

November/December 2006

LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF EVANSTON

THE INTERCOM

LWVE members will be at the book stores wrapping holiday gifts

League members are encouraged once again to donate their time and gift wrapping expertise this holiday season as a way to support the League. LWVE will be at Borders December 17, and at Barnes and Noble Nov. 24 and December 19. We will wrap people's purchases; customers in turn make a donation to LWVE. Valerie Krejcie will organize the volunteers. If you can help, contact Valerie. 847-677-1881 v_krejcie@yahoo.com

On the Calendar

LWVE Board Meeting
Thurs., Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
King Home, 1555 Oak Ave.
All members welcome.

LWW-N-K and Glencoe
Nov. 13 breakfast with county commissioners—See page 5.

Nov. 14, LWVE Program
7-8:30 p.m., at the YWCA
Note article on this page.

LWVE Board Meeting
Thurs., Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
King Home, 1555 Oak Ave.
All members welcome.

December 5, LWVE Luncheon
11:30 a.m., at the Celtic Knot
Note article on this page.

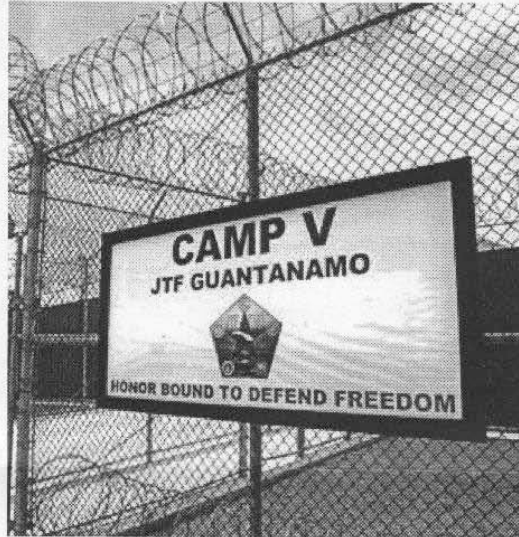
LWVE Board Meeting
Thurs., Jan. 11, 2007, 7 p.m.
King Home, 1555 Oak Ave.
All members welcome.

April 13, 2007—Please save the Date!
Linda Greenhouse dinner and fundraiser

Guantanamo will be the focus of December luncheon

Members and guests attending the December 5 LWVE luncheon will be privileged to hear two speakers with extraordinary knowledge of the issues connected to the detention facility at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "Guantanamo:

Outside the detention facility at Guantanamo, the U.S. naval base on the island of Cuba: Speakers at the December League luncheon will put a human face on the alleged enemy combatants housed at Gitmo.



Who Will They Come for Next?" will feature Gary Isaac, an attorney with Mayer Brown Rowe and Maw, and co-author of an *amicus* brief to the Supreme Court in *Rasul v. Bush* on behalf of retired U.S. military officers. Since 2003, Mr. Isaac has been actively involved in litigation challenging the U.S. Government's detention of alleged enemy combatants at Guantanamo and elsewhere. Joining Mr. Isaac will be Joe Margulies, an attorney and professor with the MacArthur Justice Center and at Northwestern Law School, who has represented detainees held at Guantanamo. Mr. Margulies is the author of *Guantanamo and the Abuse of Presidential Power*.

Please join us for the December 5 luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Celtic Knot, 636 Church Street, Evanston. RSVP to **Muriel Goodfriend** at 847-570-7852 by December 1. If you leave a message, please speak slowly. At the restaurant please pay \$15 (if by check, to LWVE).

What happened on election day 2006?

LWVE is hosting a post election assessment at the YWCA Evanston/Northshore, 1215 Church Street, Evanston on Tuesday, November 14, 7-8:30 p.m. Kenneth Janda, the Payson S. Wild Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Northwestern, will offer comments on the outcome of the previous week's elections. Prof. Janda has taught and done research on American Government, comparative political parties and computer methods over the years. He has received numerous honors for his academic endeavors and enjoys various academic appointments. Prof. Janda's insight on the Nov. 7 election should be of particular interest. Please join us and expect a lively and informative meeting on the election outcome. RSVP to **Muriel Goodfriend** (847-570-7852) by November 13. If you leave a message, please speak slowly.

