

League of Women Voters Baltimore County Voter



VOLUME 2010 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010

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February 2010

Thursday, February 25 -
Legislative Day in Annapolis

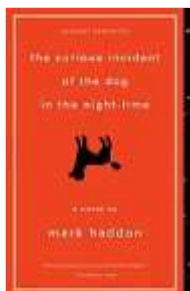
We need you! Team up with another Baltimore County League member and visit your legislators in Annapolis. We provide training materials and a buddy!

Please call or email the League office and Wilma, our office manager, will put you in touch with a member who is planning to go. See Page 5

Dine with LWV and celebrate our 90th Birthday with Dinner at the Riggers' February 13, 7:00 p.m.



Save the date for Spring Luncheon at Hopkins Club on March 13 and the March units on Administration of Justice Study. See page 4



Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Judy Miller's home *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by British author Mark Haddon. The book won the 2003 Whitbread Prize and the 2004 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for Best First Book. Call Judy for directions (410-653-7952) brem@comcast.net.

Bookgroup

And Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Sally Grant's home *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Call Sally for directions (410-358-0192) stgrant@earthlink.net.



Attend Baltimore County Legislative Caucuses During the Legislative Session

Baltimore County LWV is making our presence known with our elected officials in Annapolis so we can better understand and follow the legislation that affects us. There are 2 caucuses for Baltimore County Delegates and Senators:

Senate is at 4:00 pm on Thursday afternoons in the James Office Building, Room 200.

House is 9 :00 am on Friday mornings in the House Office Building in the Baltimore County Room, #180.



In order to do this we are sharing that responsibility amongst our members. Several of us have volunteered to attend, but we still need YOU. If you can make any of those meetings please call Marjie at 410 404 4517 or email pres@baltimore,lwvmd.org or the office at 410 377 8046. email info@baltimore.lwvmd.org. We can talk about the details and your availability.

We'd like to get representatives from each of our State districts to attend once per month, but all interested members are encouraged to participate. You don't have to speak on any bills or have any prior knowledge of what's been going on. The most recent "Report from State Circle" will be available to you with details on the bills we are interested in, including a synopsis of their content and a report on what the latest happening is so you won't be in the dark.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Marjie

LEAGUE'S 90th BIRTHDAY COMING UP... LWV Of Md Capitol Visit/Tour

Celebrate the League's 90th birthday with your League friends and a heaping serving of the history of women's suffrage and the majestic beauty of our nation's capitol building. We'll start at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 24, at the new Capitol Visitor Center where a tour just for us has been arranged. Then, members of the LWVMD Board will accompany small groups to lunch at one of the many restaurants on the hill (think dine-around). We'll follow that with a docent-led tour of the Sewall-Belmont House, headquarters of the historic National Woman's Party and the Washington home of its founder and Equal Rights Amendment author, Alice Paul. The day will end around 3 p.m.



In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we let our members know that longtime member Mary Jane Eckerle passed away on January 5th. Along with her sister Betty, Mary Jane graciously co-chaired our Learn through League discussion group **based on the "Great Decisions"** publication of The Foreign Policy Association. Mary Jane co-chaired the North Central Evening Unit and the Arrangements Committee for many years. She arranged our wonderful social **at Patrick's Restaurant each June.**

At the request of the family and Mary Jane, remembrances may be made as donations to LWV Baltimore County in memory of Mary Jane Eckerle.

MJ was a devoted member of the League and will be greatly missed by all. We will remember her for the special, warm person she truly was.

February

- 3 Board meeting
- 13 Dinner with LWV 90 anniversary at the home of Becky and Ralph Rigger
- 25 Legislative Day League members lobby their delegation in Annapolis

March

- 3 Board meeting

Administration of Justice Study:

- 9 10:30 am Broadmead unit
- 18 7:00 pm Towson unit
- 19 9:30 am Charlestown unit
- 13 Spring Luncheon
- 27 Dinner with LWV at M & M Slater-**Kaplan's**
- 31 Day on Capitol Hill

2010 Calendar

April

- 6 LWVMD Lobbying Day on Capitol Hill
- 7 Board meeting
- 24 LWVMD fundraiser trip
- 25 Afternoon Tea at **Barbara Ensor's**

May

- 5 Board meeting
- 6 Spring Dinner with LWV at **Caroline Seamon's**
- 11 Nemours Trip
- 27 Annual Meeting
- 22 LWVMD Council

LWV Annual Spring Luncheon 2010



Save the Date
Speaker to be Announced!

