



# THE GENEVA LEAGUER

*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.*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012

## Upcoming League Events (details page 2):

- LWVNYS Lobby Day in Albany*, Wednesday, January 18
- League Night Out*, Thursday, January 19, 7:00pm
- Lunch with the League Winter/Spring 2012*, on Tuesdays:
  - February 7 Karen Baer, Executive Director, Geneva Human Rights Commission
  - March 6 Speaker TBD
  - April 3 Speaker TBD

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear League Members,

Hope this message finds you healthy and enjoying this mild December weather!

One of my New Year's resolutions is to ensure League members have meaningful opportunities to be involved in the League's education and advocacy activities. We are trying some new things, jazzing up some of our regular meetings and putting more emphasis on advocacy. (You can read our recent letter commenting on Ontario County's Solid Waste Management Plan on page 5.)

Just in January League members have the chance to participate in a League Book Group, discussing Hidden Power, by Kati Marton (p.2), make comments to the NYS DEC regarding hydrofracking and participate in our local Solid Waste Management Study Committee. If your interest lies in voter registration/voter participation, we'll be undertaking a Voter Participation project this spring and are looking for members willing to assist with voter registration at area high schools and preparing

for getting out the vote in fall 2012.

If you're moved by the reports of almost daily efforts to limit access to the polls by "eliminating voter fraud", consider donating items cluttering your closets to the Linden Shop in downtown Geneva. The sale of these items sends dollars to our treasury.

Most importantly as a League member, I ask that each of you make at least one demand of us as a board. We need to hear from you about what you'd like for educational programs, where our advocacy efforts should be focused and how we can serve you, our members. So let this be your New Year's resolution, give me a call or drop me an email.

Happy New Year!

Kim Reisch, President  
([kreisch@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kreich@rochester.rr.com)) 789-7104

**Solid Waste Study Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 @ 7 p.m.  
at the home of Mary Lee Bourbeau  
([mbourbea@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mbourbea@rochester.rr.com))**

### January 17 (day) or 19 (eve) LWV and Library book discussion

The LWV of Geneva and Geneva Library are co-sponsoring the book discussion on *HIDDEN POWER* by Kati Marton. The book describes the marriages of twelve modern-day presidents. Rather than a study of husbands and wives, this book focuses on the intersection of power, love and marriage and how the inner life and public face of the White House marriages shaped presidential history.

The daytime discussion will be held at the Geneva Free Library in the reading room at noon on January 17. This will be a brown-bag event. Please bring your lunch and be prepared to discuss the book. Beverages and cookies will be provided.

The evening discussion will be held on Thursday, January 19, 7:00pm at Gretchen Fox's house, (37 Highland Ave – please park on Denton and enter home from Denton). League members and invited friends are welcome.

There are eleven copies of the book within the inter-library loan system, so those interested in participating should call the Geneva Free Library and place the book on hold. Those wishing to purchase the book can call HWS colleges bookstore, (~\$10.50 cost).

Please e-mail Kim Reisch at [kreisch@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kreich@rochester.rr.com) or Kathy Garcia at [kathleenjgarcia@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenjgarcia@gmail.com) for reservations. The daytime event will be open to the public.

Also, see (details page 4) Smith Center for the Arts Sunday afternoon series of films of author discussions for some diverse and interesting topics.

### February 7 Lunch with the League, at The Presbyterian Church

(Parking just off Washington, lunch in Fellowship Hall, program in the parlor.)

*Program:* Karen Baer, executive director, Geneva Human Rights Commission discusses the Geneva Community Compact and Community Dialogues on Race.

*Lunch:* Bring your own or reserve lunch (cost \$9.00), please contact Nancy Garver at 315-781-7612 by February 3. Lunch is served beginning at 11:45 am. The program will begin at 12:15 pm. Typically the program is concluded at 1:00pm.

All League members, their guests and the general public are welcome to attend.

### League of Women Voters — Action and Advocacy

*Please add your voice...* here are a few links to review on local and current issues:

**Hydrofracking**— <http://lwvny.org/advocacy/hydrofracking.html> and especially [http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/hydrofracking/Testimony\\_120811.pdf](http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/hydrofracking/Testimony_120811.pdf)

**Solid Waste**—see LWV letter sent to Ontario County administrators page 5; please contact your Ontario County supervisor(s) <http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/supervisors/boardmembers.html>

**Increasing Voter Participation**— <http://www.lwvny.org/vote/2011/EarlyVote121311.pdf>

### Court Watching Update - Fall 2011

The court watching project was active all summer with volunteers attending court sessions in Geneva City and Geneva Town courts plus observations of Ontario County Court in Canandaigua.

We resumed volunteer meetings in September with Holly Adams Esq. of the Ontario County Attorney's office as our first speaker. Osbaldo Arce from Fair Housing Enforcement and Jeff Hogue, Esq. from Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. were our October and November speakers. Bill Lamb of CASA (Court appointed special advocates) will be the final speaker for 2011 at the December meeting. These meetings are open to the public.

We were pleased to welcome 4 more new volunteers to our group. We would also like to have our group more representative of the Geneva population and we are working on expanding our contacts in the community.

Last Spring we applied for a grant from the Delavan Foundation but unfortunately we were not chosen. We continue to look for more funding sources.

Our latest "Eye on the Courts" was published in December. It has a circulation of over 400 copies and is sent to lawyers, court personnel, League members and others in the community.

Plans for 2012 include monthly volunteer meetings with speakers, participation in the Festival of Nations in March and ongoing court observations. We would like to expand our area to include observing courts in Seneca County and Penn Yan. We will continue to publish Eye on the Courts.

