para construir esta visión, la Liga aporta una lente antirracista de justicia social a los temas de la expansión del acceso de los votantes, la lucha contra la supresión de votantes y el dinero en la política; la redistribución de distritos y elecciones seguras y justas.

Además de crear conciencia, el evento atrajo a nuevos miembros, recaudó dinero, amplió nuestro alcance a una población diversa y revitalizó nuestra membresía actual. Si desea participar en futuros esfuerzos educativos, comuníquese con Susan Wilson al 631-495-9288.

Vea más sobre el evento en este número y mírelo en el canal de Youtube de LTV.

En nuestra Reunión Anual de Planificación del Programa de enero, los miembros identificaron las siguientes prioridades para ser votadas en la Reunión Anual. Una vez aprobados, estos temas constituirán el "Programa" LWVH/SI/NF para el año 2024-2025:

1. Reuniones educativas adicionales sobre la Enmienda de la Boleta Electoral de la ERA
2. Discusión del "Libro de Obligaciones: Diez Hábitos de Buenos Ciudadanos" de Richard Haas
3. Sesiones continuas de la tripulación de carbono para reducir el cambio climático
4. Una actualización sobre la vivienda asequible
5. Una Reunión de Información Pública (PIM, por sus siglas en inglés) para educar a los ciudadanos sobre las redes sociales y la desinformación
6. Proyectos para educar a los votantes sobre las nuevas leyes electorales y las propuestas de los votantes en la boleta electoral

La "Encuesta de Votación de Teens Talk" es un proyecto anual desarrollado por Kathleen Mulcahy y Martha Potter del Comité de la Juventud. La encuesta identifica cómo los adolescentes obtienen sus noticias/información, los temas que son importantes para ellos y las razones por las que votan o no. La encuesta más reciente revela que la economía y el medio ambiente son sus principales preocupaciones.

La encuesta ha sido elogiada por muchas otras ligas del estado de Nueva York y se está utilizando en todo el estado como una herramienta para conectarse con nuestros jóvenes. A nivel local, la encuesta ha identificado a 66 estudiantes de secundaria que están interesados en unirse a la Liga de Mujeres Votantes como miembros estudiantiles. ¡Me quito el sombrero ante Kathleen, Martha y el Comité Juvenil!

Después de la Reunión Anual de este año el 19 de mayo de 2024, los miembros tendrán la oportunidad de disfrutar de un recorrido gratuito por el recién inaugurado Museo Dominy Shops en East Hampton dirigido por nuestro orador invitado, Steve Long, Director Ejecutivo de la Sociedad Histórica de East Hampton. Espero verte allí. Recuerde confirmar su asistencia para la reunión y el recorrido: 631-324-4637

(Continued from page 1)

ERA Education Project

Photos by Arlene Hinkemeyer



LWV volunteers distributed membership forms outside the auditorium. Left to right: Member Mary O'Brien, member and former Sag Harbor mayor Kathleen Mulcahy, with Bill Packer, a longtime Leaguer, wearing his 40 year-old + ERA t-shirt.



The Hoodoo Loungers were a hit during the intermission.

The League thanks LTV and all organizers, volunteers, and attendees for the admirable work on the project.

On March 21, the NYS League launched its own Equal Rights Coalition Kick-off. Stay tuned for more news.

Watch the entire ERA event now available on LTV's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LTVEastHampton>



At the podium: Emcee LWV Vice-President Lois Morris; LWV President Susan Wilson welcoming the attendees; Minerva Perez, Executive Director of the Latino-focused advocacy organization OLA of Eastern Long Island speaking of the organizations' 22-year mission.



LWV Board member Andrea Gabor (at right), Bloomberg Professor of Business Journalism at Baruch College/CUNY, expertly moderated two panel discussions with panelists (left to right) retired NYS Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, ERASE Racism of Long Island President Laura Harding, Esq., and South Carolina State Senator Margie Bright Matthews. Here the panel discussed the new ERA; the latter covered the future of abortion



Founder /Artistic Director of the Neo-Political Cowgirls, Kate Mueth, delivered a speech that provided a powerful climax to the program.

January Events

January 11 Winter Solstice Celebration at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Thanks to Susan Wilson for her homemade appetizers



Five new LWV members from East Hampton: Evelyn Wolff, Lisa Michne, Diane Saatchi, Alicia Sullivan, Wendy Serkin.



The men of the League: Bob Wilson, Mark Potter, Howard Roth, Bob Marshall

January 29 Leaguers Suggest Program Priorities for 2024

Nineteen League members attended a Program Planning meeting and luncheon at Bridgehampton's Hampton Library. All the suggestions will be discussed at the League's Annual Meeting on May 19.



See President's Message on page 3 for details.



LWV members who traveled from Shelter Island: Lois Morris, Andrea Gabor, Valerie Levenstein.

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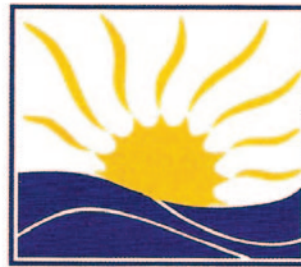


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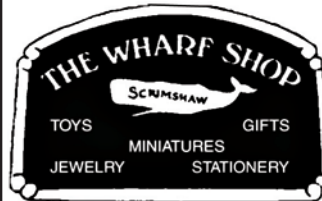
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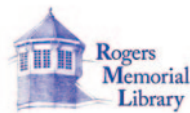
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Dues Year is June 1 through May 31.

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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The Voter

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