



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

BULLETIN

JAN/FEB 2011

OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity.

This means:

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.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Saratoga County.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

"A DAY OF DOING"

Mon. JANUARY 17, 2011
SS PUBLIC LIBRARY
9AM TO 5PM
Community Room
More on page 3

PROGRAM PLANNING

Thursday, January 27th SS Public Library
Community room 6pm; potluck 7pm; program

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The input we all give allows us to remain a grassroots organization.

More on page 5



COME MEET THEODORE ROOSEVELT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
AT THE
GIDEON PUTNAM
9AM TO NOON

More on page 7

**League of Women Voters
of Saratoga County (NY-639)**

Official address: LWV of Saratoga County
PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
www.lwvsaratoga.org

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All phone numbers in 518 area code, unless noted

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TAKE ME TO VOTE!

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From the President ~

I'm distracted. As all of you who have email, and those of you who are well connected to the gossip network, are aware - my husband Bob (also a LWV member) has a particularly aggressive type of brain cancer. So this means that there are times that I really can't think about the needs of the League – or if I think about them I don't have the time or energy to

do the organizing work required. **Luckily we have good vice presidents, good board members, and good off-board members who are all pitching in to keep this League moving forward. Please help them whenever you can.**

It has taken a while to get the system operational since the board decided to use Mail Chimp as a way of communicating to you via email. This is a system that allows our LWV to send out nicely formatted messages, that you will instantly recognize as coming from our LWV, to all of our members and to lists of people who are “friends of the League.” Up till now I was the only one whose computer had the League email lists, so I had to be at my home computer to send a message to all of you. Mail Chimp will make it possible for authorized board members to send messages, and it makes it independent of me. Chris Alexander put in a lot of work transferring the data from my address book to the system and Beth Della Rocco has been instrumental in the set-up, as well. **Expect the first message from Mail Chimp in January – but remember the whole system depends on us having your correct email. Be sure to notify Janice Burns of any changes.**

Working on the invitations for our Famous Person Fundraiser, **Meet Teddy Roosevelt**, I've already learned a lot about the man who was a NY Governor, an amazing Conservationist, the originator of the Square Deal; a big game hunter; a Trustbuster: the Sheriff of Medora, ND; a US President; a rancher; the founder of the US Forest Service; a man with a big stick.

I hope you'll decide to join me as we **Meet Teddy Roosevelt (portrayed by Paul Stillman) at the Gideon Putnam on February 12th.** Use the reservation form on page 7, or the return envelope and card in the invitation just mailed. The breakfast is always good, the setting spectacular, the performance will be fun and enlightening, and the cause we are raising funds for (our League's educational activities) is important.

Barb

Welcome New Members

Frank & Nancy Tetz

Martin Luther King Day Events
February 17, at the SS Library
9am to 5pm(call to volunteer)

"A Day of Doing" a Saratoga community celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday January 17th, 2011. This year's celebration will emphasize one of Dr. King's many groundbreaking achievements: his War on Poverty and advocacy for all of America's have-nots, regardless of race. Help honor Dr. King's life and legacy by participating in the National Day of Community Service.

There are ways to participate for people of all ages.

9:00 to 10:00 am Volunteer for the Morning:

Signup in the Saratoga Springs Public Library (SSPL) Community Room to volunteer for a few hours in the morning with the Franklin Community Center, EOC, Saratoga Shelters, and other local charities. Beverages and light refreshments offered by the League of Women Voters, Temple Sinai, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee.

2pm to 2:45 pm Activities especially for Families with Children. Visit the SSPL Children's Room for stories and crafts in celebration of the day.

2:30 pm to 3pm Information Session on Volunteering: Gather in the SSPL community room to visit information tables presented by selected local agencies. Learn about their services and ways you can help out as a volunteer.

3pm to 4pm Celebrate Dr. King's Life and Legacy: Join together in the SSPL Community Room for music, film and discussion with special guests Mayor Scott Johnson, Joanne Yepsen, Bishop Arnold Byrd, Kendall Jeter and storyteller Joe Bruchac. Arranged by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee.

3pm to 4pm Teen Session on Bullying Prevention
Teens are invited to join a discussion about a non-violent response to bullying based on Dr. King's philosophy. The discussion will be led by a member of the MLK, Jr. Day Committee with the assistance of the Teen Services Librarian. The group will meet in the Sussman Room at the same time as the celebration in the Community Room.

