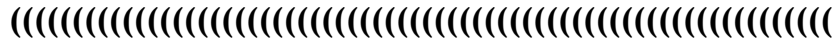


SHOP TALK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of ELMHURST, ILLINOIS



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LWV of Elmhurst web site - www.lwvelmhurst.org			



October Calendar

Thursday, October 5, 9:15 a.m.	Great Decisions
At the home of Kay Gavin	

6th Congressional District Candidate Forum

Candidates Tammy Duckworth and Peter Roskam

**Will speak in the Student Resource Center (SRC 2800)
At the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn**

On Thursday, October 12, at 8 p.m.



Tuesday, October 17, 1 p.m.
At the home of Laura Kratz

Immigration Study, First Meeting

Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m.
At the home of Laura Kratz

Board Meeting

President's Corner

Well, we are off to a very busy year in the Elmhurst League. Thanks to our Membership Chairman, **Donna Blue**, our roster is up to date and we are proud to claim 106 members. Meanwhile, **Jan Dornier** has been hard at work compiling our annual *Directory and Yearbook*. Thanks to both their efforts, the *Directories* are finished and being delivered.

Our new Program Chairman, **Lisa Landreth**, arranged for us to co-sponsor our first general meeting of the year with the Field PTA. **Leo Fronza**, President and CEO of Elmhurst Memorial Hospital, brought us up to speed on plans for a new hospital campus on the south side of town and on ideas being considered for using the existing building on Berteau Avenue, just south of Field School.

I am delighted to report that the first packet for the Illinois LWV Immigration Study has arrived and we are eager to get started on this important project. **Carolyn Landwehr** has graciously agreed to chair the committee and we have scheduled our first meeting. The state committee has done an outstanding job researching and preparing material to help us as we consider this vast but fascinating topic.

As you have probably noticed, the 6th Congressional race is really heating up. Our Candidate Forum on October 12th at the College of DuPage will be the only time the general public will be able to see and hear both candidates speak to the issues. It has been my pleasure to be the coordinator for this project. Meanwhile our Voter Registrar, **Jan Vanek**, has been setting up voter registration sessions at the Elmhurst Library and Elmhurst College. **Gail Anderson**, Voter Services Chairman, is working on an online Voters Guide for the November election as well.

Finally, the time has come, once again, to ask for your financial support so we can continue to reach our goals and fulfill the mission of the League. Finance Drive letters are in the mail. When you receive yours, I hope you will consider making a donation to either our General Fund or our Education Fund to help us continue with our work.

Laura



Great Decisions

Our Great Decisions discussion group will meet on the first Thursday in October, October 5, at Kay Gavin's home. We will be discussing the chapter on India and China, **India and China: Competition & Cooperation**. The material gives background not only on their relations with each other, but also on their relationships with the U.S. and other western nations. It should be an interesting discussion.

6th Congressional District Candidate Forum

The Candidate Forum will be held on Thursday, October 12, at the Student Resource Center (SRC 2800) of the College of DuPage, South of Fawell Boulevard, East of Lambert, in Glen Ellyn. Please note that the starting time is 8 p.m., but doors will open at 7:30 p.m.

In lieu of a regular general meeting, we hope you will attend this forum where candidates for Congress Tammy Duckworth and Peter Roskam will discuss their views on issues ranging from the war in Iraq, to protecting the Great Lakes, to their views on the best ways to serve the needs of the changing demographics in our area.

Our League is co-sponsoring this forum with other DuPage area Leagues and with College of DuPage student organizations. Additional support is provided by the Social Action Committee of Congregation Etz Chaim of Lombard, the Union League Club of Chicago, and DuPage United.

If you are interested in riding in a carpool to the forum, please call Laura Kratz.



Immigration Study Carolyn Landwehr

We are ready to begin working on the LWV Illinois Immigration Study! The first comprehensive packet from the State Study Committee has just arrived, and it is excellent.

Please read the article excerpted from the packet in this issue of *Shop Talk*, and plan to come to the organizational meeting, which will be on Tuesday, October 17, at Laura Kratz's home. We will go over the packet and decide how we want to proceed with the study. Please call Carolyn Landwehr if you can't come to this meeting but are interested in learning more about immigration.



