



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®

December 2008

President: Patte Newman
President-Elect: Mary Boschult
Secretary: Carol Connor
Treasurer: Corrie Kielty-Wesely
Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

Calendar of Events

December 18 (Thursday): Noon

Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M.

Topic: *Lincoln's Early Diversity*
See article at right.

January 13 (Tuesday): 5:30 p.m.

LWVLL Board meeting
Hawley Bed & Breakfast
545 N. 25th Street

**Zimmer to Discuss Lincoln's Early Diversity
at League of Women Voter's Lunch & Learn**

"*Lincoln in Black and White: Our Community's Early Diversity*" is the topic of the League of Women Voter's **December 18** Lunch and Learn. Ed Zimmer will speak about religious and ethnic diversity in Lincoln's past, emphasizing the African American community but including other aspects of Lincoln's heritage. The illustrated talk will include images from *Lincoln in Black and White, 1910-1915*, published this fall by Arcadia Publishing, presenting the photographs of John Johnson, a talented early Lincoln photographer.

Ed Zimmer has been Lincoln's historic preservation planner since 1985 and has served as an elected member of Lincoln Board of Education since 1996. He has three adult children, all of whom are

graduates of Lincoln Public Schools and still reside in Lincoln.

Lunch & Learn events are open to the public. The luncheon will be held Thursday, **December 18th** at 12:00 noon on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and M Streets. The cost is \$9.00 and includes lunch, tax and gratuity. Reservations are required by **noon Monday, December 15** and may be made by contacting the League Office by e-mail at lwv-ne@inebraska.com or by phone at 475-1411. Include your name, the number of reservations requested and contact information: your phone number or e-mail address.

The League of Women Voters Lunch & Learn events are held on the third Thursday of each month from September through May, at noon on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and M Streets. All luncheons are open to the public with advance reservations. The January 15th Lunch & Learn will address "The Future of Air Travel in Lincoln."

November Lunch & Learn

Two comments were heard after November's lunch and learn that need to be repeated for the League membership. One individual said she never knew drug court existed and it was fascinating. Another said it was the best lunch and learn ever.

November was a special treat for those of us who attended to hear Judge Karen Flowers and Jared Gavin, Drug Court Coordinator speak about the successes of the Lancaster County Drug Court program.

The topic of alternatives for incarceration has been in the news in the past year, with County Board officials looking at the cost of building a new jail here in Lancaster County. The actual capital cost of building one prison cell is estimated at about \$80,000 and annual estimates for jailing drug offenders range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per person per year. The average cost of drug court is estimated at between \$1,500 and \$11,000 per year.

Eligibility and requirements for drug court and the results of the program were explained. From June 2001 through December 2007 of the 832 total screened, 353 were accepted and 121 graduated. Statistics for various court requirements in 2007 were provided. Each participant is subject to frequent (and random) drug testing averaging 9.28 tests per month per person. Completion of a GED or setting other educational goals is a priority and 23.35% in 2007 worked on furthering their education. Maintaining employment was achieved by 78.27%. A substance abuse evaluation, ongoing assessments, attendance at weekly, bi-weekly or monthly Drug Court hearings, payment of program fees, court costs and restitution are all other requirements.

For more information the web address is www.lancaster.ne.gov, keyword: drug court.

Nationally, an analysis of drug court programs operating for a decade has show that these types of programs are more successful than any other strategies to reduce crime among drug-involved offenders. The implementation of problem-solving courts to address challenging issues like substance abuse addiction also appears to be a success story for our community.

We extend our sincere thanks to Judge Flowers and Mr. Gavin for sharing their knowledge and wisdom with the League.



Judge Karen Flowers and Jared Gavin



Judge Karen Flowers



Jared Gavin

**2009 WINTER LECTURE SERIES:
Cuba: From Slavery to Sanctions and Beyond**

On the dates indicated below, the 2009 Winter Lecture Series will present 2-hour lecture-discussion programs each Sunday evening beginning at 7:00 PM at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln. These lectures are free and open to the public with no advanced sign-up required.

1/18/09. Tom Gjelton, a National Public Radio (NPR) correspondent based in Washington DC, will present a history of Cuba through the story of the Bacardi family, based on his new book *Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba*.

1/25/09. Charles Stansifer, a Professor Emeritus historian from University of Kansas, will lecture on: "The United States and Cuba from Marti to Castro."

2/1/09. No lecture (due to competition from the Super Bowl).

2/08/09. Joe Starita, a Journalism Professor at UN-L, will discuss Cuban culture based upon the Journalism project that led to both the book *Cuba: An Elusive Truth*, (nominated for a Pulitzer Prize), and the movie *Cuba: Illogical Temple* (third prize in a field of 300+ entrants at the Student Academy Awards in 2004).

2/15/09. Byron Barksdale, a physician in North Platt who leads the Cuba AIDS project, will discuss Cuban health care, medical training, and AIDS policies.

2/22/09. A Canadian State Department representative (to be named) will contrast Canada's normal relationships with Cuba with US policies.

3/1/09. Ricardo Zuniga, Deputy Director of the Cuban Affairs Office in the US State Department will discuss US-Cuban relationships in past and present administrations.

3/8/09. A dinner and discussion about Cuba. (Requires advanced sign-ups and begins at 6:00 PM rather than 7:00.)

This program is funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. For additional information, contact Dick or Karen Dienstbier at 402 489 7545 or at rdien@neb.rr.com.

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Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay

UN-L Lecture Series on Democracy

In 2008/2009, there will be a group of lectures on democracy at the UN-L Student Union, 14th & R Streets in Lincoln. Schedule is as follows:

Jan 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Professor David Forsythe: *Democracy and Human Rights in the Context of Terrorism.*

Feb 19, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Ted Hamann: *The Challenge of U.S./Mexico Transnationalism to the Linkage Between Schooling and Democracy.*

March 11, 7:00 p.m.

TBA

April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Anna Shavers: *Citizenship: the Significance of Borders, Rights and Identity.*