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LWVCCA PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Members;

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be behind us and we will be headed toward the end of the year Holiday Season. I hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful, relaxing Thanksgiving. During my Thanksgiving I will give thanks for my family and friends including all of you who work so tirelessly to make our political reality palatable. I will also give thanks for the beauty of the Cape Cod community in which I live and those that are an integral part of that community.

As we enter the year-end Holiday season, I wish all of you a period of joy and relaxation and for the New Year, my prayer for all of us is good health, a continued reduction of COVID restrictions as well as peace, harmony, goodwill and a greater sense of unity in 2022. May we all find a sense of renewal in the coming year.

Peace and Joy,
Suzanne

NOVEMBER 2 BOARD MEETING

Based on results of member polling, the Board decided to hold a "virtual" Holiday meeting on Zoom. Featured will be a presentation by Deborah Swiss, author of *The Tin Ticket: The Heroic Journey of Australia's Convict Women*.

An informal in-person event will also be held on Saturday, December 4 at the Clubhouse at Cobblestone Landing in Hyannis.

Barnstable School Committee candidates' forum was cancelled due to unavoidable last minute medical issues for one of the candidates. Florence Seldin reported on her conversation with LWVMA Voter Service Committee members to clarify the League's empty chair policy in the wake of our cancellation of the Barnstable School Committee Candidates Forum. Their advice: we need not have cancelled: if 3 or more people are in a race for a position and 1 drops out, we could proceed with an "empty seat" as long as at least 2 people are left.

Since the November *Voter* was distributed, the legislature has held a public hearing on Medicare for all bills. The LWVCCA submitted testimony supporting the main bill — H.1267/S.766 — An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts.

The Legislative Committee shared feedback— somewhat disappointing-- from the October 13 VOTES Act Lobby Lunch; discussed requests from the DEI Committee for goal-setting within each LWVCCA committee; raised suggestions for publicizing the League's Directory of Elected Officials; and is working on plans for a Spring 2022 Legislative Breakfast.



CALENDAR

HOLIDAY EVENT

WEDNESDAY December 1 | 7:00 p.m.

Zoom event by invitation:

<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-Holiday-Gathering>

INFORMAL HOLIDAY EVENT

SATURDAY December 4th | 10:30 a.m.

[Clubhouse at Cobblestone Landing in Hyannis](#)

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY December 7 | 9:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY December 25

UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY January 4 | 9:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

Go to

<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-calendar>

to see our entire Google calendar. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

JULIET BERNSTEIN 1913-2021

Juliet Bernstein, LWVCCA former president (1975-1978), and Chatham's oldest resident, died on November 18 at the age of 108.

The title of the notice in the Cape Cod Chronicle says it all - "Activist, Teacher, Friend":

<https://capecodchronicle.com/en/5648/chatham/8041/Activist-Teacher-Friend-Juliet-Bernstein-Remembered-Aging-Local-History.htm>

As noted by her friend and neighbor Nancy Erskine:

...she also had an artistic side. She painted and did bird carvings. She also collected elephant statues. Erskine recalled shopping online for her grandson and coming across an elephant teddy bear, which she purchased for Mrs. Bernstein. She wasn't sure what kind of a reaction the gift would receive.

"She said I never had a teddy bear as a baby," Erskine recalled. "That teddy bear stayed on her bed until she went."

Also from the article:

... Florence Seldin recalled that when she began as president of the League in the late 1990s, she noticed Mrs. Bernstein's name on a list of former presidents who were no longer members. She learned that Mrs. Bernstein had written a pro-choice letter to the editor as president of the League but had not followed policy by getting the approval of the board of directors. After she was chastened for her action, she resigned.

"She was never a member of the League again," Seldin said. "Nobody was going to tell her what to do."

An "Our View" column in the Chronicle also remembers her:

<https://capecodchronicle.com/en/5648/opinion/8039/Our-View-Juliet-Bernstein.htm>

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS:

"The League has always been a big part of my life. Recently I moved from New York and couldn't wait to join the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area."
Madeline Zevon

Along with other new members of The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, Madeline Zevon has opted to "listen-in" during monthly Board Meetings. This is a most effective and obvious way for new members to start learning about current events going on with The League. Let there be no misunderstanding! Madeline is super-knowledgeable regarding the work, the history and the progress of America's League of Women Voters. In fact she served in the office of president of the White Plains (New York) League of Women Voters for two terms. Her many years of active participation in The League offered her opportunities to be involved at the local, state and national levels. She had a dominant involvement

with health care reform issues. Madeline has been Chair of The League's Health Care Committee at the Westchester County, New York State and LWVUS levels. She supports Medicare for all. It is certainly anticipated that Madeline's dedicated experience and willingness to hit-the-deck-running, will prompt her to immediately become a viable part of the LWVCCA's Health Committee.

