

Winter 2010

Voter Highlights

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley



Mission

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

"The League put on a most informative series of programs on health care, beginning with an in-depth discussion about who makes your health care decisions to today's on family-centered care and the outreach capacity of DHMC. From HIPPA to patient actors who play an important role in training technicians new medical procedures and the fine discussion of legal rights, there was a lot of new information that could significantly expand our knowledge of what's available and how to take advantage of it.

The speakers were all excellent and well organized

Thanks to LWV for putting these programs on."

Bob Norman

President's Note

The League of Women Voters is at a crossroads. While the issues we examine for voters are just as vital as ever, changes in the American family and in technology are forcing us to look at all aspects of what we do around activism, membership and programming. Historically, our work has been powered by intelligent and able women who could devote countless hours to this volunteer endeavor. But as more women have joined the workforce, more of the League's work is falling on fewer shoulders. We know that younger community activists have a broader view of what it means to take action, which for many of them, is just one mouse click away on the computer.

So your LWV-UV board is tackling some tough questions and embracing the challenge with vigor and creativity.

We are looking at the broad questions such as "How do we balance program ideas that expand membership beyond our traditional base with programs that are engaging for all?" to the smaller questions such as "How do we welcome new members?"

At the same time we are examining these questions, we are testing the waters. For instance, we are presenting our traditional three-part February series, but the first part on **February 1** will feature an evening wine and cheese reception at the AVA Gallery with architect Stuart White talking about recycling this old mill into a lovely, practical and energy efficient space. We'll continue our popular new book discussion series in March, and balance our traditional April programming with a benefit dinner. Along the way, we are looking for new partnerships and collaborations that will help us meet our mission.

While we cannot predict where this will lead us, we expect our League to emerge stronger and better positioned for what lies ahead. I hope you will take part by sharing your thoughts and ideas, by attending programs and by volunteering your energy and time wherever you can. We welcome your participation!

Ellen Gitomer

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEAGUE'S WORK & POSITIONS?

LOCAL NEWS:

www.uppervalleyleague.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE NEWS:

www.lwvnh.org

VERMONT NEWS:

www.lwvofvt.org

NATIONAL NEWS:

www.lwv.org

Board of Directors 2009 – 2010

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Board Meetings

Howe Library
3rd Thursday of
the month
9:15 am
All Welcome!

Do you have ideas
and suggestions for
the newsletter?
Would you like to
receive only an
email version?

Please email
Sylvia Field
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LWV - UV

Membership

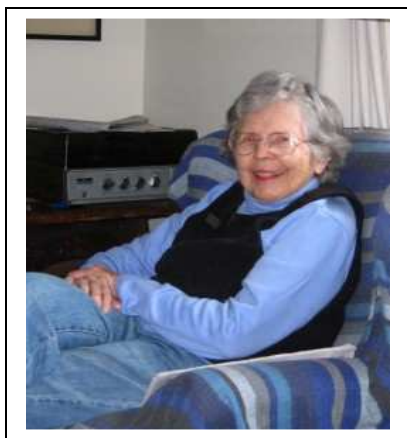
The LWV-UV now has 156 members, many of whom also made contributions to our recent Finance Drive. Thank you! It's not too late to send in your membership dues, or to make a gift to support the League. Please send your gift or dues check (\$45 or \$60 family membership, \$20 student membership) to LWV-UV, PO Box 423, Hanover, NH 03755.

Welcome to New Member Arline Rotman, Norwich

50 Yr Members

We would like to honor and recognize the following 50 year members who were not included in our last newsletter. We now have 25 members in this category.

Thank you to all!



Jean Broehl
Mary Eastman
Mary Jenkins
Augusta Prince
Margaret Smith
Barbara Taylor

Susan Shadford

AUGUSTA PRINCE, 50 Year Member

Augusta Prince's mother joined the League in the 1920s. Following her example, Augusta became a League member in 1949 in Marblehead, Mass., and has been an active member ever since. When asked what drew her to the League then and what has sustained her long interest, she replied "Issues!" She elaborated that she admires learning about issues in a non-partisan way before taking action on them, which is at the heart of the League's mission. And what issues has she been involved in? In Cincinnati, Ohio, where she served as vice president and president, it was water quality (she worked to clean up the Ohio River) and community college education. When she moved to New Haven --she noted parenthetically she would never move to a place that didn't have a League! -- she became co-president and studied transportation issues. Coming to the Kendal in 1998, Augusta soon joined the Upper Valley League, serving on the Board as treasurer. She has been particularly involved with environmental and Electoral College matters here. She is passionate about public financing of elections and about the education of women. Even at age 90, she is vitally interested in the League and is an inspiration to us all.