President's Letter

Thanksgiving time always reminds me of how much I have to be thankful for: a loving family; wonderful friends and colleagues; decent health; a comfortable home; confidence that there will be enough food on the table into the foreseeable future; meaningful work and the freedom to do it the way I think it should be done; and relative safety everywhere I go.

But every year that thought leads to a second thought: that the vast majority of the Earth's population is hungry, has no safe and comfortable home, does not have freedom, does not have any medical care. One out of six human beings in the world lives in "extreme poverty," the kind of poverty that keeps entire peoples at the edge of starvation, pushing millions over that edge every year. And that figure doesn't take into account the magnificent non-human animals who suffer and die.

That is terrible news. But there's a "however."

The quantum physicists seem to have proven that every single thing we do—every thought, emotion, and action—has an impact on the *real* world-wide web: the web of all life in the universe. This is awesomely good news, news that validates hope on a grand scale. This means that, by every thought, every word, every action, we have the ability to make life better for everyone.

At this holiday time, especially, it is fitting for us to make a commitment to act on what we *can* all do. We can focus on the emotions and thoughts of love—honesty, empathy, compassion, generosity, fairness, service, hope, and peace, to name a few – and put them into action to the best of our current abilities. We can't all donate millions of dollars, and we can't all donate tens or hundreds or thousands of hours. But we *can* all emanate love in its myriad of forms. And, according to the latest scientific research, that's no small potatoes.

May the coming holidays and the new year bring you true happiness, from within and from without.

Karen



LWV Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
847-866-7844
lwvevanston@att.net
www.lwve.org

OFFICERS

President: **Karen Telser**
847-866-8466
Vice President: **Karen Hunt**
847-733-7400
Vice President: **Janet Kittlaus**
847-864-7849
Vice President: **Cate Whitcomb**
847-869-6920
Treasurer: **Virginia Rosenberg**
847-869-9214
Secretary: **Fayrene Muhammad**
847-328-5390

DIRECTORS

Membership: **Kathy Tate-Bradish**
Observers: **Betty Papangelis**
Voter Service: **Judy Hoffman**
Intercom Editor: **Sonia Evenstad**
Local Program: **Toni Gilpin**
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Helen Heyrman

THE INTERCOM

November/December 2006
Vol. 85, No. 3

The *Intercom* is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Evanston. Ten issues are published each year.

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

About the Referendum

Dear LWVE Members,
We need your help in getting the word out to vote YES on the referendum in November!

In August, the Evanston City Council placed a binding referendum on the November 7 ballot, which, if passed, will provide funds for Affordable Housing. Monies will come from an increase in the real estate transfer tax—the tax paid by anyone who sells a residence in Evanston. The increase will be \$1 per \$1000 of the selling price.

As you probably know, the League has for decades been in strong support of affordable housing in Evanston. We are working with a group called Citizens for the Housing Referendum to get this referendum passed. The Citizens group is preparing a media campaign that will include disseminating a fact sheet; placing ads in the Evanston Review and Evanston RoundTable; distributing lawn signs; and conducting targeted outreach.

Please consider doing any or all of the following:

- Distributing flyers and yard signs.
- Adding your name to the supporters list, which will appear in the ads mentioned above.
- Displaying a yard sign.

If you are able and willing to distribute flyers/yard signs, add your name to the list of supporters, and/or display a yard sign, please contact me (Nancy Bashook) at nbashook@comcast.net or 847-733-1750.

Thank you for any help you can lend to this effort.

Nancy Bashook

LWVE Referendum Contact Person

LWVE Members: highlight the date April 13, 2007

New York Times Supreme Court correspondent Linda Greenhouse will headline the League's fund-raising dinner April 13, 2007. If you're a faithful *Intercom* reader, you already know that. But do you have friends, co-workers, neighbors or colleagues who would like to hear this distinguished journalist, too? We want their names!