Gretchen Fox, Court Watching Coordinating Committee



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 The LWV of Geneva is interested in finding new locally owned businesses willing to sponsor production of the Leaguer in exchange for posting your business card here. If interested, please contact the editor: [marthadavis6@gmail.com](mailto:marthadavis6@gmail.com)

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GENEVA NEW YORK

## League Membership

Welcome **new member:** Mary Ann Krupsak

**Renewing members:** it's PAST time to pay your League dues! We hope to have every member paid up and a final membership total by year-end (12/31). That's when the national League will finalize our numbers to calculate our per member payments for the year.

**Annual dues for the year are \$50 for an individual membership and \$75 for a household/family.** Please send your payments and current address, phone and email address to: **Beth Reiners, 719 White Springs Drive, Geneva, NY 14456.** Reminders have been sent to current members via email and snail mail. As you may not be aware, almost every membership dollar we collect goes to our state and national organizations. If you would like to make an additional contribution to our local League, you can add it to your membership check. A **tax-deductible donation** can be made by writing a separate check to "**LWVNY-Education Fund**". It will be deposited in our local account at the state League office. ~*Thank you for supporting the League of Women Voters with your membership.*

## January 18 -- Lobby Day 2012 -- Come Join Us!

The League of Women Voters of NYS will hold its annual Lobby Day on January 18, 2012. All members are invited to join us in Albany to learn about the League's positions, tour the capitol, watch the Assembly or Senate in action, and possibly meet some key legislative staffers.

The day will start at 11:00 am with a workshop on how we develop our positions, what are our positions, what are the key issues this year, and how members can participate in the legislative process. After a short lunch, attendees will be given a tour of the Capitol and may stay to watch the legislative sessions (they are scheduled to be in session on this day, but no guarantees) and meet key staffers. The workshop, tours and introductions will be led by LWVNYS Vice President for Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson, and LWVNYS Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti.

The day is designed for any League members interested in becoming more active in our advocacy agenda or just interested in learning about our advocacy work. We cannot provide reimbursement for travel expenses, but we can arrange overnight stays at League members' homes, if people are interested. We will also arrange hotel accommodations, at your own expense, in Albany if you prefer that.

Come join the fun and see how you can make your voice heard in Albany!

**If you want to register for Lobby Day 2012, please email [Katrina](mailto:Katrina) at the state League office by Jan 6 - and let her know if you need overnight accommodations.**

League of Women Voters of NYS, 62 Grand St, Albany, NY 12207  
Phone: 518-465-4162, Email: [lwnvy@lwnvy.org](mailto:lwnvy@lwnvy.org) Website: [www.lwnvy.org](http://www.lwnvy.org)

## Smith Center for the Arts - Author and Film Discussion Series (Sundays at 2:00pm)

*Each film & discussion begins at 2:00pm, for details, entry fee etc. see Smith Center for the Arts (<http://thesmith.org>)*

January 22	David Brooks, "Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement"
February 5	Susan Orlean, "Rin Tin Tin"
February 26	Kathryn Stockett, "The Help"
March 11	Mark Bittman, "The Food Matters Cookbook: Lose Weight and Heal the Planet with More Than 500 Recipes"
March 25	David Remnick, "Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama"
April 8	Thomas Buergenthal, "Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy"
April 22	Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried" (20th Anniversary Edition)
May 6	Martha Nussbaum, "Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities"

November 30, 2011

Solid Waste Plan  
C/o Ontario County Planning Department  
20 Ontario St. Canandaigua, NY 14424

The draft Ontario County Solid Waste Management Plan (August 2011) affords Ontario County the opportunity to become a model for the future of solid waste management. However, it is of great concern to the League of Women Voters of Geneva that the plan does not comport with the New York State solid waste management hierarchy that stresses "the three R's"--Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Our local League's 1986 solid waste position also adopted this strategy, urging waste reduction, reuse and mandatory recycling be fully implemented prior to land-filling. Both New York State and the League view landfilling as a last-resort strategy. However, Ontario County's draft plan intends "to continue land-fill use as a primary disposal option". (Page E-4)

The Geneva LWV would like to strongly encourage the following revisions to the draft plan.

1. Provide a concrete plan for product stewardship that will encourage waste reduction at its source, including incentives for waste reduction by Ontario County homeowners and businesses.
2. Reconsider the anticipated waste generation rates on p. 34 of the plan. Continued importation of large amounts of waste from other areas works against, not toward reduction of solid waste, the first step in the solid waste management hierarchy. Smaller collections demonstrate a commitment to reduce waste and lengthen the life of our county landfill.
3. Strengthen the county's commitment to mandatory recycling with specific goals and timetables. Include county support for pharmaceutical waste collections and household hazardous waste collections as part of the plan.
4. Detail what steps will be taken to prepare for 2028 when the landfill is expected to be full. Specify methods for addressing the loss of revenue currently generated by the landfill. Include plans for the disposal of Ontario County residents' waste once the landfill is full.
5. Address the current economic disincentive for Ontario County residents to reduce their waste production. Any space in our county landfill not filled with Ontario County waste will be filled with someone else's waste. The plan's over-reliance on the continued expansion of the landfill puts off the hard conversation about waste reduction for another ten years. The plan is a continuation of traditional management with little regard for new and innovative strategies that reduce reliance on the landfill and protect the environment for continued growth in agriculture and tourism.

Please consider these comments in revising and updating the Ontario County Solid Waste Management Plan. We would like to continue public dialogue on the solid waste plan by hosting a public forum with Ontario County legislators. Please contact me to discuss the possibility of hosting such a forum.

Sincerely,

Kim Reisch  
President, League of Women Voters of Geneva  
57 High St. Geneva, NY 14456  
kreisch@rochester.rr.com