Her personal journey on the road of her life includes her attainment of her Master Degree of Social Work from New York University after she earned her undergraduate degree from The College of New Rochelle. Her exceptional performance of civic duty and her humanitarian professional service were concurrent with her marriage and parenting of her young children. She is married for sixty-one years to Dr. Sanford Zevon, a cardiologist. They raised three sons who now reside in the Cape Cod/Rhode Island region. The earlier years of her career were spent supporting her staunch belief: "Alcoholism is a treatable disease." From 1983-2003, Madeline Zevon worked in the predominantly African-American community of Mount Vernon, New York developing therapeutic programs for children of alcoholic parents. The emphasis was on prevention. It is significant to note that Madeline Zevon was the only White person who was among the founding leaders in the establishment of the program. She conducted therapeutic groups; supervised staff including interns; and advocated for increased resources for the program. Her aim in designing and directing small therapy groups was always child-centered. Madeline Zevon victoriously states, "No children who completed the program ever got into substance abuse in their subsequent adolescence."

Madeline Zevon

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Submitted by Matilda Ligon
Chair LWVCCA Membership Committee

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Common Start legislation, H.605/S.362 establishes a system of affordable, accessible, high quality early education and childcare with an incremental rollout over 5 years. It will prioritize the lowest income, highest need families (including foster parents) through direct-to-provider assistance, equitable pay for workers, and grants to support professional development. In support of this important legislation, the Cape Cod LWV's Health and Legislative Committees are holding an advocacy and education virtual Forum on Saturday, February 5, 2022. The Forum's Panel, consisting of representatives from families, child care and early education providers, workforce, legislators, and the Massachusetts government, will inform about the bill's importance and its funding importance.

PLEASE HOLD THE DATE OF FEBRUARY 5 ON YOUR CALENDARS.

Submitted by Eileen Elias
Chair, Health Committee

DEI COMMITTEE REPORT

Part II LWVCCA Discussions of Emmanuel Acho's Book: *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*

Last month, we reported on the overall experience of reading and discussing this book: five groups in two discussion sessions each reported very positively about the experience.

This report expands on the evaluation responses and adds the facilitators' evaluations.

Evaluation

As reported last month, evaluation surveys were emailed to the 33 participants after the second discussion sessions; 24 were returned, for a good response rate of 73%. The following sections summarize the survey responses, which were in general positive about the book and the discussion formats.

Participants' feedback

Many participants had done some level of reading and/or activism. This was a good book to start with because readers could come at it from almost every level of awareness. It was insightful and comprehensive while being accessible with Acho's informal style.

The evaluation survey consisted of 10 questions/statements. Questions 1 – 9 were *Yes/No* with a *Comments* field; 3 had a *Sometimes* option. These questions addressed understanding of racism (individual and systemic), the experiences of Black people, the historical and other issues fostering racism, white privilege, “uncomfortable conversations,” the importance of conversing with people from different races, and working to end racism and value racial differences.

The responses were overwhelmingly positive. Questions 1 – 9 had a total of 218 responses, of which 196 (almost 90%) were *Yes* and only 22 were *No/Sometimes*. All of the moderators came in for high praise. November's *Voter* included representative quotations from these questions.

Question 10 had 17 responses, all of which were positive about participating in further learning and about the discussion format.

Facilitators' feedback

The facilitators were generally quite positive about the book and the discussions, were happy to be invited to lead, and would facilitate again. The “format was productive but there's never enough time....” “By the end of session II, people were feeling comfortable enough to honestly say what they thought and were ready to probe deeper...it takes longer to build the trust necessary to express yourself freely given the topics of racism and white privilege.”

They felt it was a beginning and that we should look for opportunities to continue to grow, through ongoing conversations. “The sharing of personal stories and open honest dialogue about race was exhilarating. Book groups can be an effective way to have the discussions necessary to

identify ways to move the needle to break down racial barriers.”

