



THE GENEVA LEAGUER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GENEVA, NY

<http://geneva.ny.lwvnet.org>

NOV. 2007-JAN. 2008

CALENDAR

February 5

Lunch with the League
Bioenergy & Biofuels
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Geneva Presbyterian Church

February 13

Court Watchers Meeting
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
Geneva Presbyterian Church

February 28

New Member Reception
Hosted by Merry Henry
details inside!

March 4

Lunch with the League
Meet the Mayor, Stu Einstein
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Geneva Presbyterian Church

March 12

Court Watchers Meeting
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
Geneva Presbyterian Church

April 1

Lunch with the League
Meet the Geneva City Council
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Geneva Presbyterian Church

April 9

Court Watchers Meeting
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
Geneva Presbyterian Church

Lunch with the League: February 5

Breeding and commercialization of high-yielding varieties of shrub willow for bioenergy and biofuels

Lawrence (Larry) Smart, Ph.D.

SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Smart (Associate Professor in Environmental and Forest Biology) is a plant geneticist and physiologist, whose research has focused on the genetic improvement of willow as a bioenergy crop and for phytoremediation. Smart received his B.S. in Biology from Cornell University, Ph.D. in Genetics at Michigan State University, and was a NSF Postdoctoral Fellow at UC-Davis. He teaches courses in Cell Physiology, Plant Physiology, and Biotechnology and has been on the faculty at SUNY-ESF since 1996. In addition to *Salix* genetics, Smart's research includes studies of cuticular wax biochemistry, stomatal physiology, and drought tolerance.

Ethanol is being promoted as a domestically produced transportation fuel that can relieve U.S. dependence on foreign oil. In the U.S., ethanol is made from corn grain, mostly in the Midwestern states. The annual production of ethanol has increased dramatically over the last decade, contributing to a rise in corn prices and increased acreage of corn cultivation. To attain national goals for the use of ethanol, the industry will need to diversify its biomass feedstocks, shifting to high-yielding perennial crops. Fast-growing shrub willow is ideally suited as a dedicated energy crop for the Midwest and Northeast U.S. and regions of Canada, but improvements in yield will enhance the economics of the system and lead to greater commercial deployment. SUNY-ESF has established and maintains the largest willow breeding program in North America, which includes a genetically diverse collection of over 700 varieties. A number of these varieties are being tested in several yield trials alongside four current production varieties in order to test their growth on a range of site conditions across North America and in Northern Ireland. Plant patents have been issued for seven of these varieties, and 18 varieties have been transferred and licensed to Double A Willow, a nursery in Fredonia, NY that is marketing them for commercial deployment.



Invite a friend to have Lunch with the League next month. *Better yet, treat a friend to lunch!* What better way to introduce your friend to the works of the League of Women Voters than over lunch – and you'll both be learning more about what affects voters today.

President's Message

Greetings Leaguers and Would Be Leaguers,

Needless to say, we had an awesome Candidates Forum on October 23rd at North Street School. There were 22 candidates on stage, and a few who didn't make the cut due to such an overwhelming response. Our rookie Voter Service Director, Mary Bakogiannis, did a great job putting the forum together. Kudos to Mary! She deserves the mother lode of credit for this undertaking. Judith McKinney racked up another stellar performance as the forum moderator, with her high degree of professionalism, intelligence, and articulation. We thank Heather Aten and Kim Reisch for their service as experienced question screeners, scanning for relevancy and redundancy. Kim Aliperti and Kristen Ondik served as runners, and were they ever fast! Kim Aliperti, Kristen Ondik, Mary Bakogiannis, Stephanie Kutzke, Mary Ann Bourbeau, Barb Roesch, and several others helped with setting up and taking down the forum. What a team effort, and it shows!

Our website is yet another feather in our cap, thanks to Kristen Ondik and Mary Bakogiannis, who painstakingly gathered candidates' bios and posted them on our web site. Several voters have asked me about what I knew about certain candidates, and I could adhere to my nonpartisan requirement by directing them to our web site. I'm sure that many of you have directed your friends and family to our web site when they were in need of information about candidates.

We are making a difference in assisting voters to make educated, informed decisions when they vote, and also in helping candidates get their message out. This is democracy in action.

Our Geneva League is about to launch a City Council Observer Corp, with Kristen Ondik and Chris

Hoffman heading up the effort. We plan to work with student interns from Hobart William Smith College who are interested in political science and government to help develop the Observer Corp. What a way to see local government in action, and to strengthen our collaborative alliances with the Colleges.

Likewise, the Colleges contacted our League to request volunteers for the Vote Smart Bus which will be stopping at the Colleges on Nov. 8th.

Betsy Bihn and Rosario Millington are enthusiastically putting together an informational program regarding immigration. We could even do an immigration study if anyone is interested, and knows how to do a study. Study materials can be found on the national LWV web site.

Kim Reisch is working quietly behind the scenes in collaboration with the Red Cross, bringing a leadership training program to high school students known as Leaderspark. Facilitators from the League include Karen Goulet, Gretchen Fox, and Judy Curtis. The program consists of about 5 or 6 three hour units focusing on acquiring leadership skills. Thank you Kim, for working hard to train volunteers and to coordinate this valuable program.

The Court Watchers are busy as well, and have now converted their newsletters to electronic form. Please check your e-mail for more information about the Court Watching Program.

