



“The Voter Newsletter”

published by LWVDDH August 2011

120 N Military Dearborn, MI 48124 313-278-6476 www.lwvddh.org



We are well-known for our non-partisan voter guides and local candidate forums, but did you know we are just as busy in-between elections?

As we enter another year of studies, programs, fundraisers, membership drives and special events, can you pick at least one area of participation?

The following committees and study groups welcome new members: Finance, Policy Review, Voter Service, Education, Privatization, Natural Resources, Observer Corp and more.

Please contact lwvddh@mailcity.com or 313-278-6476 to tell us how you would like to join our efforts in the coming months.

**Check our website calendar for upcoming meetings and news updates-
www.lwvddh.org**

Women’s Equality Day Luncheon

Saturday, August 20th
11:30am to 2:30pm

One-Under Restaurant and Banquet Hall
35780 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI
Between Farmington Rd and Levan.

Featured Speaker: Sara Fitzgerald,
author of "Elly Peterson: ‘Mother’ of the Moderates."

The story of Elly Peterson is a missing chapter in the political history of Michigan and an important message for our time. Ms Peterson was the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party and the first woman to run for U.S. Senate from Michigan. A staunch supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, she served as Co-chair of ERAmerica.

**Limited Seating, so don’t delay.
Send in today to avoid Disappointment!**

Please include the following with payment:

Name, Street Address, City/Zip, Phone,
Number Attending and Amount Enclosed.

RSVP ASAP with \$30.00 registration

Make checks payable to: Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies (MiCERS)

Mail to: 21697 McClung, Southfield, MI 48075-7804
You may also send contributions.

Phone: 248-355-5233 or 734-425-3572

Did you hear of the front yard gardener in Oak Park cited for violating a local ordinance for ‘suitable’ landscape?

Maybe you’d like to replace a few square yards of grass with eco-friendly landscaping without getting cited by the landscape police.

Maybe you’d like to attract birds and butterflies with the best-suited native plants.

Speakers Martha Gruelle of the Wildlife Habitat Council and Steve Ray of the Dearborn Heights Watershed Commission will talk about eco-friendly legal landscaping with native plants at UM Dearborn EIC Aug 25th at 6-8pm hosted by UMD Student Environmental Association.

RSVP to [greenwolverines \(at\) ymail \(dot\) com](mailto:greenwolverines(at)ymail(dot)com)



MEMBERSHIP

Open to any U.S. citizen.
Dues are \$60 per year payable
July 1st to LWV DDH.

MEETINGS

The League Office and most local meetings are held at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military at Cherry Hill, Dearborn, MI. The church is handicap accessible with elevator and an outdoor ramp.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The LWV, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of people in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The VOTER Newsletter is published ten times a year by LWV Dearborn – Dearborn Heights. Free to members, but non-members can subscribe for \$10 per year. Contact our office for info.
313-278-6476

lwvddh@mailcity.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...Mary Bugeia

Thanks to the efforts of many of you, we accomplished a great deal last year, even in the summer months. We held our Annual Meeting on June 11th - a wonderful recognition of our 60 years of service to the community. I wish to thank the people who planned and prepared the meeting: Judy Patrick for site arrangements, Carolyn Buell for workbook and reservations, Kathy Gapa for arranging for the speaker, former Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, Betsy Cushman for researching the historical photos and Jenni Dunn for the historical slide show. It was a treat to see the several past presidents attend: Carolyn Buell, Judy Carty, Sarah (Lavoie) Gephart, Mona Hammoud, Janet Kilmer, Gloria Rottman, Chris Sullivan, Toni Tront, and me. We received notes from other past presidents: Kathy Abramczyk, Janice Berry, Ramona Kraemer, Carole Lennis, and husband of Jackie Kaiser. Betsy Cushman read about the amazing accomplishments of her mother Kay Cushman. We appreciated recognition from elected officials as they presented us with commendations: Mayor O'Reilly and City Council of Dearborn, Mayor Paletko and City Council of Dearborn Heights, State Representatives Constan and Darany, Wayne County Commissioners Diane Webb and Gary Woranchak. Debbie Dingell brought a proclamation from Congressman Dingell.

We elected and appointed our 2011-2012 Board of Directors this summer and welcome new (returning) members to the Board: Mary Jo Durivage as Secretary and Judy Carty, Carolyn Buell, Betsy Cushman and Chris Sullivan as directors. We are now busy reviewing bylaws and policies and have prepared a calendar of programs for the coming months. View calendar updates on the website, www.lwvddh.org.