The facilitators had some great suggestions for taking action to further growth, including:

- Have LWVCCA meetings at the [Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center](#).
- Learn more about civil rights and histories of POC by taking a tour of civil rights museums and cultural centers on Cape Cod ([Zion Heritage Museum](#), [Mashpee Wampanoag Museum](#), and Cape Verdean Museum (link above)). Around the country, visit historic monuments of POC (e.g., [the Edmund Pettus Bridge](#), of the [Equal Justice Initiative \(EJI\)](#), the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#), and [other civil rights museums and landmarks](#)).
- Host LWVCCA forums to amplify the voices of POC. Invite organizations and groups to participate in joint forums.
- Join the [NAACP](#).
- Donate to [Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCUs\)](#).
- Attend a Black church service.
- Read, make contact with, and immerse in different cultures with different racial groups.
- Become involved with LWV DEI work (state and CCA levels).
- Civic engagement: get involved, speak up as white people, talk to other white people, talk to kids about the history, expose kids to other cultures/races.

For more information

Lists of all responses to the evaluation questions are on the website

<https://tinyurl.com/Acho-Discussion-Responses>

What do we do with this experience? Where do we go from here?

Question 10 was an open-ended question asking generally about further learning and the discussion format. Suggestions from Question 10:

- Broadening our scope to children and young students, and to Indigenous people (especially “our neighbors here on the Cape”).
- We should “get out and make friendships with others of another race and go out of my way and...to use Black businesses.”
- Have more book discussions:
 - Include both Black and white participants and focus on finding common ground. “It is really valuable to have a range of readers and multiple people of color participating.”
 - Prepare a list of books on race and racism and let the group select the next one to read. Our long book list, updated this month, is on the website: <https://tinyurl.com/DEI-Book-List>
 - Go over Acho’s suggestions at the end of the book for combating racism and consider which we could implement collectively and individually. (Example: hold a followup session after the second book to address how each of us plan to “walk the talk” as Acho suggests at the end of each chapter in the book.)
 - “Include a book about a Black woman’s perspective.” (Example: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.)

Coming up: winter book discussions

The DEI book selection sub-committee has met once to discuss the next book. We will be meeting again the first week in December to finalize.

Last summer’s poll included the selection of *Waking Up White* by Deborah Irving. If you have already read this book, or are planning to, and are still interested in joining discussing it, please contact Mary to let us know.

Our progress will be reported in Board meetings (covered in minutes) and *The Voter*. Stay tuned!

Submitted by Mary Hunter Utt and Mati Ligon,
Co-chairs, LWVCCA DEI Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

At the beginning of the legislative session, committee members chose bills that they felt were important. A total of 17 bills were chosen. Some of the bills were followed by more than one person on the committee. Here are some of the issues we followed:

- Affordable Housing - 1 bill
- Education Policy - 3 bills (Includes Common Start)
- Election and Voting - 3 bills (Includes the Votes Act)
- Environment - 3 bills
- Gun Control - 1 bill
- Health Care - 1 bill (Medicare for All)
- Immigration - 2 bills
- Pilgrim Nuclear Decommissioning - 1 bill
- Racial Justice - 1 bill
- Women Issues - 1 bill (Parity on Boards)

Two hearings for which we are providing written testimony will be happening on:

Nov 23- Common Start Bill

Dec 1 - Safe Community Act

All the bills we have followed will have had a hearing by the time you receive the Voter except for one, H3288/S236 which is about transitioning MA to clean electricity, heating and transportation.

The only bill that was voted favorably out of committee and is now in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means is the VOTES Act. All other bills are still in the committee to which they were originally assigned.

Committee members were very active in providing written testimony for the hearings. Thanks in part to the work of Carole Young Kleinfeld, Susan Quinones and Renate Sands, we will have submitted written testimony for 11 of the 17 bills by the end of the year. Oral testimony was also given by Suzanne Brock, our President, on the VOTES Act and Parity on Boards and Commissions. Jeanne Morrison has been our lead person in helping us to advocate for the Parity on Boards and Commission bill. Rosemary Shields

was instrumental in advocating for the Pilgrim bill by attending meetings and giving testimony. A big thank you to all.

This past month the committee participated in the Common Start rally held at the Hyannis Village Green. We are also collaborating with the Health Committee, led by Eileen Elias, and the Common Start Coalition Cape Cod Chapter on a forum on Feb 5, 2022.

If you did not advocate at the time of the hearing it is never too late to do so.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy Holiday Season. Enjoy your family and friends. They will still be here even if the bill that you feel very passionate about does not pass.