This day of celebration was planned by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee, which includes the LWV and the Saratoga Springs Public Library. For more information contact Jim Fulmer at: 859-5873 or jfulmer1@nycap.rr.com

Thanks to our Contributors

To LWVSC

Jane Bouchard

Janice Burns

David Carr

Helen and Bill Crawshaw

Florence Harshe

Selma & Gill Harwood

Barbara Murphy

Anne Palamountain

Pat & Joe Peck

Patricia Reed

A.C. & John Riley

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Susan Burton

Betty Gallagher

Charlotte Justin

Ann Kril

Sherryl Moore

Patricia Nugent

Anne Palamountain

David and Helen Porter

Marian Potter

Jean Richards

David Wasser, MD

Thank You

Celebrating 90 years of women's suffrage!

Last November 12th, we gathered at Saratoga Springs City Hall to pay homage to Elizabeth Cady Stanton on her birthday. Her great, great, great, granddaughter Coline Jenkins, read the *Declaration of Sentiments*. Shirley Anthony Carman and Beverley Marx, first cousins four times removed, of Susan B. Anthony, read Anthony's 19th Amendment. Barb Thomas led a champagne toast to our foremothers.



Above: Coline Jenkins, speaking, Shirley Anthony Carman, Beverley Marx, and Pat Nugent.



Left L to R back row:: Barbara Murphy, Diane Whitburn, Coline Jenkins, Ann Kril, Margot Ammon, Kathren Chansky, Front row: Pat Nugent, Selma Harwood, Mary Lou Classen, Barbara Thomas, Shirley Anthony Carman, and Beverley Marx. The sign was used at our City Hall by Susan B. Anthony.

TAKE ME TO VOTE! 2010- Saratoga County Fifth Graders Connect to Democracy in Action

Submitted by Mary Ratzler

As the kids went back to school this September, the Saratoga County League of Women Voters launched TAKE ME TO VOTE! 2010, to engage regional fifth graders in the real world of citizenship, democracy, and civic rights and responsibilities. Clearly aligned with the New York State grade 5 Social Studies Core Curriculum, TAKE ME TO VOTE! targets the fifth graders of the county and their teachers, motivating the learners to accompany their parents to the polls on Election Day, November 2, 2010.

Mary Ratzler, member of the county LWV board, and retired school librarian, reached out to the Washington Saratoga Warren Hamilton Essex BOCES School Library System, and its Director Paige Jaeger, to seek the involvement of the county's School Library Media Specialists. With a librarian in each school serving as a contact person and resource disseminator, over 2,500 students and almost 70 teachers received an almost personal invitation to participate in TAKE ME TO VOTE!.

Response to TAKE ME TO VOTE! was significant, with **1,440 students** going to the polls and receiving their League TAKE ME TO VOTE! Again button. **Sixty-one county grade five teachers** in 17 schools participated, which is approximately 70% of the county's teachers.

County Schools with the highest level of overall participation and classrooms with the highest percentage of participation will receive plaques from the Saratoga County League of Women Voters. Three classrooms in the county will receive a visit from their Assemblyman to recognize their top participation in TAKE ME TO VOTE!. This is scheduled for mid-January, with Assemblyman James Tedisco visiting Mr. Hanson's class in Stevens Elementary in the Burnt Hills Ballston Lake District, Assemblyman Robert Reilly visiting Mrs. Austin's and Mrs. Avenarius' classes in Skano Elementary in the Shenendehowa District, and Orenda Elementary with had 100% of the grade 5 classes participating enthusiastically. Assemblyman Tony Jordon will visit Dorothy Nolan Elementary in the Saratoga Springs School District to recognize that building's comparable level of classroom participation⁶

Students who went to the polls with their parents

Continued on page 6

PROGRAM PLANNING—Your ideas are needed

Every two years local Leagues participate in the LWVNYS Program Planning process by reviewing existing positions and making recommendations for the future – *the input we all give allows us to remain a grassroots organization.*

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. **Program**, a three-part process that is a core component of the League’s mission, is composed of program planning, study/consensus, and advocacy.

Our NYS positions are published in the **LWVNYS Impact on Issues** found on the LWVNYS home page under Advocacy Areas or at: <http://lwvny.org/advocacy/impact/impact.html> This is a lengthy document since it also contains the history of our positions, but one can also find a summary of our positions in the *Positions in Brief* section of the document, which will also be available at the meeting.

LWVNYS asks our League to answer the following questions:

1. Does your League wish to retain the current program as it is?
2. Does your League wish to update any item(s) in the current program?
3. Does your League wish to drop any item(s) in the current program?
4. Does your League wish to propose a new program item for study?

