

Fall 2009

Voter Highlights

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley



Mission

"The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

Voter Guides (League-produced information about local officials) will be distributed this fall in Hanover, Lyme and Norwich.

President's Note

"The Arctic is at it warmest for 2,000 years despite the fact natural cycles mean the area should be cooling, according to research which scientists say proves climate change is man-made." So begins a recent news report by environmental correspondent Louise Gray of the Telegraph.

The League of Women Voters works to "promote an environment that is beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest."

In keeping with this mission, Cathleen Geiger, a scientist stationed at CRREL and one of our own members, will present a fascinating program through words and pictures about her experiences in leading a polar expedition to learn about sea ice at our Fall Potluck (see back cover for details.) The purpose of the trip was to understand the dynamic contributions of sea ice relative to its rapidly changing thickness. Cathleen's program captures life in a base camp on the ice, the amazing sound of sea ice, and provides an underwater look at the ice formations. Cathleen is passionate about increasing understanding of the Polar Regions and their impact on our lives. Please join us for a fun and interesting Fall Potluck on September 24.

Smart people disagree over the best solution for our broken health care system. The League's nonpartisan position endorses access to a basic level of quality care for all US residents and controls health care costs. We'll be keeping you informed about what you can do to make a difference and make your voice heard in the debate.

On the local level, the LWV UV Social Policy committee has put together a terrific three-part brown bag lunch series on health care with local experts entitled Today's Medicine: Navigating the System With Partners. (See back cover for more details.) Come to one program or all three.

In the coming months, we plan to bring you information and programming around civics education, international relations, natural resources and more, and we'll be looking at new ways to expand our reach. We hope you will take part by sending your ideas, attending programs and volunteering. We welcome your participation!

Ellen Gitomer

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEAGUE'S WORK & POSITIONS?

LOCAL NEWS:	www.uppervalleyleague.org
NEW HAMPSHIRE NEWS:	www.lwvnh.org
VERMONT NEWS:	www.lwvofvt.org
NATIONAL NEWS:	www.lwv.org

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Board Meetings

Howe Library
3rd Thursday of
the month
9:15 am
All Welcome!

Do you have ideas
and suggestions for
the newsletter?
Would you like to
receive only an
email version?

Please email
Sylvia Field
fernwoodhaven@
comcast.net

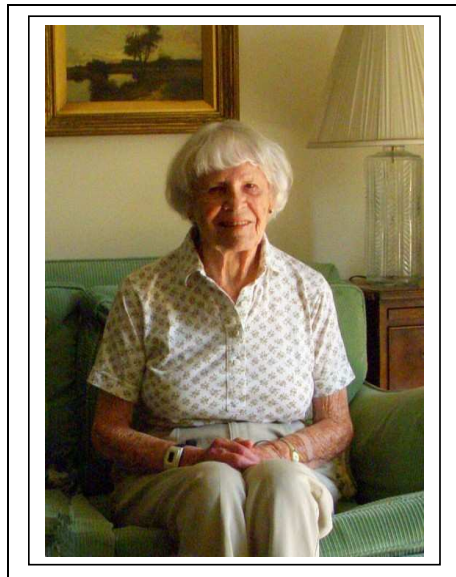
LWV - UV

Membership

The annual membership renewal has gone out and we now have 157 members. If you haven't had a chance to send in your dues to support this vital work, the deadline is approaching. Please send your check for \$45 (\$60 family membership, \$20 student membership) to LWV-UV, PO Box 423, Hanover, NH 03755. We value and need each and every member.

At this time we would like to honor and recognize LWV 50 year members for their leadership and vision.