At the "Dearborn Cares - Going Green" festival at Crowley Park, June 25th, we presented the "Grass Roots Leader of 2011" award to Mary Ann Baier for her leadership in promoting environmental sustainability in our community. Environmental issues seem to be a popular topic for many of our members and we continue to work with other groups to make a difference. Be sure to contact us if you want to get more involved.

Also on June 25th, several members attended the Annual Meeting of LWV Detroit Metro Area. We listened to speakers address the issue of an alternative bridge for the Detroit River.

During July, our Voter Service Committee under the direction of Betsy Cushman prepared a Voter Guide for the Dearborn Heights, August 2, Primary Election for City Clerk. All five candidates participated in the Guide and the July 13 Forum. The low voter turn-out was disappointing and we aim to encourage people to vote in the November 8th Regular Election. You are welcome to join Voters Service on Monday, August 22, at 2pm, in the office to begin plans for Voter Guides and Forums for the November election.

Please read the article related to public education in this newsletter and be a part of the national study of "The Federal Role in Education", chaired by Kathy Gapa at our September 21 meeting. The success of public education affects everyone and your input is valuable as we consider the 4 main areas of this study.

I look forward to a strong fall season with many events planned for the upcoming months. It will be a big help to have many members participating in committees, attending meetings and spreading the word to friends and acquaintances.

The family of (Helen) Mary Neale reported her passing while under Hospice care. A Memorial Service was held at the Unitarian church (on Cass in Detroit) on August 13th. She will be greatly missed.

Other News

The Annual Meeting was held June 11, 2011 at La Pita.

We enjoyed a good lunch, a productive meeting and a great speaker at our 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting. Former Secretary of State, Terri Lynn Land spoke about her experiences in the political world. Also many past presidents spoke about their tenure. A slide show similar to the one shown at this meeting will be online soon.

The Board Orientation and Planning Mtg was July 23rd

Along with a delicious brunch, the newly formed board planned and prioritized for the months ahead. There's a lot to do! Many hands make light work and your hands are needed to help us make a difference in our communities. Call 313-278-6476 or email lwvddh@mailcity.com to ask how you can be involved in short-term or longer tasks..

The Voters Service Committee for the League of Women Voters oversees and coordinates the League's efforts to provide nonpartisan information to voters and to promote citizen participation in elections.

This is often the first thing the public thinks of when they hear mention of the League of Women Voters.

Guided by our principle of nonpartisanship, we provide unbiased, factual information to help citizens make informed decisions on Election Day. With your help, we can achieve these goals:

- Promote voter turnout on election day
- Publicize voting information and changes in election law, such as new voting districts.
- Compile and distribute Voters Guides
- Publish pros and cons for local ballot issues
- Organize local candidate debates or forums.

Please email Betsy Cushman, Voter Service Chair, at betsy.cushman@gmail.com for more information. All are welcome to attend our next meeting at 2pm, Monday, August 22, in the League office.

The Finance Committee (ongoing) met on August 15th, but you are welcome to attend any time. Check the website calendar for future meetings. The short-term Policy Review Committee will meet August 23rd at 7pm in the office.

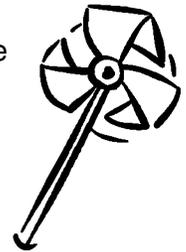
Dearborn Heights Libraries reported in "Heights Highlights" that the "*Civics and Citizenship Toolkit is now available for checkout at the Caroline Kennedy Library*" This item is a collection of civics and citizenship resources for immigrants and the organizations that serve them. The toolkit contains a quick start guide and a variety of educational materials designed to help permanent residents learn more about the United States and prepare for the naturalization process.

Observations from Beyond the Sea by Joseph Borrajo, Vice President

Breaking away from routine is generally called a vacation. Going to Europe for a month was more than vacation; a reconnect with friends from the past, new friends made, and old scenes made new with development and population growth. Such ventures have always been stimulating for me, seeing the way others live, and how they approach the ever-changing demands of life.

I was impressed with the large number of wind turbines that dot the landscape of Germany and throughout largely nuclear reliant France.

Winds from the Ost Sea, Baltic Sea to us, are the energy source turning the large propellers that generate electrical power. Witnessing this reminded me of my carefree days as a child blowing pin wheels.



Another green foot print in Germany is the many solar panels that deck both commercial and residential buildings throughout Germany, subsidized in large part by the government. A program criticized by some because of the limited seasonal sun that covers the German landscape.

The greening of Germany also includes green roofs, as reflected in many new buildings being built. This idea has been promoted within our own cities, but many times an existing building cannot support a green roof.

Accompanying a friend taking his grandson to soccer practice in a newly built recreation facility was highlighted by the green roof of the new building, designed for energy conservation in warming and cooling the interior of the buildings during the different seasons.