The LWVNYS board will use the responses from all the local Leagues across NYS to make recommendations to be considered at Convention. Delegates attending the LWVNYS Convention on May 20-22 will have the final say by voting to “adopt the program” which includes approving a new study and making changes to existing positions.

Attend our January 27th Program Planning event at the SS Public Library Community Room.

Note: We will also discuss program planning for our LWV for the 2011—2012 League year. Think about issues you are interested in.

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

HOLIDAY INN

**232 Broadway
Saratoga Springs
9 am to Noon**

Enjoy breakfast at the Holiday Inn at a table with your Legislators to talk over the issues you are concerned about. Don’t miss this opportunity to get face-to-face with those good folks who represent you. Tell them how you love them, or ask them what happened to their campaign promises.

Questions, or no, the breakfast is always really terrific and it’s a great occasion to schmooze with your League colleagues.

We’ll be inviting State Senators Farley and McDonald and Assemblymembers Tony Jordan, Bob Reilly, Jim Tedisco, and Teresa Sayward.

Remember— democracy is not a spectator sport!

Our thanks to Patty Garrett for organizing this event.

The Legislative Breakfast is March 12

RESERVE BY FEBRUARY 28th

Name(s) _____

Phone/E-mail _____

My Assemblymember is: _____

_____ Member(s): @\$20. each =\$ _____

_____ Nonmembers: @\$25. each= \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

LWV of Saratoga County

Mail to: Diane Whitburn

11 North Hill Dr., Ballston Lake, NY 12019

Questions? Call Patty Garrett 518-584-4271

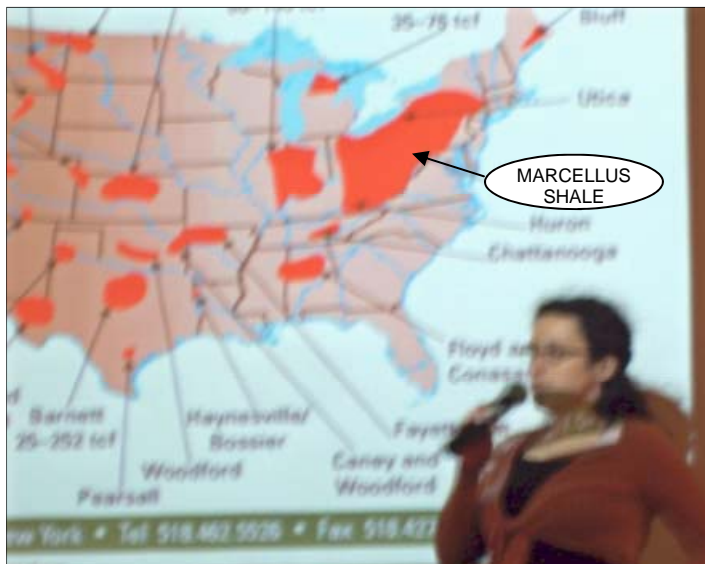
UPDATE ON HYDROFRACKING

By Margie Van Meter

After our November 17th discussion of hydrofracking (hydraulic fracturing) during which Katherine Nadeau explained the concerns of Environmental Advocates of New York about the possible water pollution from the hydrofracking process, the League officers asked if a member would write a letter to local newspapers on the issue. The goal was to press for legislation awaiting Assembly passage to delay any hydrofracking activity until the environmental concerns could be addressed by studies currently underway at the U S Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Environmental Conservation. Legislation had passed the NYS Senate initiating a six month moratorium. Although I missed the meeting, I volunteered to write the papers and with considerable help from Pat Nugent my letter went out.

Published in the Post Star and the Saratogian, it asked the public to call on Speaker Sheldon Silver to pass legislation to initiate a 6 month moratorium on horizontal drilling and hydrofracking. On Dec. 1, 2010 The Assembly passed the bill initiating a moratorium and since the bill had already been passed by the Senate it was sent to the Governor.

Governor Paterson vetoed the bill on December 12, 2010, because he said the bill would have applied to vertical wells currently safely operating in New York. There are currently at least 300 oil producing companies and 5,000 people employed in the field. However, he issued an executive order which will delay the use of the horizontal hydraulic fractur-



KATHERINE NADEAU, Water & Natural Resources Program Director Environmental Advocates of New York, showed a map of the natural gas resources throughout the US. (dark areas) Note the area that runs from NY, PA, OH is the Marcellus Shale.

ing method until July 1, longer than the May 15 deadline in the legislation, and **importantly** requires DEC to release its new draft plan for public comment before final adoption. Incoming Governor Cuomo will be urged to let the Paterson executive order stand.