Joanne Bertozzi
Barbara Bloch
Betty Breunig
Joan Burchenal
Jean Chalmers
Jacqueline Clement
Nancy Dean
Joyce Fieldsteel
Barbara Gilbert
Elizabeth Hunter
Nancy Johnson
Mary Masland
Jennie McBean
Nina McCall
Mary Mudge
Anita Norman
Patricia Renshaw
Jean Sonder
Ray Theriault



Susan Shadford

Ray Theriault, shown here in her Harvest Hill home in Lebanon some 73 years after she and four other women, founded the Hanover LWV in 1936. She wanted to bring the same stimulation and activism she'd experienced in Leagues in Madison, Wis. and Cambridge, Ma., to her new home in Hanover. Some 20 women joined this fledgling group and explored issues of the Depression, the environment (yes, even then!) and local matters. Ray also helped found a league in Norwich; after a few years, it merged with Hanover to become the Upper Valley League (which now covers 23 towns and villages.) Active locally and at the state level for many years, she is amazed, she says, by all that the present League is accomplishing. And, as if founding our League weren't enough, she was also a founder of the Hanover Coop! Thank you Ray!

The Regional Growth Management Committee

Transportation was adopted as the major study focus at the last Vermont League convention. Here in the Upper Valley we are addressing this issue, in part, through a joint grant to the LWV-UV, Vital Communities and three Regional Planning Commissions. The grant allows local officials to meet and discuss in detail issues that have implications across the VT/NH border. Over the course of several meetings, transportation emerged as the topic of regional significance.

There is great interest in a proposed "multi-modal" hub funded by a new federal grant that helps our region plan a new facility for bus, car and possibly rail transportation. Watch for news about future public meetings about this. Also, the group is exploring "transportation-based development" that puts housing close to jobs. Local officials will be meeting again in the coming months to discuss this.

Barbara McIlroy



Incoming President Ellen Gitomer, with Board member Josette Malley and outgoing President, and current board member Barbara McIlroy, at the Annual Meeting.



League Vice President Margaret Powell, with Bob and Joyce Fieldsteel, and Board Member Beverly Marshall

2009 Annual Meeting

Daryl Press, Professor of Government at Dartmouth College, made the 2009 LWV UV Annual Meeting keynote address entitled "Walking the Tightrope: When US Economic Policies Intersect with National Security Interests". His main focus was on the intersection of oil with U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, its myths and how they influence US strategies. He recommended keeping our military footprint light and cultivating policies similar to those espoused during the Carter and Reagan administrations.

NH State Convention

New Study! At the NH LWV state convention in May, 2009, the membership approved a new study: **The Incarceration of Women in NH**. The state study committee is learning about this issue through hearing informative speakers and by touring county facilities, and will provide us with the first study guide shortly. If you would like to participate in this study either at the state or Upper Valley level, please contact Marilyn Lieto at charmingquark@roadrunner.com or at 603-786-2605.

Board of Directors 2009 –2010

(Continued)

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LWV-UV
 PO Box 423
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www.uppervalleyleague.org

REMEMBER: DUES ARE DUE!

Please share this newsletter with a friend.

Program 2009 – 2010 : Fall Events

For updated information, please check our website at
www.uppervalleyleague.org
 or the Valley News calendar

September

Fall Meet the League Potluck & Program

Members and Non-Members Welcome

**Thursday, September 24,
Howe Library**

Bring a friend and learn what the League is working on this year and hear a fascinating talk from one of our own members!

5-6 PM - Potluck

(Last names A-M: Bring dessert; Last names N-Z: Bring a salad or main dish)

6-7:30 PM – Program

Sea Ice – The Adjustable Global Air Conditioner

Guest Speaker, Cathleen Geiger

September/October

Three part health series :

Today's Medicine:

Navigating the System With Partners

Wednesday, September 23, Noon

Howe Library (Bring Your Lunch):

Who Makes the Decisions About Your Health Care?

Stephen J. Bartels, M.D., Director of the Dartmouth Centers for Health and Aging

Wednesday, October 7, Noon

Howe Library (Bring Your Lunch):

Developing a Plan for Personal Advocacy

Timothy Caldwell, Attorney

Linda C. Wilkinson, Coordinator, Patient/Family Centered Care, DHMC

Licia Berry-Berard, Manager, Patient/Family Centered Care, DHMC

Wednesday, October 21, 12 PM

Howe Library (Bring Your Lunch):

Keeping the Focus on Patient and Family-Centered Care

Sandra Dickau, Vice President, Patient Care, DHMC
 Darlene Saler, Director, Care Management, DHMC