

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

March 2009 LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.com P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034 Volume 13 08-09 #3

CALENDAR

MARCH

4	Wed	LWVMA Day On The Hill, State House, State House, Beacon Hill	10:00 AM
11	Wed	LWVC Board Meeting, 229 Musketaquid Rd (Erica Morrison)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
18	Wed	LWVCC Local Program Planning, 127 Commerford Rd. (Becky Shannon)	9 – 12 noon
		LWVCC ESC meeting, (Becky Shannon)	12 noon
22	Sun	LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum, Town Hall	2:00-4:00 PM
26	Thurs	LWVCC Carlisle Forum on New School Building Proposal, Carlisle Town Hall	7:00 PM
31	Tues	Concord Town Elections	Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM

APRIL

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 320 Lowell Rd. (Paula Vandever)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
2	Thurs	Public Forum: Open Meeting and Public Records Laws, Concord Town House	7:00 PM
5	Sun	LWVMA Essay Contest Awards Ceremony, Faneuil Hall	2:00-4:00 PM
14	Tues	LWVCC Warrant Review, 1376 Old Marlboro Rd. (Lori Pazaris)	9 coffee, 9 :30 – 12 noon
		LWVCC ESC (Lori Pazaris)	12 noon
14	Tues	Last Day to Register to Vote in Carlisle for Town Elections	
15	Wed	LWVCC House Tour “Room For Us: Adapting Spaces to Your Needs” Trinitarian Church, 54 Walden St, Concord	9:00 AM-1:30 PM
26	Sun	LWVCC Carlisle Candidates Forum, Carlisle Town Hall	3:00-5:00 PM
27-29		Concord Town Meeting, CCHS	7:00 PM

MAY

4	Mon	Carlisle Town Meeting, Corey Auditorium, Carlisle Public School	7:00 PM
4-5		Concord Town Meeting, CCHS	7:00 PM
6	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 384 Hayward Mill Rd (Louise Haldeman)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
12	Tues	Carlisle Town Election, Clark Room, Town Hall	Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM
13	Wed	LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Library	10:00-11:30 AM
20	Wed	LWVCC ESC, 418 Monument St. (Ardis Bordman)	1:30 PM
20	Wed	LWVCC Annual Meeting, TBA	
29		LWVMA Convention – Newton Marriott	

JUNE

3	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 60 Oak Rd. (Judy LaRocca)	9 coffee, 9:30 mtg
---	-----	--	--------------------

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.
Please contact Nancy Beeuwkes if you would like to attend any of them.*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan grassroots organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

ESC Chair	Nancy Beeuwkes	(978) 371-7293	nbeeuwkes@aol.com
Membership	Barbara Lewis	(978) 287-0049	blglewis@comcast.net
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	anne.hayden@comcast.net
Webmaster	Erin Pastuszewski	(978) 369-3842	http://www.lwvcc.com

EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Nancy Beeuwkes ESC Chair

Dear League friends,

As I look out my kitchen window, I see finches clustered on our bird feeder. It is always exciting to me to witness this early sign of approaching spring. Soon the League will launch into a flurry of spring activities; but first let me review what we have been doing. We have certainly not been hibernating in the last three months.

We started the year with a **January Members Breakfast** organized by Barbara Lewis. We filled the Colonial Inn room with friends old and new and all enjoyed a very personal talk by our Senator Susan Fargo. The encouraging advances of women legislators and women's issues in the legislature balanced grim budget news. I know our interest and thoughtful questions were an encouragement to the Senator.

On January 25 we co-sponsored the **5th Annual Homeless Forum** at Trinity Church. In February we gathered to do **LWVM State Program Planning**, led by Nancy Cronin. As a result of that meeting, we provided the state board with a large number of excellent and timely ideas for work in the coming years. We also made time for another **review of the developing Concord "Wetlands Bylaw."** The following week we held two well-attended League events. The first on 2/11, "**Our Town, Our Schools, Our Money**," provided an excellent overview of Town and School progress and problems. The audience of over 50 posed thoughtful and challenging questions. On 2/12 we celebrated the "**National Teach In**" with a **forum on Climate instability**, which was held in co-operation with several environmental groups and the CCHS faculty. This forum drew another large group including many students. Suggestions were made by attendees, which were forwarded to DC policy makers by League organizers of the forum Cindy Nock and Lori Pazaris.

