

# BULLETIN

January 2006

P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

Volume 10 05-06#2

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

11	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 342 Sudbury Rd.	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
15	Sun	<b>Homeless Forum: Real Solutions for Family Homelessness</b> <b>First Parish, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord</b>	<b>7-8:45 PM</b>
18	Wed	<b>LWVCC Book Group, Concord Main Library, Trustees Room</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
19	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps, Everett Garden	9:00 AM
30	Mon	Concord Town Caucus	

### FEBRUARY

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 41 Canterbury Ct. Carlisle	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
8	Wed	<b>LWVCC National Program Planning Meeting</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
16	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps, Everett Garden	9:00 AM

### MARCH

1	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 63 Coppermine Rd.	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
12	Sun	<b>LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum</b>	
15	Wed	<b>Day on the Hill</b>	<b>9 Coffee, 9:30 Plenary session</b>
16	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps, Everett Garden	9:00 AM
28	Tues	Concord Town Election	7:00 AM-8:00 PM
29	Wed	<b>LWVCC Local Program Planning Meeting</b>	<b>9 coffee, 9:30 meeting</b>

### APRIL

TBA		<b>LWVCC House Tour: Family Spaces</b>	
5	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
24-26		Concord Town Meeting, CCHS, 500 Walden St.	7-10 PM

### MAY

1-2		Concord Town Meeting	7-10 PM
3	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
24	Wed	<b>LWVCC Annual Meeting</b>	

### JUNE

7	Wed	LWVCC Old Board/New Board Meeting	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
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*Members are invited to attend monthly Board and Observer Corps meetings.*

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 citizen in government.

President	Susan Sekuler	(978) 369-8025	<a href="mailto:susan5@verizon.net">susan5@verizon.net</a>
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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Susan Sekuler, LWVCC President

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Dear League members,  
By the time you read this we will have recovered from the holidays and be ready to begin an exciting and productive New Year. Here are some 2005 memories:

The **West Concord Family Fest Parade**, featured LWVCC members holding the League Banner near the head of the march; our photo was featured in the *Concord Journal*. What a great boost to our visibility in the community!

Under the able direction of Membership Chair, Barbara Lewis, we held **three Membership Open Houses at Harvey Wheeler, the Concord Art Association and the Gleason Library** that provided an opportunity for current and potential members to enjoy art, conversation and fine refreshments in a social setting. Fun was had by all and we also enrolled several new members. If you missed out on these events (including wine, cheese and yummy pastries donated by Vintages, The Cheese Shop, and Debbie Barr) be sure to join us at the next one.

**Concord Decisions: Today and Tomorrow**, an outstanding panel presentation that included Town Manager Chris Whelan; Superintendent of Schools, Brenda Finn; former Long Range Commission Chair Tim Blanke; several other town and school officials; and questions and comments from several audience participants, was extremely informative and gave us much to think about. Thanks to the new CCTV system in the Town House we were able to record the proceedings which were broadcast several times on Channel 8. Many thanks to Shawna Reid and her husband David McGaffin for organizing the program and running the CCTV equipment.

The new **LWVCC Book Group** held its first meeting at the Concord Library with a discussion of Cokie Roberts' book, *Founding Mothers*. This is a wonderful way to interact with fellow leaguers and discuss topics and literature of interest to all. **The next meeting**

**will be on Wednesday, January 18.** (See article for further details.)

LWVCC actively participated in several National and State League actions, including the petition drive to reform redistricting in Massachusetts and action on the US Patriot Act renewal. Several members have been active on LWVMA Fiscal Policy, Affordable Housing and Healthcare committees. Thanks to all who helped make the first half of our LWVCC year so productive. But you've seen nothing yet. Look what we have on tap for Spring.

We begin 2006 as co-sponsors to the second annual **Homelessness Conference on January 15**. This is a follow-up to last year's program. January also begins the run-up to April/May Town meetings and town elections. There will be much to discuss prior to these events. We'll kick off at our **January Board meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by School Committee member Becky Shannon**. All members are welcome at Board meetings so if you want to hear Becky's comments, please join us.