The German people are concerned about the tragic events in Japan and the nuclear disaster that resulted in incalculable suffering; the consensus is a nuclear free Germany. It is here the real challenge rests for people on both sides of the Atlantic, energy alternatives that are safe and productive in satisfying the growing appetite of our high tech society.

Federal Role in Education Study by Kathy Gapa

As directed by the LWVUS, local leagues are to study the question, "What is the role of the Federal government in Public Education?" In their Leaders' Guide they state the scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government (pre-K through grade 12);

1. Historical perspectives
2. Early Child Education, Equity and Funding
3. Common Core Standards and Assessments
4. Funding and Equity Issues

In this issue I will offer explanation of the Early Child Education, Equity and Funding.

One of the first early childhood initiatives in the United States was the Head Start Program, which began in 1965 under the authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA). Head Start programs, funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, provide children from low-income families and children in some at-risk categories access to early education. Early Head Start, initiated in 1995, appropriated funding for health information and education to low-income parents, mostly pregnant mothers or mothers of infants and toddlers.

Many early childhood (EC) programs operate under the auspices of Title I of the ESEA. Under Title I, local education agencies apply to state agencies for approval of a program. When the application is approved, the federal government funds the programs. The programs receiving Title I funding vary from state to state. Reauthorization of ESEA in 2001, called No Child Left Behind (NCLB) promotes the use of Title I, Part A funds for preschool programs recognizing the importance of preparing children for entering school with language development and cognitive and early readiness skills. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to children with disabilities. *(cont'd on next column)*



Education Study Cont'd

It addresses the educational needs of children with disabilities, from birth to age 21, in cases that involve 13 specified categories of disability. IDEA has been reauthorized and amended a number of times since it was signed into law in June 1997, replacing the earlier version of Public Law 94-142, the Education of all Handicapped Act of 1975. Three additional early programs are Early Head Start, Early Reading First, and Even Start and 2 IDEA programs.

Let's back up and look at the case for providing access to all children birth to five:

Poverty is the key issue that differentiates children coming to our schools in kindergarten.

More than 30 percent of low-income children entering kindergarten have no familiarity with print, i.e. they do not have books read to them, nor do they understand that print is read from left to right, and there is structure to a story.

Seventeen percent of children from middle-income families and 8 percent of those who have a bachelor's or higher degrees also lack this knowledge. About 60 percent of low-income children and more than a third of middle-income children do not know the alphabet when entering school. Only 6 percent of poor and 18 percent of middle-income children understand numerical sequence when entering school.

After reading this document, I was left with the impression that these federal programs are very good and comprehensive. The role the federal government plays is fortunate for our children!

More articles can be found here:

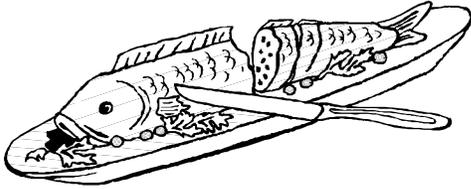
<http://www.lwvsanantonio.org/educationstudy2011.html>

by Kathy Gapa - Education Chair

Attend our Education Study Meeting, on **Wednesday, September 21st at 7pm** in the League Office, **co-hosted by AAUW**, with presentations and discussion, This is a classic example of the LWV as a grass roots organization and a valuable resource for those wanting to become more informed on issues. **Bring a friend!**

Asian Carp Overview by Kathy Gapa

The Detroit Free Press recently ran a comprehensive five day study on Asian Carp (July17-22). The many new facts and ideas on Asian Carp are presented here:



Myth: All Asian Carp are jumpers.

Fact: Of the 4 types of Asian Carp, only Silver Carp jump. They do it when they sense the vibration of a boat's motor. They jump largely in areas where they are densely packed, such as a river channel.

Myth: Studies show Asian carp already dominate many rivers.

Fact: Duane Chapman, a top Asian carp expert, said he knows of no such study. In the upper Illinois River, among the most infested anywhere, a 2008 study found Asian Carp made up 51% of the fish collected in a 80 mile stretch of the river north of Peoria. A decade ago, they represented less than 1% of the catch.

Myth: Asian carp have not been found yet in the Great Lakes.

Fact: Between 1995 and 2008, at least three large bighead carp were found in western Lake Erie. None was reproducing, and it's not clear how they got there. They were removed.

Myth: The electric barrier in Illinois was built to stop Asian carp.

