



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

January 2010

President: Patte Newman

President-Elect: Mary Boschult

Secretary: Carol Connor

Treasurer: Margaret Remmenga

Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

Calendar of Events

January 21 (Thurs.): Noon
LWVLL Lunch & Learn.
Guest: Milo Mumgaard
Topic: *Sustainable Lincoln:
Insuring a Growing,
Dynamic City...Today and
Tomorrow*

US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M Streets, Lincoln.

Reservations required by
Monday noon, Jan. 18.
*Reservations must be
honored.*

Contact the League office
by email at

lww-ne@inebraska.com

or by phone at 475-1411

Include your name, the
number of reservation
requested, contact
information (phone and/or
email) and if you want a
vegetarian meal.

See article at right.

March 9 (Tues.):

LWVNE Legislative Day,
at the State Capitol.

All morning, followed by a
luncheon at the Governor's
Mansion.

Luncheon speaker:

Kerry Winterer, CEO

Nebraska Department of
Health and Human Services

Watch for more information.

January Lunch & Learn Features Discussion of Lincoln's Future

At the Thursday, January 21, 2010, league of Woman Voters Lunch & Learn, Milo Mumgaard, Senior Policy Aide for Sustainability to Mayor Beutler, will address the topic of "Sustainable Lincoln: Insuring a Growing, Dynamic City, Today and Tomorrow." Mr. Mumgaard says: "We all recognize Lincoln is not an island. Our high quality of life, and the quality of life that our children and their children will enjoy, is being affected by climate, higher energy costs, and uncertain resources. Responding to this reality is a major challenge, not just for our national leaders, but right here at home. And it needs more than a sense of community, which we have a lot of. It requires a strategy for the future. It requires anticipating and planning for these challenges. To do so, we must take action today, together, and move in the right direction for the benefit of our children and their children."

Prior to becoming Senior Policy Aide for Sustainability to Mayor Beutler in April, 2009, Mumgaard, a graduate of UNL and New York University Law School, served as Associate General Counsel for the national AFL-CIO; Midwest Regional Director of Common Cause; and was founding director of the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest.

The February Lunch and Learn will feature Senator Amanda McGill, who represents Northeast Lincoln, giving us a Legislative Update.

Lunch and Learn events are open to the public. Milo Mumgaard will speak on Thursday, January 21st at 12 noon on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and M Street. The cost is \$10, which includes speaker, lunch, tax and gratuity. Binding reservations are required by noon, Monday, January 18th, and may be made by contacting the League office by e mail at lww-ne@inebraska.com or by phone at 475-1411. Include your name, the number of reservations requested, contact information (phone and email), and if you want a vegetarian meal.

All reservations are expected to be honored.

Sponsor a Student Reservation for Lunch & Learn

There has been interest expressed in some of the Lunch & Learn presentations scheduled for this spring by Lincoln high school students. Since the cost of lunch is fixed by what we pay for lunch, tax and service charges for the facility, the League is unable to offer discounted lunches for those who find it somewhat cost prohibitive.

We are asking our membership if they might be willing to "sponsor" a high school student to encourage her or his participation in these events. In January, the students are being asked to report back to the class on what they have learned.

The LWVLL board discussed this idea in January with the suggestion that anyone who would like to help to offer to sponsor students at future lunch and learns — please contact L&L committee chair or member Karen Dienstbier (kdien@neb.rr.com) or Patte Newman (pattnewman@neb.rr.com) to offer financial assistance.

It was agreed that a 50% reduction (\$5 off) might be appropriate to offer students on a first come, first served basis and only if sponsorships are available. Specific details of how this type of sponsorship would be left to the L&L Committee to work out. A check for \$5 has already been received for one student.

Thanks for considering a different way to promote the League of Women Voters to a younger audience!

December Lunch & Learn Hears from CROPS Executive Director

Ingrid Kirst is Executive Director of Community CROPS: Combining Resources, Opportunities and People for Sustainability, a local non-profit organization that helps families raise food for themselves and the community. Ingrid has held this position for four years, and in this time she has significantly grown the organization to meet the needs of the community. During 2009, Community CROPS has 15 community garden sites, a training farm and a weekly Thursday evening farmers' market. Ingrid is a member of the New Americans Task Force and a board member at Open Harvest Natural Foods Grocery.



In Kirst's discussion about the Community CROPS program she mentioned that the program has been so successful that next summer they anticipate adding even more gardens. She discussed some of the rules and regulations that govern the gardens. They are mostly rules that make it easier for people to garden side by side without harming each others crops. Use of pesticides is prohibited. They offer the new gardeners the use of tools, hoses and other material if they are not equipped on their own.

Part of the enjoyment of gardening with others is in getting to know the neighbors in the adjacent garden plots, and also in getting to know people in the neighborhood in which the garden is located. New friends are made and new ideas exchanged. Kirst mentioned that the entire community benefits by the community gardeners' choices of what to grow. Many of Lincoln's new immigrants, who have farming experience from their home countries, often will become involved with the CROPS program as a way to grow some of the foods that they can't find in the local grocery store, and also because it is a familiar activity for them. Kirst mentioned that in growing this new produce, gardeners introduce new crops to the Lincoln market. The gardeners share their produce through giving it to friends, neighbors and family members, and by selling their produce at the various farmer's markets.

