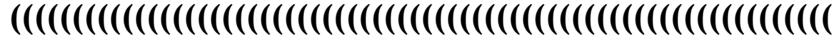


SHOP TALK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of ELMHURST, ILLINOIS



Laura Kratz
Donna Blue
Carolyn Landwehr

President
Membership
Shop Talk Editor

president@lwvelmhurst.org
membership@lwvelmhurst.org
shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org

Vol. 58, #5
December, 2006

LWV of Elmhurst website - www.lwvelmhurst.org



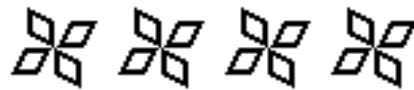
December Calendar

Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.
At the home of Laura Kratz

Board Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 9:15 a.m.
At the home of Kay Gavin

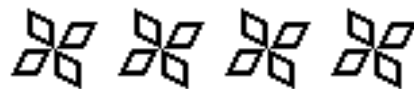
Great Decisions



Holiday Party

Friday, 7:30 p.m., December 8

At the home of Sally Hoffman



President's Corner

Due to the holiday schedule, this edition of *Shop Talk* is coming out a bit earlier than normal, but we still have plenty of news and updates to share.

I wrote last month's *President's Corner* before our screening of *An Inconvenient Truth* at the York Theater. While I expected a good turnout, I did not anticipate the overwhelming interest in global warming. Thanks – and congratulations – to our Program Chairman, **Lisa Landreth**, whose vision and dedication made this event a tremendous success.

Speaking of overwhelming success, our Webmaster, **Jeanne Davik**, reports that our website experienced a huge surge of visitors during the first week of November, surpassing by far the number of "hits" the site received before last spring's elections. Clearly, people were looking for election information compiled by our Voter Service Chairman, **Gail Anderson**, and posted by Jeanne.

The Immigration Study Committee, under the direction of **Carolyn Landwehr**, has been sorting out the complexities of the issues and summarizing the key points on each of the study questions for distribution to the membership.

Our newest committee is planning for our 75th Anniversary celebration in January. Committee members **Lisa Landreth**, **Barbara Swords**, **Donna Blue**, **Connie Zillig**, and **Jan Vanek** have some wonderful ideas to make this a memorable milestone. Be sure to save the date for this luncheon: January 20, 2007.

Once again, we thank **Kay Gavin** for collecting gifts for the Family Shelter Holiday Shoppe. Donations from our League have been much appreciated over the years.

This month, please welcome our new members **Susan Thomas-Sadowski**, **Jean and David Carlquist**, and **Dora Schenk**.

Meanwhile, our Voter Registration Chairman, **Jan Vanek**, announced at our last Board meeting that she will step down from the Board to run for reelection to the City Council as Second Ward Alderman. We will miss her on the Board, but appreciate her work on Voter Registration this fall as well as her many contributions to our discussions and planning process.

Finally, I hope to see you all at our annual holiday gathering on Friday evening, December 8, at **Sally Hoffman's** home. It's always a pleasure to relax and socialize with our League friends.

Laura

Great Decisions

Our Great Decisions group will meet at Kay Gavin's home on Thursday, December 7, 9:15 a.m. After the meeting, Kay will be taking our gifts for the Family Shelter Holiday Shoppe to the center where they will be arranged for the mothers to choose presents for their children. If you haven't yet delivered a gift to the League meeting or to Kay's house, you can still bring one to the December Great Decisions meeting. Suggestions for these gifts were in the last *Shop Talk*.

As those who come to the Great Decisions discussions regularly know, in November we discussed the article on Turkey, instead of the one on **Pandemics and National Security**, which we will be talking about this month. (Sorry for the incorrect information in the November issue.) This, too, should be an interesting discussion.

It is time to order the new books, which will be available in January. The cost this year is \$17. If you would like a book, but cannot come to the December meeting, please call Kay Gavin at 832-7859, so that she can put your name on the list.

Great Decisions 2007 Topic Descriptions

Excerpts from the material sent out by the Foreign Policy Association

Middle East Although the U.S. will remain involved in Iraq, other factors will also challenge stability in the region. How will Iran's nuclear program, the conflict in Lebanon, and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations shape the Middle East?

Climate Change How much are human practices contributing to substantial and irreversible changes to the environment? What responses should we adopt?

Mexico Can Mexico's newly elected president, Felipe Calderón, successfully reform that country's policies on energy, trade and border security and strengthen relations with the United States?

Migration The movement of people across international borders can be initiated by conflicts, economic opportunities or the chance to achieve political freedoms. What are the advantages and disadvantages for countries that are affected by migration?

South Africa South Africa is the most developed country in Africa, yet it still struggles with major issues in the post-Apartheid era. What are the political challenges facing South Africa? What impact is the AIDS epidemic having on South Africa's economy and society?

War Crimes The creation of the International Criminal Court has established a new venue for investigating and prosecuting war crimes, despite a lack of U.S. participation. Will the

non-participation of the U.S. weaken the power of the ICC? What challenges are faced by the ICC in punishing war criminals?

Central Asia Rich in energy supplies and strategically located, the five countries of Central Asia attract attention from the Middle East, China, Russia and the United States. How will international competition for energy supplies affect each country? What are U.S. interests in the region?

Children Ensuring the safety and proper development of children is the stated goal of the global community, yet in some countries, children are exposed to unsafe labor practices, human trafficking, and participation in combat. What role do private donors, governments and international organizations play in ensuring health care, education and safety for the world's children?