Fact: The first experimental electric barrier was built to keep out round gobies, another invasive species, from moving *from the Great Lakes into the Mississippi River Basin*. By the time the barrier was finished, gobies got through and Asian carp going the other way had become the bigger concern. Gobies are a food source for game fish and they eat zebra and quagga mussels, also invasive species. But gobies also eat snails and fish larvae, and they are aggressive about protecting their spawning habitat.

Myth: Asian Carp are bottom feeders like common carp.

Fact: Bighead and silver carp are healthier fish because they eat only plankton. That's why they taste better than creatures that troll the bottom. Because they filter food through their gills, they are tough to catch.-they don't bite on the bait.

Myth: Asian Carp prefer the Mississippi river.

Fact: Silver and bighead carp are lake fish. They have thrived in the Mississippi by finding quiet backwaters at least 8 feet deep. They do prefer to spawn in rivers.

More Facts about Asian Carp

Asian Carp dominate because they lay more eggs, grow faster, eat more, kill predator fish, and disrupt fishing.

Four types of Asian carp are listed under the Federal Lacey Act as invasive species that could be harmful to native species. Only two- the bighead and silver-are of major concern to the Great Lakes region. All together, there are five types of carp in the US-Bighead, Silver, Black, Grass, and Common Carp.

Both the Bighead and Silver carp are four feet long, but the Bighead carp weighs 100 pounds and the silver carp weighs 40 pounds.

Harvesting is occurring in Illinois. In Thompson, Schafer Fisheries is selling whole and minced carp to markets in Los Angeles, Europe, Israel, and China. In Pearl, Big River Fish has a \$2 million subsidy to build a carp processing plant. The company has a contract to sell Asian carp in China. Harvesting the fish is one way to thin out the Asian Carp population, but fisherman say they need to be paid more.

Eating carp in the US has some good points and pad points. Asian carp is full of good fat, high in protein, low in toxins. But Americans do not like it because it has too many bones and is hard to eat with a fork.

The Chinese have eaten it for centuries; it is considered a traditional gourmet dinner-the bighead carp's head, steamed in an oily, orange colored broth, covered in spicy red peppers, then cut in half so the family can attack both sides.

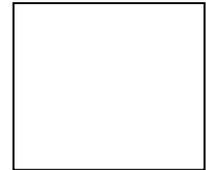
WHERE RISKS ARE GREATEST FOR THE GREAT LAKES

Lake Erie-Likely the most hospitable of the five lakes for carp, Lake Erie is warmer than the other lakes and has plenty of algae and rivers suitable for spawning. Lake Ontario-Bay of Quinte is a good candidate for Asian carp habitat. Lake Huron-Saginaw Bay would also be a good carp habitat. Lake Michigan-Green Bay might be a spot where carp could colonize. It has a very large supply of plankton, the carp's main food source. Carps like bays because they are shallow and warm. Lake Superior-the coldest of the five lakes might prove to be inhospitable for carp, as the colder temperatures may hinder spawning.

Kathy Gapa – Natural Resource Chair

League of Women Voters Dearborn & Dearborn Heights

120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124



Calendar of Events

August 20: Equality Day Luncheon (RSVP req'd)

August 22: Voter Service Committee

August 23: Policy Review Committee

August 25: Science Café "Native Landscapes"
at UM Dearborn EIC 6pm

September 1: LWVDDH Board Meeting

Sept 16-18: AAUW Used Book Sale

September 21: LWVDDH and AAUW Present
"Federal Role in Education"

Go to www.lwvddh.org for more calendar info

Do you see a red dot on your mailing label?

Please be counted and send in your renewal.

Printable form available at www.lwvddh.org/joinform.pdf

Are you interested in environmental issues? LWV has been speaking up about Climate Change for some time, but other hot topics are also being discussed. What is your top concern? Is it the Great Lakes, Clean Air, Food Supply or Fracking? Working with others is a great way to make a difference.

Many from LWVDDH have attended 'Roundtables' hosted by the Dearborn Sustainability Coalition. Friends of the Rouge and Dearborn Hts Watershed Committee also keep members busy. Let us know what you'd like to do. Email lwvddh@mailcity.com or call 313-278-6476 to get involved with our Natural Resources Committee. We need your input and help!

League Member Jenni Dunn joined a group from Food and Water Watch asking the City of Detroit for a resolution banning fracking. The resolution passed unanimously.



What have you heard about fracking? Is it an essential part of Michigan's energy future or is it too risky to our greatest treasure, fresh water? This debate has been big news in Texas, Colorado, Pennsylvania and New York.

"The debate has been relatively quiet in Michigan. But that could change as companies explore a deep underground formation called Collingwood shale that stretches across the northern Lower Peninsula."

http://www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/07/michigan_industry_defends_frac.html