Join us at the Hopkins Club at noon on March 13 for a buffet lunch and speaker.

CONTACT WILMA AT THE LWV OFFICE
410 377 8046 FOR RESERVATIONS

Please send your check for \$40. to the office, 6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, Md 21212 and make your check out to LWV Baltimore County.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BALTIMORE COUNTY VOTER

Meet with your Legislator on Legislative Day February 25

LWVMD Legislative Day is Feb. 25 and we encourage YOU to LOBBY YOUR LEGISLATORS on our LWVMD priorities. To help you do that LWVMD will provide training and content for LWV members about how to be effective lobbyists and help shape public policy that is in line with League positions.

Baltimore County LWV has scheduled appointments, LWVMD help you conduct a legislative visit so you don't have to go in "cold." We'll also help you plan follow-up notes and e-mails after your visit. And we'll provide you with background materials for your visit and materials to leave in your legislator's office even if you don't get to see them that day. In general legislators are eager to meet with their constituents but their schedules fill up fast.

We'll tell them about our legislative priorities:

- Openness in Government
- Adequate State Revenue
- Universal Access to Quality Health Care
- Environmental Protection.

And hear what their priorities are .

The day will begin with lobbying visits, followed by a State budget presentation by Warren Deschenaux, Director, Office of Policy Analysis, MD Department of Legislative Services. We will hear details on pending legislation from our "Report From State Circle" reporters and lunch with speakers from the State Board of Elections: Linda Lamone, Administrator, Ross Goldstein, Deputy Administrator, and Nikki Trella, Election Reform Director.

Lunch and materials are \$35, payable to LWVMD – send checks to: 106-B South Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

"State Circle" and General Assembly Proceedings on MD Public TV

On the weekly show "State Circle" on Maryland Public TV, host Jeff Salkin and reporters Lou Davis, Mindy Mintz, and Charles Robinson provide analysis of major issues and pending bills and legislative news during the General Assembly session. The show often features interviews with experts and elected representatives.

Visit <http://www.mpt.org/statecircle> to learn more.

Maryland Public Television also shows proceedings of the General Assembly at midnights Tuesday through Friday while the General Assembly is in session. Tune in or record it to see your elected legislators in action. You might even see a League Member giving testimony.

RENTAL REGISTRATION A SUCCESS

The League's Housing Committee worked for many years to implement a Rental Registration Program for Baltimore County. Legislation was finally passed by the Baltimore County Council on November 19, 2007. The deadline for mandatory registration was January 1, 2009.

At the end of the first full year of implementation, Balto. Co. Executive Jim Smith spoke out on the success of the Rental Registration Program stating that Baltimore County landlords have complied with program requirements and registered 14,921 dwelling units. This initiative now provides documentation and landlord contact information for these previously untracked residential rental units.

"What a difference a year makes for the communities of Baltimore County," said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "This program ensures that basic quality-of-life needs are met for residents while at the same time providing a solid basis for tracking and responding to issues that may arise. This registry will be extremely valuable in enforcing the law that the County Council just passed requiring carbon monoxide detectors in rental properties."

Rental registration protects the safety, health and welfare of tenants by creating an additional procedure for the enforcement of county codes and regulations. The legislation requires a home inspection of each rental unit by a licensed private inspector. These mandatory inspections ensure that electrical and plumbing systems are functional with no apparent hazards, that windows are operational, that all combustion appliances are properly vented, that there is a secondary means of escape from all sleeping areas, and that smoke detectors are correctly installed and properly located. This also assures that there is full information on landlords so they can be contacted easily in case of problems. There are some exceptions for required inspections. For more complete information call the Housing Office at 410-853-8990. The County Code Enforcement Bureau administers this program.