Holiday Party

It's time again for the Elmhurst League's annual social event -- our holiday party. Again this year the party will be at Sally Hoffman's beautiful home. On Friday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m., we will enjoy an evening of fun and socializing.

Please bring an appetizer or sweet snack, and your spouse or a friend. There will be coffee, soft drinks, and wine. As always, this get-together will be a chance to talk with old League friends and to get better acquainted with new ones.



Membership Donna Blue

Please welcome these new members and put their information in your directory:

David and Jean Carlquist

Susan Thomas-Sadowski

Dora Schenk



Program Lisa Landreth

Well, "green" is in and timing is everything! The October program, *An Inconvenient Truth*, was a great success. After selling out the first auditorium, the York opened up a second

auditorium to accommodate the people waiting in the line which trailed to the end of the block. We sold 411 tickets and raised over \$800 for the League. Approximately 100 people stayed to listen to Bill Blaus present ways we can help reduce global warming in our daily routine and save money as well. The School and Community Assistance in Recycling and Composting Education, SCARCE, distributed information regarding recycling after the movie. A big thank you to Willis and Shirley Johnson, owners of Classic Cinema, not only for their assistance with the showing of the movie, but for their generous donation to the League.

The 75th Anniversary Committee met last week to plan our birthday celebration in January. **“Save the date” for January 20, 2007**, as we are planning a luncheon and show by Elmhurst’s very own Jenny Riddle. She will entertain us as she portrays some of America’s most famous first ladies. Look for your invitations with further details in December. We are looking for a talented seamstress to make Jenny a “LWV” sash to be worn for her performance. Please contact Lisa Landreth at program@lwvelmhurst.com.



Help Wanted

Voter Registration Chairman: We need someone to make arrangements to register voters for the spring elections. Duties include reserving locations, assigning Registrars to work, and keeping track of the number of voters who have registered. We prefer someone with a valid Elmhurst Public Library Card (needed to reserve a room at the Library). Please contact Laura Kratz, president@lwvelmhurst.org, if you are interested.

Park Board Observer: Our Observer Corps has an opening for someone to attend and report on the activities of our Elmhurst Park Board. The Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month. Please contact Jan Dorner, observerreports@lwvelmhurst.org, if you are interested.



Record Numbers of Visitors to www.lwvelmhurst.org Jeanne Davik, Webmaster

Our Elmhurst League website -- <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/> -- always generates a lot of interest at election time. Last March, around the time of the March 17 Primary Election, our website recorded 27,654 hits, which was three or four times more than we had been getting in an average month.

This month, as of November 13, we’ve already had 91, 083 hits. The biggest day was Election Day, November 7, with 75, 927 hits. Wow!

Our website is always changing, so you are likely to find something new every time you visit. We also try to alert you to new League activities via email. Currently 91 of our 110 members are on our E-mailing List. We don't know for sure whether all 91 of you are getting our email reminders. Sometimes when an email goes out to a group, certain email programs will block it as spam. If we know this is happening, we can take steps to get around it.

If you have not been receiving our email reminders, let us know by sending an email to webmaster@lwvelmhurst.org. If you are reluctant to give us your email address, you should know that our emails average only 3 or 4 a month, and we never share email addresses with anyone outside the League.



Immigration Study Carolyn Landwehr

You say that you are interested in immigration but you don't have time to be on a committee? That is true for most League members, in our League and elsewhere. But **all** members of Leagues in Illinois will be considering, discussing, and coming to **consensus** on eight specific questions about how we should handle various immigration problems **in Illinois**. Most Leagues, including Elmhurst, will be having **consensus meetings** in February. Our answers to these eight questions are due in the state office by March 1.

Our local Immigration Study Committee hopes that by February all Elmhurst League members will have enough information on the subject to be able to take part in thoughtful discussions and, we hope, come to **consensus** (general agreement, not unanimity) on our answers to these questions.

We committee members will try to make material easily available so that all Elmhurst members will be fully qualified to take part in one of these **consensus meetings**. We will schedule one in a morning, one in an afternoon, and one in an evening.

The scope of the study, as passed at the LWVIL State Convention in June, 2005: **How should Illinois respond to the challenges and opportunities of Immigration in the areas of economic policy, social policy which includes education, and the governmental process?**

Note that we are just considering the reaction of our state, not the nation. Later, the LWVUS will study this issue on a national level; this was decided at the national convention, in June of this year.

We hope that you have saved the background material included in the last two issues of *Shop Talk* so that you can refer to it whenever you like. If you have time, you can also read material which Jeanne Davik has put on our web site. The committee plans to send out the

questions one by one by e-mail, with brief information on each one in that same e-mail, and a link to more information for those who would like it. After all eight questions have been addressed, we plan to print and mail the summaries to those members who are not on our e-mail list and who would like a copy.



**From the Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization
Forwarded from Jeanett Neagu, Co-President**

Jeanett forwarded an Action Alert from the Alliance for the Great Lakes with the comment that, while the LMILO does not have a position on this, they are considering acting under the Natural Resources positions of the LWVUS. The following is a summary of the situation and of the response of the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

Our clean drinking water, ability to fish and freedom to enjoy the Great Lakes are at risk from the United States Coast Guard Proposal to establish 34 live fire practice zones on the Great Lakes.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes wrote lengthy comments to the Coast Guard. Briefly, their comments address:

Public access restrictions during live fire exercises and potential alternatives;

Long-term negative and unknown impacts of lead bullets on water quality; and

The need for a detailed environmental assessment that considers a full spectrum of impacts.