Women in Incarceration Study Group

The Women in Incarceration Study Group has had a productive fall, with visits to the Grafton County jail in Haverhill, NH and the Carroll County House of Correction in Ossipee, NH. At Grafton, the Group found a marked difference in the services available to incarcerated men as opposed to the women. This may be because there are only four or five women incarcerated at the Grafton HOC. These are not violent women; most are there for drug use. They are allowed only an hour a day outside in good weather. Though one woman earned her GED, access to books is difficult. Recidivism is common. [NH has hired an administrator to create a pilot program in Merrimack County to assess the services available to female offenders and enhance those that are working. The goal is to reduce recidivism by 50% in 5 years.] There is a need to address the root causes of women being imprisoned, and for more programs and less emphasis on new buildings. Members of our League met with the Kearsarge/Sunapee LWV for these visits. Visits to the Goffstown and Shea Farm facilities are planned in the near future.



Congressman Paul Hodes addressing the LWV NH 90th Anniversary Celebration.



LWV NH 90th Anniversary Celebration

LWV-UV and Upper Valley Sierra Club Host Copenhagen Climate Change Talk at Dartmouth

More than 70 people turned out for **The Road to Copenhagen and Beyond**, to gain a better understanding of the UN-Sponsored climate change talks in Copenhagen. Students and community members participated in a lively discussion anchored by Dr. Michael Dorsey and Dr. Jerome Wittington. They contend that the dangers of climate change will disproportionately affect over 3 billion people in developing countries (especially in Africa). Dr. Dorsey favored a regulatory system (as in Denmark) over a Cap and Trade approach and stressed that climate collapse processes are almost a century ahead of schedule. Dr. Wittington concluded his talk with this warning: "We have to change how we produce almost everything."

Board of Directors 2009 –2010

(Continued)

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LWV-UV
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Please share this newsletter with a friend.

Program 2009 – 2010 : Winter Events

For updated information, please check our website at www.uppervalleyleague.org or the Valley News calendar

February

**The Three Rs Revisited:
A Three-Part Series on
Reducing, Reusing and Recycling**

**Monday, February 1
(Snowdate: Wednesday, February 3),
5-7 PM, AVA Gallery, 11 Bank St., Lebanon
\$10 Admission:**

Creating a Recycled Treasure

Bring a friend and join us at the AVA Gallery to hear Stuart White, Senior Architect with Banwell Architects discuss transforming this former garment factory into a LEED certified Art Gallery Wine and Cheese and Tour

**Wednesday, February 17, Brown Bag Lunch
12 PM Howe Library, Hanover
Lebanon Landfill: Hidden Treasure**

Marc Morgan, Solid Waste Manager, Lebanon & Wayne Bonhag, President: Bonhag Associates will discuss converting methane to energy at the Lebanon landfill and landfills as a source of untapped energy

**Thursday, February 25, Brown Bag Lunch
12 PM Howe Library, Hanover
Recycling Plastics: Trash or Treasure**

Robert Malloy, Chair: Department of Plastics Engineering, University of Massachusetts will lead a fascinating discussion of the economic and environmental impact of recycling plastics

March

**Wednesday, March 24, Noon – 1:30
Howe Library Book Discussion Group
Affluenza**

by John Degraaf, David Wann, Thomas Naylor
See Newsletter insert for a review of the book

April

**Tuesday, April 15, 4:30 PM, 3 Rockefeller Center
What Good Citizens Should Know: Civics for the 21st Century.** Presentation by Dartmouth Professor Russell Muirhead & Robert Clements, Assoc. Professor of Democracy and Politics

**SAVE THE DATE!!
Wednesday, April 21, 5-9 PM:
Enjoy fine dining and support the League
Salubre Trattoria, Lebanon St., Hanover**

Mention the LWV-UV when you make your reservation.
Twenty percent of all benefit sales generated that evening will go to LWV-UV