



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

# BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2009

## 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.

## Caring for our Environment: A Spiritual Basis and Practical Steps

November 17 at the SS Library



**The Saratoga County League of Women Voters' member meeting on the environment and sustainable local community should prove to be a full evening. Beginning with soup at 6PM and program at 7PM in the Community Room of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, it will end with plenty of 'food for thought' about ways to get involved.**

*Four Presenters' comments will be followed by a discussion:*

**Brooke Newell** is the Director of the Saratoga County Interfaith Environmental Coalition

Brooke will define her group, their activities and her interest in the environment as a spiritually based need to care for the earth.

**Michael (Miki) Goldman**, Member, The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

Miki will speak of his post-graduate involvement with an intercultural group of young adults of Middle-Eastern nationalities, including Israelis and Palestinians, communicating about their mutual need to care for the environment shared by all. Miki wants to focus his remarks on his independent study about oil wealth, global warming and the war on extremism.

Supervisor **Joanne Yepsen**, Founder, Sustainable Saratoga and

**Bill Sprengnether**, Chair, Public Relation and Education Committee of Sustainable Saratoga

Joanne and Bill will bring Leaguers up to date on the current and long range plans of Sustainable Saratoga. The group has been forming working subgroups and presenting educational programs and is in the process of outlining its 10-year plan for sustainability in Saratoga Springs and in the county.



**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](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org)

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&

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TAKE ME TO VOTE!

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Voters Service- Candidate Events

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&

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584-8364

Off-board Chairs listed on page 7

**League of Women Voters of New York State or  
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*From the president...*

When League members think about League activities we usually think about Candidate Forums, encouraging people to register and vote, studying public policy issues or lobbying for our positions, but we couldn't function as an organization without the people who pay attention to the League's health. Our league is strong because:

**Diane Whitburn**, our Treasurer, tracks every cent of income, gets it into the bank promptly, pays our bills on time, makes sure there is documentation for each expenditure. As Carol Green said in her audit report, "I found all of the financial records to be in good order and the Treasurer's Report a true record of the transactions and balances for the year ended June 30, 2009."

**Pattie Garrett**, our Secretary, provides the record the board needs to build on our previous decisions. She is accurate and concise, and accepts corrections and additions with true grace.

**Margot Ammon**, our Bulletin Editor, keeps us all in touch with each other. Her crisp, clear layouts and sense of what you will (or should) want to know about keeps us up to date..

**Lori Dawson**, our membership chair, is always on the lookout for ways to promote LWV membership. Then she keeps track of prospective members, and new members and tries to get them involved, and never fails to remind the board to ASK people to join. And without members there is no League!

**Millie Green** will be calling to sign you up to bring refreshments to meetings, and arranging for clean-up. She has just been appointed to the board, and has assumed the responsibility for hospitality. Getting to know other LWV members on an informal social basis is one thing that binds us together.

**Janice Burns** keeps our Membership Database at LWVUS up to date. She sends you the renewal notices, updates your contact information, removes you from the database if you don't pay your dues, reinstates you if you do pay late. Her accuracy is essential to assure that we pay only our fair share of support to the state and national Leagues.

**Marian Potter** and **Pat Reed** send out our annual fund appeal letter, which will be coming to a mailbox near you right after the election. **Kristin Overholt** is organizing our *Lincoln, Liberty and Liberation* fundraiser for February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. You know that we can't exist without money. Fundraising and your contributions are essential.

**Christine Alexander** is constantly updating our website and adding new features. The press, the public, candidates and our members depend on this information.

**Pat Nugent**, our public relations director, keeps us in the public eye. She has a way with words and persistence in getting our message out.

*Barb*



**Observer Corps Report—**

Saratoga County Public Works Committee,  
October 5th Meeting *By Ann Magnussen*

Sales tax revenues in Saratoga County are down \$7 million in 2009. So the Public Works Department is cutting its 2010 capital budget by reconstructing fewer roads and delaying the purchase of heavy highway equipment.

Instead of resurfacing 20 miles of roads in 2010, the county will treat only 12.5 miles of roads. The Public Works Department will delay buying two dump trucks (also used for plowing) and a new backhoe loader.

Commissioner Joseph Ritchey reported that resurfacing low-volume roads with oil and gravel rather than blacktop saves the county \$22,000/mile. Low-volume roads carry 1,000 to 1,500 vehicles/day.

League members interested in the activities of Saratoga County Supervisors may visit their website: [www.saratogacountyny.gov](http://www.saratogacountyny.gov) or phone 885-2240. Members who wish to work with the LWV Observer Corps may phone Denny Finneran, 518-583-1478.

**State Study Report—**

The League’s Committee on Consolidation and Shared Services is trying to understand our County’s challenges. Two of our villages, Schylerville and Corinth, have appointed commissions to study dissolution or merger. We will try to visit their meetings and learn more about this issue. We hope this will help our local leaguers understand the critical criteria for such action.

*Submitted by Margie VanMeter*

**THANK YOU —**  
**ADIRONDACK TRUST COMPANY** for underwriting the entire cost of the 3,500 copies of the LWVNY Voters' Guides that we distributed this election season.

*Welcome New Members*

**Ellen Aimone**  
**Penny Jolly**  
**Helen Tomb**

Welcome to the Board of Directors, Millie Green. Millie has joined the board as of October 8th, 2009 and has accepted the role of Hospitality Chair.

**Missed a Bulletin? Don't Fret!** They are on our website along with webcasts of our candidate forums and much more. Go to—[www.lwvsaratoga.org](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org)

**OFF-BOARD CHAIRS**

**Membership Database/Nominating Committee**  
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**Policy & Procedures Manual for this LWV**  
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**Web Site**  
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Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 587-7845  
[bcmsweb@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bcmsweb@nycap.rr.com)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tuesday, November 3  
Election Day

Holiday Party TBA  
Got ideas? Call Millie Green  
584-8364

Tuesday, November 17  
Environmental Meeting  
6pm: soup, 7pm: program



**THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SARATOGA COUNTY**  
P.O. BOX 1029 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

**NOVEMBER 2009**

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**BECOME AN OBSERVER!**  
Contact—Dennie Finneran  
583-1478 or finnjour@yahoo.com

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Your personal information will not be shared with any non-league entity.

- YES!** I Would like to join the League. 2009 –2010 dues enclosed.  
 \$50. Individual     \$75 Family     \$20 Student
- Please send more information     I would like to subscribe. \$15. enclosed
- In addition, I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

All checks should be made payable to : LWVSC  
Mail to: Membership, League of Women Voters P.O. Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866