Now advocates have concerns that the executive order may have a loop hole which will allow vertical wells to contaminate water tables. Our League has acted on this issue based on a National League resolution supporting safe drilling of energy resources. It will behoove us to follow this story and seek further information once the studies come out or concerns about vertical drilling materialize.

TMTV! continued from page 4

received a sticker from the Board of Elections poll workers on their TAKE ME TO VOTE! Certificate as proof of "voting." The Board of Elections accommodated the program and again this year supported League efforts to educate young citizens in the democratic process.

In some schools that librarian contact or a lead teacher spearheaded the entire initiative, garnering stellar student participation. Examples of these local leaders include Rebecca Manore from Shenendehowa's Orenda Elementary, Mrs. DiBari from Shenendehowa's Karigon Elementary, Mrs. Chynoweth from Joseph Henry Elementary in Gal-

way, Mrs. Schwartz in Schuylerville Elementary, and Andrea Williams in Ballston's Wood Road Elementary. Each of these TAKE ME TO VOTE! advocates received a special letter of recognition from the Our county League responded to a request from a sister League in Warren County, and assisted them in launching TAKE ME TO VOTE!, with added help from the Warren County school librarians.

TAKE ME TO VOTE!
is made possible by contributions from
Stewart's Shops and State Farm Insurance.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT

COME MEET THEODORE ROOSEVELT

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 12TH
AT THE
GIDEON PUTNAM
9AM TO NOON**



PAUL STILLMAN

Enjoy a Gideon Putnam BREAKFAST BUFFET and an outstanding portrayal of Theodore Roosevelt by PAUL STILLMAN . You'll be surprised how ahead of his time he was. 130 years ago, *in 1880, he wrote...* ***"I think there can be no question that women should have equal rights with men"***

This event is our annual famous person fundraiser. We are looking forward to seeing you there to help us fund our many educational programs, such as:

- LeaderSpark
- Candidate Forums

- First Vote
- College Student Registration Info
- Online Voters Guides
- Print Voters Guides
- TAKE ME TO VOTE!
- Public Education meetings
- Info on Public Policy Topics
- Voters Registration

Watch the mail for your invitation and send in your reservations as soon as you can. You can use the coupon below to reserve or use the card with your invitation. We need to hear from you no later than February 2nd.

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO MEET TEDDY ROOSEVELT

- o \$25 ROUGHRIDER (STUDENT)
- o \$50 CONSERVATIONIST
- o \$95 for 2 CONSERVATIONISTS
- o \$75 or more SQUARE DEALER

o I CANNOT ATTEND, but I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE \$_____

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (daytime) _____ E-MAIL _____

Make check payable to LWVNYSEF

Tax deductible except for \$25 fair value of the event/pp attending. Receipts will be provided at the door.

Please return by FEBRUARY 2nd to:

Diane Whitburn, 11 N. Hill Dr., Ballston Lake, NY 12019

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

COMING EVENTS

January 17 – Monday- Day Long Celebration of the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr. - see front page and page 3 for details and ways to participate.

January 27 – Thursday – Program Planning for LWVNYS and our Local LWV-SSPL, potluck at 6, program at 7 – see front page and p.5 for more info

February 12 – Saturday – Meet Teddy Roosevelt –Gideon Putnam 9am Breakfast Buffet, followed by performance, (fee) RSVP by Feb 2 – flyer & coupon on page 7

March 12 – Saturday – Breakfast with Your Legislators – 9am, Holiday Inn, SS - \$20 members, \$25 non-members. See page 5



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1029 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Jan/Feb 2011

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NOTICE!

The nominating committee is looking for officers and board members for next year. Self nominations are very welcome. Call Janice Burns at 587-3436 with any suggestions.

GET INVOLVED ! GIVE 2 HOURS A MONTH TO THE OBSERVER CORP Contact Denny Finneran at 583-1478

JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- YES!** I Would like to join the League.
- \$50. Individual \$75 Family
- \$20 Student
- Please send more information
- I would like to contribute\$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PREFERRED PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Make your check to: LWV of Saratoga County Mail to: Membership, LWVSC P.O. Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



Photo: Courtesy Ed Burke/Saratogian

Angelina, 10, learns about the ballot and the voting process from her father, John Boyd. She is a 5th grader at Gavin Elementary.