In March, ten of us traveled to the State League's "Day on the Hill." For a panel on legislative transparency (see Nancy Cronin's

article). We were impressed as usual to learn of the work of the LWVMA legislative specialists. After the program we had a very pleasant lunch, joined by State Rep Cory Atkins.

This week, on 3/18, we will meet to take suggestions from all our members as to what issues our League should address next year. This meeting is called "**Local Program Planning**" and ideas generated will be presented at our **Annual Meeting on May 20th** for a vote by the entire membership in attendance.

Upcoming Activities:

On March 22nd at 2PM at the Concord Town House there will be a **Concord Candidates Forum** organized by Louise Haldeman and Erin Pastuszewski.

On April 1st and/or 14th the **Board will discuss both Concord's and Carlisle's town warrants** and decide what articles the League will support or oppose at the two town meetings. All members can attend.

Carlisle members are organizing a **Forum on the New School Building** on March 26 at 7 PM and a **Candidates Forum** on April 26th from 3-5 PM. Both of these meetings will be in Carlisle Town Hall.

On April 15 (yes tax day) we will hold the **LWVCC House Tour**. Please volunteer to help for a few hours on this enjoyable League fund raising event. Di Clymer has assembled a marvelous committee who have been working long and hard on this event. It will be well worth your inviting several friends, too!

Finally, we are starting to assemble our Board for next year. If you are **interested in serving on the Board** please give me a call (978) 371-7293. I can think of no greater learning experience than serving with this bright, warm and challenging group of women!!

Nancy Butler Beeuwkes, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

By now I hope you have all received your 2009 LWVCC Directory. If not please contact me and I will send you one right away. Also, if you have any corrections please let me know.

Since the printing of the Directory we have welcomed new member Anita B. Barker of Newbury Court, #208. Anita has been a long time member of the League who has just recently relocated to Concord. Also please add Robert Brooks, 10 The Valley Road, and new National member Julie Rohwein of Harrington Ave (both Concord) to your directory.

Our League membership numbers stand at 160, which includes spouses and National members and Honorary 50 year members. There are 136 separate households in the membership directory and 18 brand new members we gladly welcome to our League chapter this year. There are 16 members in Carlisle.

I try to keep the list of email addresses current. If you are not receiving emails regarding League events and activities and would like to receive them, please send me your email address so I can add you to the list. This is a remarkably busy time with lots of email messages going out to keep you updated. I encourage you all to visit the website, www.lwvcc.com often to also find scheduling information.

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair
978-287-0049, blglewis@comcast.net

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each year the Nominating Committee works to create a slate of board members that will be approved at the Annual Meeting. This year Barbara Lewis, Mary Chapman, Janet Rothrock, Judy LaRocca, and Carol Bowen will serve on the committee. We will be meeting through the spring and welcome information from all members regarding potential candidates for positions on the board. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the LWVCC we would love to hear from you. Serving on the board is one of the best ways to be active and contribute your time and talent to the League. Contact anyone on the Nominating committee to learn more.

CONCORD CANDIDATES FORUM MARCH 22, 2009

The LWVCC will host a Concord Candidates Forum on Sunday, March 22, 2009, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Town House Hearing Room, 22 Monument Square, Concord. All candidates running for local office in the March 31 Town Election have accepted the League's invitation to appear: Board of Selectmen candidates Gregory Howes, David Karr and Elise Woodward; School Committee candidates Peter Fischelis and Jerry Wedge; Town Moderator candidate Edward Perry; and Housing Authority candidate Mary Johnson.

The candidates will answer questions from the League and audience members, with Nancy Carapezza of Wayland moderating. The LWVCC invites all Concord residents to attend this informative event. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Communications@lwvcc.com or 978-369-3842.