A large committee is currently working on plans for the dinner, which will benefit the LWVE Education Fund. The key to financial success of the dinner is turnout. So we need help from every member to draw enough attendees. Please think of individuals you know who are not in the League but who would be interested in hearing such a well-known speaker. Then, send their names AND ADDRESSES to **Mary Ann Weston** at m-a-weston@northwestern.edu or call **Mike Weston** at 847-328-1387. We'll invite them.

If you have corporate contacts who might be interested in purchasing a table or making a contribution to the fundraiser, please pass on their names to Mary Ann for us to contact. Of course, League members will be invited, too. And we hope you'll bring guests.

Here are the details: The dinner will be Friday, April 13, 2007 at the Orrington Hotel with a cash bar cocktail hour before. Tickets will be \$100, or \$150 for patrons. Invitations will go out in mid-February.

With the current interest in the new Supreme Court, Greenhouse's insightful reporting is of special interest. She has written stories on the new Chief Justice and on several significant cases to come before the Court in this fall term. You can check these out by using Google to access *Linda Greenhouse, New York Times Supreme Court Correspondent*. You will also find some interactive material such as Greenhouse narrating a segment on the papers of former Justice Harry Blackmun, the subject of her book *Becoming Justice Blackmun*, and discussing the case of *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*.

Candidates prepare for the League Forum

Illinois LWV President Paula Lawson (at right), moderator of the 9th Congressional District Forum; Jan Schakowsky (at left), the incumbent Democrat; and Republican challenger Michael P. Shannon take advantage of the last few minutes before the candidates' debate begins. Co-sponsoring this forum with LWVE were the Leagues of Chicago, Glenview, Park Ridge and Wilmette. The forum was held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston.

News from the Observer Corps

Members of the observer corps are Nancy Bashook, Sue Brady, Sue Brenner, Sue Calder, Karen Hunt, Jan Otwell, Judy Rosenthal and Ruth Singer. Betty Papangelis is chair. Call her at 847-864-9353 if you would like to join.

Nov. 7 Affordable Housing Referendum: The League of Women Voters of Evanston has sent a letter to the *Evanston Review* and the *RoundTable*, urging a YES vote on the referendum on the November 7 ballot. (The full letter can be found on LWVE's Website, www.LWVE.com). If approved, the referendum will provide a steady source of income for an affordable housing fund with the money to come from a \$1 increase in the Real Estate Transfer Tax paid by the seller of a home in Evanston. The tax, now \$5 per thousand, would increase to \$6. The League is also participating in the distribution of flyers and the collection of names to be included in an ad in the *Evanston Review* and the *RoundTable* supporting the referendum.

Inclusionary Housing Ordinance: The Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, introduced September 26 into the City Council after three years of committee and commission discussion, was returned to committee. The Planning and Development (P&D) committee, at its October 9 meeting, heard concerns raised by City Attorney Herb Hill about the constitutionality of the ordinance in its present form. The concerns surrounded the provision of certain benefits for the developer in return for setting aside some units for lower and moderate income buyers planned in developments of a certain size. He based his concerns on a constitutional challenge to a similar proposal by the city of Napa, CA. The City wanted an opportunity to make sure Evanston's ordinance could overcome a similar challenge. The reworked ordinance is scheduled for consideration by P&D at its October 23 meeting. *(The Planning and Development Committee, which has been meeting in the City Council chambers before the Council meeting itself, has moved down the hall to a smaller room. The configuration there makes it more difficult for the citizens to see and hear, which was a concern expressed to the Council by the League earlier.)*

Bzzz . . . bees . . . bzzz: Evanstonians have shown their concern about whether to somehow regulate the keeping of beehives on private property in Evanston. The Human Services Committee wrestled with this issue over several months, finally bringing a proposed ordinance to the City Council. During the citizen comment period at the September 26 City Council meeting, when the ordinance was to be introduced, approximately 25 citizens spoke. Aldermen

eventually voted to introduce the ordinance which effectively banned beekeeping by private citizens on all but the largest lots. Subsequently, at the October 9 meeting, the Council approved a substitute ordinance which was less restrictive, requiring that beekeepers be licensed by the City with a list of requirements for beekeeping.