The League is delighted to see the success of the Rental Registration Program. We were very pleased when the legislation passed but even more pleased to see that it is such a successful program and one that was very much needed in the County. For additional information regarding rental registration, individuals may call 410-887-6060

Kitty Stierhoff, Joint City/County Housing Committee

The Art of Advocacy

More Tips on The Art of Advocacy

Here are some of the tips on lobbying gleaned from the excellent presentations given in Annapolis on Saturday, November 14, 2009 by the LWVMD. First be prepared to talk about your subject or issue. Do your research and know the legislative history of the issue. Begin with your representative, committee members, committee chair and by making an appointment to meet with them. Email messages are read and counted but personal visits were stressed by the delegates as the most influential. Timing is also important. In January they have more time to meet with you than in February or in March.

When meeting with legislators tell them you appreciate them taking the time to see you. Be yourself and listen to what they have to say about the issue. Be honest, use short anecdotes, personal if possible, and address them using their title. Do not argue. Keep what you have to say brief. Hand them some printed material with important points about the issue.

Here are some other ways to have more influence. Get to know your representatives and their interests to better converse with them. Donate to their campaigns, and go to their fund raisers. Find groups with the same interests. Join a coalition. Locate another one of their constituents to meet with them or a victim to speak with them. Get to know their legislative aides especially the ones handling information on your issue. Know the web sites to find dates of committee hearings and meetings of legislative caucuses. Write your own emails instead of using a form sent by an organization and make them personal.

Peggy Blades



Save the DATE!

Unit Meetings in March - Administration of Justice Study - Part 2

Please come to a unit meeting to discuss the state League study of the offices of Clerk of the Court, Register of Wills, Sheriff and Orphan's Court judges

Tuesday, March 9 at 10:30 a.m. Broadmead Board Room

Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. League Office

Friday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m. Charlestown Retirement Community T.V. Room

Baltimore County Planning Board Report WIND TURBINES!!

meeting January 7, 2010

R and R Rigger

The first agenda item discussed at the meeting on January 7, was The Planned Unit Development project known as Nottingham Ridge. As noted in last month's report, this is the huge project designed for the White Marsh (Rosedale) area and will be many years in the making. During the deliberation, almost all of the members took part in the intense discussion. There is much concern over the length of time that this will be in planning and construction stages and the resulting changes that will surely happen along the years. It was interesting to note the lively discussion and the interest that was shown. There's no doubt that the Board will return to this project many times.

The Randallstown III Planned Unit Development (the small residential senior living project) continues to find favorable review and it, as well as the Bristol Green PUD, was passed on to the County Council. The discussion of the amendments to the Master Plan 2010 concerning Rural Areas was on the agenda for deliberation and vote, but the vote was again postponed. There is still citizen objection to some of those amendments, especially in the area of Rural Roads. Activists in the rural areas of the County are still not satisfied with what they read and the Board will deliberate further before voting on these amendments..

The room was filled to overflowing by the first item for the public hearing: Amendments to the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations-Wind Turbines. County Council Resolution 52-06 requests the Planning Board to recommend changes to the zoning regulations for residential windmills. Of the many comments from the public, no one seemed to oppose wind turbines but everyone expressed objections to the amendments as written. A wide range of suggestions were given.



League of Women Voters
Baltimore County

Nemours Mansion & Gardens and Hotel duPont

Bus Trip on May 11, 2010



Why visit? Nemours is a modified Louis XVI chateau built in 1909-10 by Alfred I. DuPont for his second wife. Mr. DuPont used Versailles as a model for this house. The 47,000 square foot mansion contains European antiques and Oriental rugs as well as several of Mr. DuPont's innovations. The grounds that surround the house are in the French style.

What will we do? We will be in small groups for the tour, and then we'll take a bus ride through the gardens.

What about Lunch? Onto Hotel DuPont for a buffet lunch in the 4 star Green Room.