Erin Pastuszewski, Communications Chair

LWVCC CARLISLE FORUM: FUNDING FOR NEW SCHOOL BUILDING THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2009

Carlisle 2009 Warrant will have an Article requesting funds to develop a design to replace one of the school buildings on the Carlisle School Campus. The Spaulding Building is 50 years old, is in a poor state of repair, was given the lowest rating of "4" by the Mass. School Building Authority and was cited by the Dept of Education as having inadequate space for special ed and ESL uses. Forty % reimbursement has been provisionally secured from the MSBA, with estimated cost at \$20 million before reimbursement. The School Building Committee will be asking for \$450,000 at Town Meeting (5/4) and at the Ballot (5/12) for the design work.

The League forum will be held at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall to help the citizens of Carlisle gain information regarding the financial and educational aspects of this issue. It will be recorded for cable. Questions? Call Ginny at 978-369-8210.

**PUBLIC FORUM ON
OPEN MEETING LAW
PUBLIC RECORDS LAW**

The Concord Town Clerk's office is holding a public forum on **Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Town House**. Information technology has radically changed how we live our lives and all governmental offices and officials, both elected and appointed, need to be knowledgeable about all of these new areas. Open Meeting and Public Records laws are very important to the open and honest functioning of government at all levels. Come and find out what one can and cannot do with a cell phone and computer. At least one member from town committees and boards should attend. RSVP to the Town Clerk's office, 978-318-3080 or email townclerk@concordma.gov.

**LWVCC CARLISLE
CANDIDATES FORUM
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009**

The LWVCC will hold a Carlisle Candidates Forum on Sunday, April 26, 2009 in the Clark Room at the Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford St. from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. The candidates running for office in the May 12th town election will speak and answer questions. Please come and meet the candidates.

RIVERFEST 2009

Spring is here and the eighth annual Riverfest celebration is upon us. The Concord-Carlisle League joins with the River Stewardship Council to honor and appreciate the glorious river system we live in. The Concord, Assabet, and Sudbury Rivers that flow through our communities are our pride and joy.

The League Riverfest Steering Committee consisting of the Leagues of Concord-Carlisle, Acton, Bedford, Sudbury, and Wayland are looking for candidates for the Riverfest Award. It will be presented on June 12th at the Visitor's Center at the Minuteman's National Historic Park Center at 174 Liberty Street in Concord.

Eligible nominees can include individuals - young or old, businesses, institutions, faith groups, schools, local government employees and teachers.

If you have some good ideas, please call Betsy Sluder (978-369-1851) for a nomination form to complete and send back to her as soon as possible. The deadline is March 31st. The League selection committee in Boston will choose the winners. Decisions will be made in May and will be made public then. We look forward to hearing from you.

Betsy Sluder, LWVCC Riverfest Chair

LOCAL LEAGUERS ATTEND DAY ON THE HILL

Nine LWVCC members joined many other members of the League in Boston for the annual Day on the Hill on March 4th. We were treated to an excellent panel discussing “Aiming for Transparency: Restoring the Public’s Trust” with Judith Meredith, Executive Director of the Public Policy Institute; William Keating, Norfolk District Attorney and former State Senator; Janet Domenitz, Executive Director of MassPIRG; and Pam Wilmot, Executive Director of Common Cause Massachusetts.

Judy Meredith, author of Lobbying on a Shoestring, has spent many years lobbying effectively for public interest organizations. She said that elected officials make different policy decisions (almost always for the better) when the public can see their actions. She noted that in the ‘70’s the state budget process was much more open when the legislature had a line by line debate; however now there is a ‘consolidated amendment’ process which is much less transparent.

William Keating offered practical advice for League lobbying: first find out who has an interest in the bill, anticipate the opposition and seek them out. He recommended direct calls to legislators for communication in a timely fashion; e-mailing is helpful in organizing and networking, but phoning is more productive.

Janet Domenitz discussed the importance of paying attention to the process of setting regulations after a bill you have supported has passed. Her suggestions: show up at hearings; send comments; call agency heads (they are more sensitive than elected officials); make the process transparent by sending letters to the editor and publicizing the issue.