Voter Registration Jan Vanek

The appointment of League members as sworn Volunteer Deputy Registrars in DuPage County will expire November 30, 2006. After that date we will need to go to the county election commission office to be appointed for another two year term.

For this coming election registrars may register new voters and process change in addresses up to and including October 10, 2006. Due to a change in election laws, all deputy registrars can now register voters who reside within the state of Illinois. Two forms of identification, one with the current address, are needed for registration.

Who Can Register

- Must be US citizen
- Must be 18 years on or before next election
- Must live in election precinct at least 30 days before next election
- Must not be convicted and in jail
- Cannot claim the right to vote anywhere else

Early voting begins October 16, 2006, which is 22 days prior to the election, and continues until November 2, 2006, which is 5 days prior to election. To vote early in DuPage County you must be a registered voter in DuPage and must present a government-issued photo ID.

Further information is available at the Voting and Elections page on the League website, www.lwvelmhurst.org.



Program **Lisa Landreth**

We are pleased to announce that the Elmhurst League has received a grant from the LWVUS to sponsor a UN speaker to discuss the Millenium Development Goals. We are in the beginning stages of planning for this, which will be next spring.

We are beginning to plan for our 75th anniversary celebration. If you would like to help, please call or e-mail Lisa Landreth. program@lwvelmhurst.org.

We are also looking for a seamstress to make a LWV sash to be worn across the midriff for our entertainer, Jenny Riddle. She will wear this as she portrays Eleanor Roosevelt. If you could do this, please call or e-mail Lisa Landreth. (Information above.)



Chronology: Changes in Immigration and Naturalization Laws **(From the National Immigration Forum) and other sources**

1790 – Naturalization was authorized for "free white persons" who had resided in the United States for at least two years and swore loyalty to the U.S. Constitution.

1798 – The Alien and Sedition Acts allowed the President to deport any foreigner deemed dangerous. Imposed 14–year residency requirement for prospective citizens.

1802 – Residency requirement for prospective citizens set at 5 years.

1882 – The Chinese Exclusion Act suspended immigration by Chinese laborers for ten years. This was the first time the U.S. restricted immigration on the basis of race or national origin.

1891 - The Immigration Act of 1891 created the Immigration and Naturalization Service to administer the federal laws relating to the admission, exclusion and deportation of aliens and to provide for the naturalization of aliens lawfully residing in the U.S.

1906 - First language requirement was adopted for naturalization: ability to speak and understand English.

1917 - Literacy requirement for all new immigrants: ability to read 40 words in some language. Prohibited immigration from Asia, except Japan and the Philippines.

1921 - National-origins quota system was born. Admissions from each European country were limited to 3% of each foreign-born nationality in the 1910 census. The effect was to favor Northern Europeans at the expense of Southern and Eastern Europeans. Most Asians continued to be excluded.

1924 - Johnson-Reed Act preserved America's "racial" composition. Immigration was based on the ethnic makeup of the U.S. population as a whole in 1920.

1950 - The Internal Security Act barred admission to any foreigner who might engage in activities that would be prejudicial to the public interest or would endanger the welfare or safety of the United States. It permitted deportation of non-citizens who belong to the U.S. Communist Party or whose future activities might be "subversive to the national security."

1952 - The McCarran-Walter Act opened the door to numerous nationalities previously kept out on racial grounds. Naturalization required ability to read and write, as well as speak and understand English.

1965 - For the first time, Congress eliminated racial criteria from immigration laws, abolishing the national origins quota system and establishing a seven-category preference system based on family unification and skills. Each country, regardless of ethnicity, received an annual quota of 20,000.

1980 - The Refugee Act of 1980 set up the first permanent and systematic procedure for admitting refugees.

1986 - The Immigration Reform and Control Act gave amnesty to about three million undocumented residents but punished employers who hire persons who were here illegally. The purpose was to make it difficult for the undocumented to find a job. One side effect was employment discrimination against those who look or sound "foreign."

1990 - The Immigration Act of 1990 raised the limit for legal immigration to 700,000 people a year.

1996 - The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act toughened border enforcement, closed opportunities for undocumented immigrants to adjust their status, made it more

difficult to gain asylum, expanded grounds for deporting immigrants, stripped immigrants of many due process rights and their access to the courts.