In February, we'll select our recommendations for the next LWVUS program to be voted on at the 2006 LWVUS Convention. We also hope to hear from a National Board member on current LWVUS program and priorities. March will be very busy with our **Candidate's Forum, local program planning**, town elections and **Day on the Hill**. We'll begin April with **Family Spaces**, an LWVCC fundraising House Tour; we end with the Concord Town Meeting. Carlisle Town Meeting will follow. Our program year culminates in May at **Annual Meeting**; several delegates will fly to Minneapolis to represent us at the LWVUS Convention.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these engaging events and wish all our members and their families a healthy and happy New Year.

Susan Sekuler

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Christine and Dean Banfield, Tina Forbes, Suzanne Hogan, Mary-Elizabeth Jones, Judy LaRocca, Anne Shapiro, Laura Weiss, Joan Whitney, and Cynthia Woods, all of Concord, and Carlislans, Linda Fantasia, Charlene Hinton, Ginny Lamere, and Terri Hoffman, who all joined this fall. Thanks to all who have made the effort to get their memberships renewed before the end of January.

Our three Membership Open Houses were successful, and drew attention as well as many of these new members to the League. We will not be holding our traditional winter event at the Colonial Inn this January, but may schedule it a bit later in the spring as a nice time for us to gather, and once again invite interested members of the community to meet and find out more.

The deadline for renewing your membership for the July 2005 – June 2006 year is January 30. This is when our firm numbers must be submitted to National. If you have not renewed you will be placed on inactive status, and no longer be listed as an active member. We still have 28 individuals or households that have not yet renewed. That is a small enough number that I will be making phone calls to all of these people, just to be certain that leaving the League is not just an oversight on their part.

Once we have this final count for the 2005 – 2006 year, we will be making up a directory of members which will be sent to each of you. Don't be left out, get your membership form and dues sent in.

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*

## DAY ON THE HILL

The Massachusetts League will hold its annual **Day On The Hill on Wednesday, March 15, 2006**. The panel of speakers is still being assembled but the topic will deal with the tensions between the needs of local municipalities and the needs of the state. State League specialists will be addressing our legislative priorities. There will also be the opportunity to meet with our local legislators over lunch. Details will be forthcoming but save the date.

## LWVCC BOOK GROUP

On January 18, 2006, the LWVCC Book Group will hold its second meeting in the Trustees Room at the Concord Free Public Library at 10:00 AM. The book we will be discussing is *Nine Parts of Desire, The Hidden World of Islamic Women* by Geraldine Brooks. The back cover includes this description: “(this book) is the story of Brooks’ intrepid journey toward an understanding of the women behind the veils, and of the often contradictory political, religious, and cultural forces that shape their lives. Defying stereotypes about the Muslim world, Brooks’ acute analysis of the world’s fastest growing religion deftly illustrates how Islam’s holiest texts have been misused to justify repression of women, and how male pride and power have warped the original message of a once liberating faith.”

This powerful book is an “eye-opener” that is guaranteed to overwhelm and educate everyone who reads it. Our discussion on January 18 promises to be thought-provoking and enlightening. We will not only have Ms. Brooks’ analysis to consider but quite possibly the firsthand experience and perspective of some of our members and friends. All who attend will leave with much to ponder and think about for the future.

All league members and their friends are invited to attend and participate in our book discussions. For more information contact Anne Hayden (978 369-8526 or [anneh@speakeasy.net](mailto:anneh@speakeasy.net)). You don't have to call first, you can just show up at the library at 10:00 AM ready to discuss this month's book. See you there!

*Anne Hayden & Mary Willinsky  
LWVCC Book Group Co-Chairs*

### LWVCC HAS A WEBSITE!

To get to it, type in these letters:

<http://lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org>

or google LWV Concord Carlisle.

It is valuable resource that includes our calendar, Bulletin and Observer Reports, League flyers, and much more.

Check it out!

### **OBSERVER REPORT**

In early January a fairly lengthy Observers Report will be delivered to all members. The report will cover the Selectmen, Board of Health, Planning Board, Public Works, Natural Resources, Historical Commission, and Light Board. There are several other Town Committees for which we currently have no observers and we would like to have them. We particularly need observers for the Public Schools, the two Library Committees, the Housing Authority, the Finance Committee and the Recreation Committee. With the exception of the Selectmen, and to some extent the School Committee, most of these committees receive very little press coverage and the Observer Report constitutes the most complete chronicle of the many issues facing these committees.