I would like to conclude this missive by heartily commending our board and membership for being so enthusiastic and hard working, thereby producing excellent programs that benefit both our League and our Community. We are the Geneva Leaguers!!!

-- Judy Curtis

Geneva League – Who to Contact

President

Judy Curtis (789-4895)

Vice President/ Membership

Merry Henry

Secretary

Kim Aliperti

Treasurer

Kristen Ondik

Board Members

Betsy Bihn

Karen Goulet

Fred Sonnenfeld

Programs

Meredith Aldrich

Voter's Services

Mary Bakogianni

Leaguer Editor

Karen Goulet

genevaleaguer@yahoo.com

More information on the Geneva League of Women Voters, including 501(c)3 status, can be found at:

<http://geneva.ny.lwvnet.org/>

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.

“Election 2008” Series Begins at Wood Library

Barbara Henry, Adult Service Librarian & Assistant Director of the Wood Library in Canandaigua extends an invitation to Leaguers to attend their Election 2008 series. On Tuesday, January 29, 2008, from 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM Wood Library will launch its Election 2008 Series when upstate New York author Steve Coffman reads from his innovative new book *Founders v. Bush: A Comparison in Quotation of the Policies and Politics of the Founding Fathers and George W. Bush* (2007). This creative non-fiction book looks at how the Founding Fathers might view George W. Bush's legacy on topics such as the Constitution, Bill of Rights, religion, war and peace, taxes and debt, and more. A discussion and book signing will follow the reading. “All sides of the aisle” are invited to weigh in on the pros and cons of the Bush legacy as the administration concludes its final year. Coffman's reading is funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc. with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The event is accessible, free and open to the public. Wood Library is located at 134 North Main Street in Canandaigua.

Steve Coffman lives on a farm in Dundee, NY and writes about rural life and politics. He is the author of *How to Walk a Pig* (1995), *Peace Meal*

(2004), *Messy Freedom* (2005) and *Chicken Justice* (2006). He is a columnist for Country Living Magazine. Coffman has taught writing at the University of Iowa, University of Michigan, Keuka College and the Elmira Correctional Facility. He has given readings from Madison, CT to Seattle WA, including dozens in New York State. He has led NYS writing workshops in Dundee, Penn Yan, Indian Lake, Finger Lakes Community College, Canastota, Tupper Lake, North Creek and Attica Correctional Facility.

Future Election 2008 events at Wood Library will include a moderated discussion in March with Political Science Professor Dr. DeWayne Lucas from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, a fall film series showcasing political, election or candidate themes facilitated by Canandaigua teacher John Michalko, and an election forum-debate in mid-October. The series is intended to promote "democracy in action" by providing a venue for citizen exploration and discussion during this historic presidential election year. For more information about the “Election 2008” Series, call Barbara Henry, Wood Library Adult Services Librarian, at 585-394-1381 or visit www.woodlibrary.org and go to the Events Calendar.

Fall 2007 LeaderSpark

The successful tradition of LeaderSpark continued this fall. LeaderSpark develops young leaders by providing a practical leadership skills curriculum, coaching, and training support through partnership with organizations. The American Red Cross in the Finger Lakes partnered with our chapter to provide this program this fall, overseen by an American Red Cross VISTA member.

In addition to facilitating several sessions herself, League member and coordinator of previous LeaderSpark series, Kim Reisch, was instrumental in training new facilitators (three LWV members: Judy Curtis, Gretchen Fox, and Karen Goulet) to join the ranks of experienced facilitators. Four area youth from three school districts participated in the six-week program and presented their Leadership Projects on December 9, 2007.

Agnes Slosson Lewis Award Committee Update

The ASL Award Committee is seeking members. If you'd like to be a part of recognizing local women and their achievements, please contact Mary

Bakogiannis (mbakogia@rochester.rr.com) for more information. Please also let Mary know if you'd be interested in a leadership role.

Calling All New Members!

Mark your calendars! At 7 pm on February 28, Merry Henry is hosting a wine and cheese welcome reception at her home, 499 Castle Street. Merry and other members of the board are extending an invitation to new members to come learn about your

League – we look forward to meeting all of you and hope you can attend. Come find out what our league offers you. Watch your email for more details or call Judy Curtis for more information.

Defense Attorney to Address Court Watch

Scott Falcey, a local defense attorney, will address the February Court Watch meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2007.

The Court Watch program is a structured observation of courts with the goal of court reform.

Observers of the court meet the second Wednesday of each month (with the exception of June, July and August) at the Geneva Presbyterian Church, 24 Park Place, Geneva, from 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Candidates' Forum

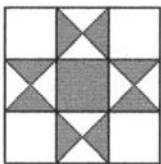
The League of Women Voters sponsored its annual Candidates Forum October 23, 2007, at the North Street School auditorium. The forum was very well attended with 22 candidates from both city and town elections present. Candidates answered questions written by the audience and posed to them by moderator Judith McKinney on a

variety of subjects including high city taxes, lakefront development, recent bickering on the city council, city police force issues, proposed windmill use in the town, and traffic issues caused by trucks on town roads. The forum was held from 7 – 9 pm and was attended by over 70 citizens of Geneva.

In Memoriam

The League would like to remember the following members who died this past year: Virginia Barton, Dorothy Calingaert, and Mary Hosking.

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