1996 - The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act made citizenship a condition of eligibility for public benefits for most immigrants; previously, legal immigrants had been eligible for benefits on terms similar to those of native-born citizens.

1998 - Some of the provisions of the previous law were withdrawn. Some public benefits were restored for some elderly and disabled immigrants.

2000 - The Legal Immigration Family Equity Act permitted some immigrants with family or employer sponsors to gain legal status. Congress also let severely disabled immigrants become citizens even if they could not understand the Oath of Allegiance.

2002 - President Bush's Fiscal Year 2003 Budget restored food stamp eligibility to documented immigrants who had been in the country for five years.

2002 - The Patriot Act amended the entrance criteria for all foreign nationals to include security and terrorist concerns, health-related grounds, criminal history, indigence, and previous removal.



An Historical sketch of Immigration to the United States and Responses Thereto on the part of the Government and Citizens of the United States

Written by Dr. Thomas O. Kay, Professor Emeritus Wheaton College

The factor of human migration is a constant throughout all human history. It is documented by physical and cultural anthropology as well as the historical record of artifacts, written sources and oral traditions.

The western hemisphere (including Illinois) was initially populated by immigrants from Asia as well as possibly other areas about 15,000 years ago. Illinois populations in excess of 15,000 persons before 1000 C.E. continued to grow as new groups of now "native Americans" found the "Illinois" country a suitable place to live. Population reached 20, 000 before 1650 along with frequent contests for control of the land.

Major European immigration began in the 17th century to North America. The French contacts from earlier explorations and the resulting Canadian connections gave rise to a French population of traders and hunters in Illinois and elsewhere along with the Native Americans whose population had been reduced to about 6000 by 1700 due to disease, war and migration to neighboring territories.

Later English and other west Europeans came to North America pushing westward to the Mississippi River, driving the French and Native Americans west... There was a small number of Africans as well. The Africans in the south increased rapidly supporting the plantation economy of the South.

Following the establishment of the United States in 1783, Migrations westward from the east coast were strengthened by the growth of the young United States and continuing migrations from Europe, largely from England, Ireland, Netherlands, Scandinavia, and Germany.

The increased availability of transportation for human and agricultural purposes greatly encouraged the westward movement of the population. Over the course of the nineteenth century there was a great increase in the number of immigrants from Europe (including those from eastern Europe), and a continuing expansion of slave labor in the south until after the Civil War.. Africans escaping slavery, and those now freed, contributed to the growing diversity and economic expansion of urban populations. Many immigrants (largely Germans and Scandinavians) strengthened agricultural production that in turn fed the growing urban populations. It was the new waves of European immigrants that provided much of the labor for the building and extension of railroads throughout the country including the Chinese labor that built the western stretches of the Union Pacific Railroad.

It was the dream of a new life, a new world, food on the table, opportunities for education, employment, and freedoms not found elsewhere attracted many to this “new world”. However, the significant growth of immigrants and the challenges that they represented were not always perceived positively by longer term citizens. There were conflicts and abuse, struggles to get and keep a job, language problems, lack of acceptance of cultural diversities, and poor living conditions

Immigrants tended to concentrate in urban areas and to choose manual labor, often picking up where the previous generation of immigrants left off. Such concentrations were sometimes the sites of conflict with native born Americans, other groups of immigrants, all competing for the same jobs. Leaders of the immigrant groups learned the raw boned techniques of political power and became major political factors in urban centers of the United States, and often went beyond the merely political.

By mid-20th century the character of the large urban concentrations of ethnic minorities established by the immigrants of the previous decades had begun to diminish. There were significant social and economic changes that contributed to this such as improved and broadened educational opportunities, an extended period of economic growth, and the availability of growing income opportunities.

The remaining distinguishing characteristic in most urban regions now was one of color, even though some might trace their ancestry back several centuries in the United States. The southern and western states continue to work with the problems of Hispanic and East Asian populations where new migrations continue. However, basic issues remain much the same: jobs, wages, housing, cultural characteristics, discrimination. Ambiguous and changing policies and/or lack of enforcement contribute to uncertainties, for citizens, the immigrants or resident aliens.

The End