Submitted by Renate Sands, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Elaine Dickinson,
Co-Chairs, LWVCCA Legislative Committee

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT

COP26 was characterized by some compromises and a last minute row over coal has cast a shadow over the deal. Both India and China pushed for watering down of a key commitment insisting on “phasing down” coal mining rather than “phasing out”. But the document is notable for naming coal as a root cause of the problem for the first time in 30 years of UN diplomacy.

According to several BBC reporters the actual text of the final agreement is quite progressive getting countries to come back again with strengthened plans next year.

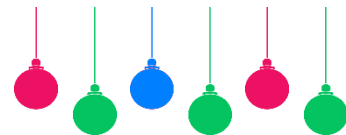
Some decisions made at COP26 could change your life – a push to electric cars; move towards renewable sources such as wind and solar. It is hoped that announcements made at Glasgow will send a signal to the market that it is worth investing in renewable energy. More than 400 financial institutions around the world agreed to provide more money for green technology.

Richard Delaney, president of the [Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative](#) and [Center for](#)

[Coastal Studies](#) in Provincetown was in Glasgow and he reported in an [article in the Cape Cod Times](#) that 90% of the world’s climate scientists agree that the impacts of a warming earth do indeed constitute an existential threat to our planet. He went on to say
“...an unfettered profits driven marketplace is the mechanism that drove the world to this precarious position. Their fossil fuel industry has generated vast amounts of fossil fuels and associated products – a major cause of the earth’s rapidly overheating climate.”

Delaney went on to write that the deliberations in Glasgow were enormously energizing and hopeful with countries reaching consensus on wide ranging topics including agreement to shift subsidies from fossil fuel to renewable fuels, to control the most destructive greenhouse gas – methane- and hopefully establish reasonable and equitable pricing in carbon pollution. He ended the article by saying that we must all do our part and work, from Glasgow to the Cape and the Islands to achieve a healthy, equitable and sustainable world for ourselves and for generations to come.

Submitted by Florence Seldin,
Chair, Environment Committee



VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The November 14 Common Start rally at the Hyannis Village Green brought together members of the coalition, including the LWVCCA, No Place For Hate, Independence House and others. It was a glorious, sunny day and both our Voter Service Committee and the Legislative Committee “manned” the table and gave out copies of our “Directory of Elected Officials” plus handouts on the Common Start legislation. We were happy to see BOTH Cape Senators, Susan Moran (sponsor)

and Julian Cyr, attended along with State Representative Kip Diggs, all showing strong support for the bill. We urge our members to contact Senators Moran and Cyr and Rep Diggs and thank them for their support.

The Common Start legislation, [H.605](#) (filed by Representatives Gordon & Madaro) & [S.362](#) (filed by Senators Lewis & Moran), would **establish a system of affordable, high-quality early education and child care** for all Massachusetts families, over a 5-year timeline. This system would cover early education and care for children from birth through age 5, as well as after- and out-of-school time for children ages 5-12, and for children with special needs through age 15.

Programs would be available in early education and child care centers, private homes, and schools – the same settings where early education and child care is provided now. The bill **provides a framework to increase the scope of public investment in early education and child care** with an incremental roll-out over 5 years that prioritizes the lowest-income, highest-need families.

The Common Start legislation would **dramatically increase the affordability and quality of early education and child care** for all Massachusetts families. The bill's framework uses a combination of direct-to-provider funding and ongoing family financial assistance to reduce costs to families while compensating providers for the true cost of providing quality care.

Bedrock Funding: The legislation would create a new direct-to-provider funding allocation based on provider capacity (not attendance) that directly offsets provider's operating costs, including higher educator pay.

Family Subsidy: Once fully implemented, families below 50% of statewide median income (50% of SMI today is \$62,668 for a family of four, or \$42,614 for a single parent with one child) would be able to access early education and child care options for free. Families with incomes above that threshold would pay no more than 7 percent of their total household income.


This program would be administered through the Early Education and Care Department. Provisions that would increase quality of care include:

- An early education and child care professional development grant program.
- A compensation structure for staff who directly provide early education and care, commensurate with equivalent K-12 teaching positions.

Submitted by Anita Rogers and Rosemary Shields,
Co-chairs, Voter Service Committee

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA


Support these businesses that support LWVCCA!



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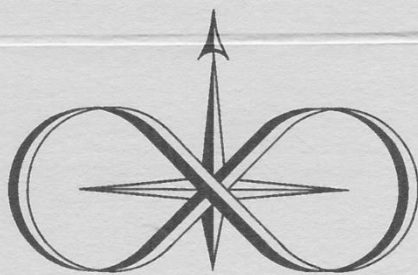


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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view