Administration and Public Works (A&PW) Addresses

Lakefront Planning: At its October 9 meeting, A&PW had considerable discussion over the approval of professional services for Framework Visioning Services for the Lakefront Master Planning Project. This is a project to elicit ideas from a variety of constituents about goals to be used in a master plan for the Lakefront. Aldermen were concerned that the project plans ended at Lee Street, rather than going all the way south to the City limits. Staff therefore agreed to include the entire Evanston lakefront minus the Lighthouse Beach area. *(League concerns continue about citizen difficulty hearing, even though aldermen are miked, and seeing exhibits shown to the aldermen. A&PW meets in an even smaller room than P&D, and its agenda is generally shorter and taken care of in less time than P&D).*

Jack is Vested: Jack, the City's newly trained police dog, was outfitted with a bullet- and knife-resistant vest at a ceremony in the lobby of the Ford Engineering Design Center on Northwestern's campus. Funding was provided by a statewide group called Vest-A-Dog, with additional funds from NU and private citizens. Jack, along with his handler Ted Scheinbein, is on duty in Evanston and will be available for duty on NU's campus under a cooperative arrangement.

Welcome, New Members

Sylvia Alvino
2252 Sherman Ave. Apt. 1
Evanston, IL 60201
847-328-7516
syalvino@yahoo.com

Linda Forman
9241 Drake
Evanston, IL 60203
847-677-5459

Elizabeth Hayford
1401 Lake St.
Evanston, IL 60201
847-491-1997
chayford@gmail.com

Meet your LWVE Board



Muriel Goodfriend first became involved in the LWV when she was living in Chicago. There she observed the Metropolitan Sanitary District and once conducted a meeting during a bomb scare. You speak to Muriel when you make reservations for LWVE programs



Judy Hoffman coordinated a September 11, 2004 voter registration drive with LWV as public relations director for the North Suburban Library System. When she joined LWVE she moved directly to Voter Service chair and now coordinates all events related to the election process.



Karen Hunt first heard about the League from a friend. She joined after 9/11 feeling the tragedy was a wake-up call for citizens. Karen is a LWVE vice president, a member of the Observer Corps and an observer of the Cook County board. She now is responsible for much of LWVE's programming.



Virginia Rosenberg, LWVE's treasurer, had observed LWV in action for years, but it took an invitation to bring her into the fold. The Rosenbergs are NU grads. They left Appleton and returned to live in Evanston when her husband retired and took what turned out to be a series of part-time teaching positions at Northwestern.



Cate Whitcomb is a LWVE vice president, Webmaster for our Web site and is helping with the 2007 Linda Greenhouse community dinner. Cate learned to be an American at a distance, dhaving grown up in India. She thus has a unique perspective on the importance of citizenship.

September 21, 2007 — A Time to Celebrate!



LWVE Award Recipients Cheryl Wollin (left) and Janet Kittlaus

The agenda for the September 21 LWVE meeting at Sue Calder's home was clear. It was all about the 2006 LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis. But there was one special added item. A surprise. LWVE rewarded **Cheryl Wollin** and **Janet Kittlaus** with gifts in recognition of their successful three-year campaign to bring the LWVUS to concurrence in supporting abolition of the death penalty. Well done, Cheryl and Janet!

Come to breakfast with your County Commissioners

The Cook County Board—it's always a hot topic. Considering the intervening November 7 election and the political lead up to it, November 13 will be a great opportunity to hear the views of Cook County Commissioners Gregg Goslin (District 14) and Larry Suffredin (District 13) about the election outcome and the vexing issues that continue to plague the county.

Breakfast will be Monday, November 13, 9:15 a.m., in the Community Room at the Winnetka Park District, 540 Hibbard Rd., Winnetka. To reserve a place at the table for this event—What Do You Know About Cook County Government?—contact Nancy Marcus 847-446-3546 or ngmarcus@aol.com.

Expect to hear about how inappropriate hiring and contracting practices undermine the effective operation of government, how tax money is spent, citizen concerns about the circuit courts, the forest preserves, mosquito abatement, two major hospitals and more.

Bring your questions, your friends, and boost your knowledge of the second largest county in the United States.

January Program: Immigration

LWVE will be hosting a panel discussion on "Immigration: Historical Perspective and Current Realities" in January. Stay tuned for details on this important topic.