Pam Wilmot cited the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meeting Law, and the Lobbying Disclosure Law, all of which were passed in the ‘70’s and have not been updated since then. They need updating to cover e-mail and video conferencing, for example. If these laws are violated she recommended seeking alternative legal opinions if town counsel is not ready to pursue them, as well as contacting the District Attorney, or the Secretary of State’s Public

Records conservator. Atty. Keating recommended going to the District Attorney’s office (in writing) for help. Pam noted that Common Cause has a useful sub-website called www.opengovernment.org.

During the question period there was much talk about the State Treasurer’s proposal for allowing slot machines in the state. Janet Domenitz recommended calling the State Treasurer to indicate our opposition. Pam Wilmot suggested calling our legislators as well as the House Speaker and Senate President. There was a question about the Governor’s ethics and lobbying bill. Pam Wilmot says it is very important because it would give regulatory authority to the State Ethics Commission which now can only give advisory opinions.

Following the panel discussion the state League specialists (including our own Louise Haldeman, the LWVMA casino gambling specialist) explained in some detail the League’s priority bills for the current session. These included legislation on ethics and lobbying, diversion from prison to drug treatment, election day registration, making absentee voting available to all voters, single payer health care, alternatives to toxic chemicals, casino gambling (oppose), and equitable coverage in disability policies.

After the meeting Representative Cory Atkins joined our group for an enjoyable lunch at a restaurant near the State House. Senator Susan Fargo was unable to join us due to a Public Health hearing she was chairing.

Nancy Cronin, State Action Chair

LWVCC HOUSE TOUR
“ROOM FOR US: ADAPTING SPACES
TO YOUR NEEDS”

The League’s Spring House Tour “Room for Us: Adapting Spaces to Your Needs” is on Wednesday, April 15. Tour homes in Concord, and learn how to make the most of your living space when you need to expand, downsize, modify or update to accommodate life’s twists and turns.

The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden St., Concord. Holly Cratsley, AIA, Principal of Nashawtuc Architects, Inc., gives an introductory talk at 9:30 a.m. Tour of homes starts at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 by advance registration or \$35 at the door. Mail checks to “LWVCC House Tour,” PO Box 34, Concord, MA 01742. Details: www.lwvcc.com, House_Tour@lwvcc.com; 978-369-3842 or 978-369-7172. Spread the word. Make a day of it with friends.

The League’s House Tour is made possible by the generosity of its Sponsors, Barrett & Co. Real Estate and Concord Lamp and Shade.

Erin Pastuszewski, Communication Chair

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

The LWVCC will hold its May Book Group meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 in the Trustees Room of the Concord Library from 10:00-11:30 AM. We will be discussing books written by **Jared Diamond** which include *Guns, Germs and Steel; Collapse;* and *The Third Chimpanzee*. Diamond is a professor of geography at UCLA and a MacArthur Fellow, has been awarded the National Medal of Science, and received the Pulitzer Prize for *Guns, Germs and Steel*. This promises to be a lively discussion and all are invited to attend.

In March we had our annual Authors Program with Megan Marshall, who wrote *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*. Megan talked about researching her book, which involved years of reading letters and papers in archives all over the country. She also talked about the Transcendental Movement in Concord. Thank you to Becky Shannon and Anne Hayden for organizing this entertaining and informative event.

The League’s Book Group is open to all who would like to attend. Our meetings are held every other month on a Wednesday morning in the Concord Public Library. We read nonfiction including biography and narrative nonfiction. Suggestions for book selections or future author talks are always welcome. For more information contact Anne Hayden (978-369-8526 or anne.hayden@comcast.net).

Anne Hayden, Book Group Chair

Save the Date, Invite a Friend, and Register Now!

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle
presents

House Tour

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

“Room for Us: Adapting Spaces to Your Needs”

Begin at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden St., Concord

9:00 a.m. – Register, receive map and program book
Enjoy continental breakfast

9:30 a.m. – Introductory talk by architect Holly Cratsley

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Tour of Concord homes

Reserve your space at the \$30 advance rate by registering today:

Mail check to “LWVCC” at P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742
Specify number of tickets at \$30 and include names!

Tickets at the door will be \$35

**For further information, contact House_Tour@lhwcc.com
or call 978-369-3842 or 978-369-7172**

Please join us in thanking our House Tour Sponsors:

**Barrett & Co. Real Estate
Concord Lamp and Shade**