The farm provides a way for members of our immigrant community to continue a skill that they learned in their home countries. It also helps to provide a livelihood for those enrolled in the program. The land was donated to the CROPS program. The training program is very successful and at some point they hope to add more land and more crops to the acreage.



Health Care Solutions

We were all treated with an early Christmas gift when the Senate passed health care reform. The Senate health care reform bill prevents denial of coverage because of illness, doesn't allow rate differences based on gender, removes lifetime limits on coverage and prevents denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

According to the independent Congressional budget office, the Senate's health care reform bill will reduce the deficit by more than \$132 billion over the first 10 years and \$1.3 trillion over the next ten years. This version works to close Medicare Part D "donut hole," providing major savings for seniors on prescription drugs, affecting an estimated 48,000 Nebraska seniors. Within 90 days of enactment, the bill provides \$5 billion to help Americans with pre-existing conditions afford coverage. Also, starting 2014, this bill provides tax credits to help Americans who cannot afford the cost of private health insurance.

Many folks have followed the health care battle in the House and Senate very closely. Not all of us always understood the details of the bill, nor the negotiations, but most of us are interested. For me that interest lies in the women that are served at St. Monica's. I work there. We provide substance abuse treatment to women nearly all of whom are very low income. Many of these women have children. Many of these women do not have health care coverage. We see each day how families are affected when they cannot access health care.

One woman came to us as a last hope. She had been unable to fight off her addiction and had not been sober for years. But she did everything our program asked of her. She stayed sober, she re-united with her family and went home to them. Shortly after she died. She had a medical condition that had been left untreated because she didn't have insurance. By the time she came to us, it was too late to reverse the affects of that illness. I do not want to believe that can happen in our country. I thank Ben Nelson for his vote to save women, men and children who deserve to receive decent affordable health care. I hope our Representatives follow in Ben Nelson's footsteps and support health care coverage for all citizens.

— *Corrie Kieilty-Wesely, Board Member, LL-LWV*

The 2010 Winter Lecture Series: Pakistan and Afghanistan

The obvious focus for a lecture series on Pakistan and Afghanistan is to present in depth those topics that preoccupy news about that region—the current political and military situations, particularly as those situations involve official US activities. While not ignoring those topics, we seek as well to provide an understanding of the history, religious institutions, educational system, and culture of that region.

The Winter Lecture Series will run on consecutive Sundays from January 17 through March 7 (excluding Super Bowl Sunday, February 7), beginning at 7:00 pm. The series of 2-hour sessions will be held at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A St, Lincoln. Each will begin with a 1-hour lecture followed by refreshments and ending with audience questions and discussion. An 8th lecture is hoped for; this lecture, if held, would be by Senator Chuck Hagel, with date and time to be announced after the start of the series.

Scheduled speakers are as follows:

1/17/2010: Sabahat Rafiq is an international investment banking consultant who has lived much of her life in Pakistan and who works with Islamic banks in Pakistan. She will discuss the history of tribal and religious interactions that have shaped Pakistan from its beginning;

1/24/10: Professor Jack Shroder is Assistant Dean of International Studies at the University of Nebraska-Omaha who regularly provides briefings and courses to US government personnel on Afghanistan. He will discuss how the limited natural resources of the region contribute to the cultural conflicts that in part characterize both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

1/31/10: Dean Tom Gouttierre is the Dean of International Studies and Programs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies. He will discuss how the changing social, political, religious, and military forces that have swept through both Afghanistan and Pakistan have shaped education and educators in those nations.

2/7/10: No lecture today.

2/14/10: Sabahat Rafiq will return to discuss Pakistan's struggle with the power of the three forces: the army, the feudals, and the bureaucracy. She will emphasize the Army's fluid relationships with Pakistan's government, and with the tribal and ethnic groups that comprise Pakistan.

2/21/10: General Roger Lemke is the Director for Military Affairs for Senator Mike Johanns, a current consultant to officials in the US Government on Afghanistan, and he is the former Adjutant General of Nebraska and a past Commander of the Nebraska National Guard. He will discuss a history of the military conflicts of the region

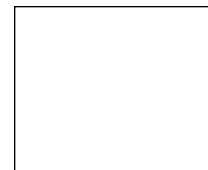
2/28/10: Dr. Shahid Kamal is a psychiatrist working for the State. He is a native of Pakistan who has lived and worked in 7 countries. He will discuss the history of Indian-Pakistan relationships and the Kashmir dispute.

3/7/10: A US State Department representative who is a regional expert—to be named by the State Department at a later date. This lecture is not confirmed at this time. If not held, then the dinner will be advanced to this date.

3/14/10: A dinner with panel discussion. Although all lectures start at 7:00, the dinner begins at 6:00.

For more information, please contact Dick Dienstbier at rdien@neb.rr.com or Chuck Francis at cfrancis2@unl.edu. This program is funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*
League of Women Voters ®
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Time Dated Material
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