I am also seeking a person or persons who might be willing to take charge of the actual folding and mailing of the Report. The task would entail picking the reports up from the printer, folding them (although we can arrange to have them pre-folded), putting on mailing labels, preparing the proper bulk mailing forms, and taking it to the post office. It would be important to be able to do this in a timely manner.

In the recent past this task has been done very responsibly by a high school student needing community service hours. If that were the case, parental oversight might be useful particularly if the student does not drive. It could also be done by a league member or a husband and wife team of league members anxious to make a contribution. If anyone out there is inspired to be either an observer or a mailer (or both) please call me. (Louise Haldeman, 978 369-8562) The Observers meet once a month but attendance at their meeting is not necessary as reports can certainly be sent by mail. Our meetings take place in the common room at Everett Gardens (Everett St.) usually on the third Thursday of the month. All are invited to attend.

*Louise Haldeman, Observer Chair*

### **LWVCC 2006 HOUSE TOUR**

Our League is planning another fabulous House Tour this spring. Its theme is "Family Spaces". Under the inspired leadership of Di Clymer, Holly Cratsley and their committee, we will have the opportunity to see how a number of households have addressed the issue of shared and/or family living space in many creative and attractive ways.

We hope that many of you will start planning now to attend with your friends. We will also need workers to assist in each house. If you would like to help on the day of the tour, please contact Anne Hayden, Bulletin editor, at (978) 369-8526 or [anneh@speakeasy.net](mailto:anneh@speakeasy.net).

### **LWV NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR 2006-8**

This year the LWVUS will hold its biennial convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June. This is where the national league program will be selected for the next two years. Our league will be able to send a number of delegates to this convention to represent LWVCC and vote on the National League's program for 2006-2008. Before Convention we need to let the LWVUS office know what topics we, at the grassroots, find most compelling to our members. At our **National Program Planning Session on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will accomplish this goal. We also hope to have a speaker from the National Board to update us on current LWVUS concerns before we make our program suggestions.

Every League member has an investment in this planning session as it will help shape all our studies and action priorities for several years. So come, bring your ideas and help LWVCC make an impact on national League programming.

All League members are eligible to be Convention delegates. If you want to serve as a delegate, come to the planning session and/or contact National Program Chair, Nancy Beeuwkes (978 371-7293) for more information.

*Nancy Beeuwkes, National Program Chair*

## *Domestic Violence Prevention activities in Concord*

*Nancy James 369-2771*

*Introduction: national and state League chapters have made a significant commitment to domestic violence prevention. Our newsletters will now contain a report each month on the activities within Concord and surrounding towns about this issue. Included in these reports will be the **Network for Women's Lives (Network)**, **Concord-Carlisle Domestic Violence Roundtable (Roundtable)**, **Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DV Services)**, and a men's group **Men Against Domestic Abuse and Control**, which meets in Carlisle.*

**Rachel's Box Project** Rachel's Box in need of materials? Please notify Nancy James 978-369-2771 if you notice boxes in disarray or needing materials.

### **Network for Women's Lives Upcoming Events**

- January 15 (Sunday) ***Solutions to Family Homelessness*** a roundtable discussion with state legislators, 7:00-8:45 PM First Parish, 20 Lexington Road, Concord
- February 10 & 11, ***"The Vagina Monologues"*** 7:30 at Emerson Umbrella, 40 Stow Street, Concord
- March 16 ***Clergy Symposium "Teen Dating Violence"*** day-long program at Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm Street, Concord. Joanne Patterson or REACH is featured speaker. Open to all interested clergy and laity.

### **Network for Women's Lives Meetings**

- January 9, 2006 6:45 Tri-Con Church, 54 Walden Street [all welcome]
  - February 6, 2006 6:45 " "
  - March 6, 2006 6:45 " "
- for more information, please contact MJ Nichols at [MaryJTN@aol.com](mailto:MaryJTN@aol.com).

**DV Services** reports that 2005 provided 478 contacts with 271 victims an increase of 55% over 2004. DV Services also had a record number of police reports from the 7 towns served (Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Maynard, Stow) and Hanscom Air Force Base.

**DV Services** reports a new Internet site to help children and teens that are being harassed, stalked or bullied/ WHOA-KTD can be accessed at [www.haltabuse.org](http://www.haltabuse.org).

**DV Services** is celebrating its 8<sup>th</sup> year of service to Concord and expanded towns.

**By: Nancy P. James**