Details: we'll leave at 8:30 am from the park and ride at Providence Road & 695. A second pickup at Safeway parking lot (one red light north of the Chapel road/Baker Lane red light on Belair Road) will be at 8:45 am.

We'll see a descriptive film, tour the Mansion, Have Lunch and Tour the Hotel. We'll arrive back at the Safeway lot 4:30pm and the Park and ride 5 pm

Cost \$85.

tell us on your check (which is your reservation) where we are going to pick you up.

Send your check to LWVBC
note where you'll be picked
up:

6600 York Road
Suite 211
Baltimore, Md 21212
410 377 8046

Or: Caroline Seamon
8004 Yellowstone Road
Kingsville, Md 21087
410 592 5107
cjseamon6540@comcast.net



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



The League's
90th Birthday
Fund Raising
Dinner at the
Riggers'

February 13 7:00
p.m.

\$30. per person

Appetizers and Wine

Roquefort, Apple and Walnut
Salad

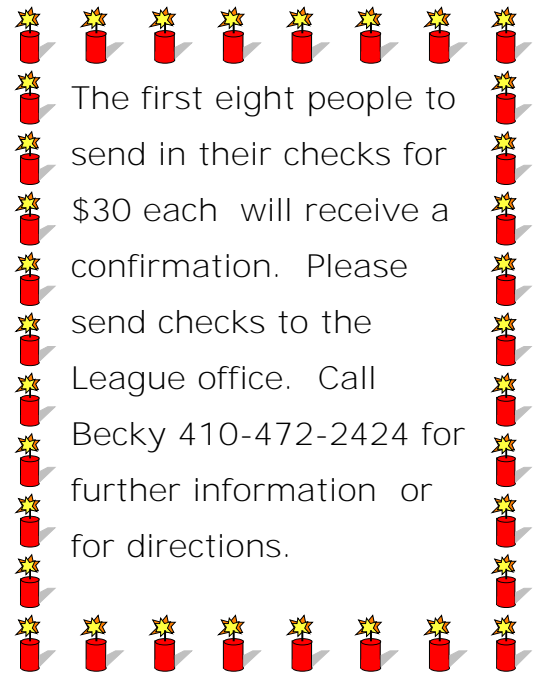
Cheese Bread

Bouef Bourguignon

Wild Rice

Foccacia Bread

Birthday Cake and Ice Cream



The first eight people to
send in their checks for
\$30 each will receive a
confirmation. Please
send checks to the
League office. Call
Becky 410-472-2424 for
further information or
for directions.

- SAVE THESE DATES -



LWV Baltimore City presents a three-part series on

WHAT WORKS FOR BALTIMORE'S AT-RISK CHILDREN

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Dr. Robert Blum, William H. Gates Sr. Professor and Chair,
Department of Population, Family & Reproductive Health
Director, Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Dr. Lauren Abramson, Founder, Executive Director, Community
Conferencing Center
Ivan Leshinsky, Executive Director, Chesapeake Center for Youth
Development

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Neil Bergsman, Director, Maryland Budget Tax Policy Institute
Angela Conyers Johnese, Juvenile Justice Director
Advocates for Children and Youth

**Poe Room (2nd floor), Enoch Pratt Free Library
400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore
12 noon - 1:30 p.m.**

Please arrive early—we will start promptly at noon.
Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. We will provide coffee and tea.

6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212 Tel: 410-377-7738



League of Women Voters of Baltimore City, Juvenile Justice Task Force

Baltimore
County
League
Of
Women
Voters

Join the Action! Join the League!

Membership Form

League of Women Voters of Baltimore County

Yes I would like to join the LWV of Baltimore County

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Email _____

\$60. Individual membership \$110. Household Membership

New dues began July 1, 2009

Make check payable to:
LWV of Baltimore County
Send to 6600 York Road, Suite 211
Baltimore, MD 21212

We're on the web!

lwvbaltimore.org

League of Women Voters of
Baltimore County

6600 York Road
Suite 211
Baltimore, Md 21212

Return service requested
DATED MATERIAL

LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 10
AM TO 1 PM

Office Manger, Wilma Rosenberger