



Voter

League of Women Voters of Loudoun County

February/March 2006

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The Hon. Julia A. Connally, Treasurer, and Miriam Bender, CEO, of Women's Health Virginia, spoke at an afternoon tea to celebrate Women's History Month. The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County sponsored the event on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at the Thomas Birkby Carriage House in Leesburg, VA.

Ms. Connally is a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates and Board member of the Women's Health Virginia (WHV). WHV

addresses the concerns of women and girls to fight heart disease and stroke; improve childhood and adult fitness and nutrition; reduce tobacco use; increase access to quality, affordable health care; and to raise awareness of the prevention and treatment of conditions that are significant for women and girls.

The audience included health professionals in the nursing field, the head of Head Start Health Program in Fairfax, VA, a well-known journalist on health issues, current and former Loudoun County elected officials, and a group of women who are starting a women's health awareness group. A lively question and answer period brought forth many issues and concerns on women's health.

For more information on Women's Health Virginia, go to www.womenshealthvirginia.org.

Above: Julia "Judy" Connally, WHV. Below left: 50 women celebrated Women's History Month at the tea. Below right: Miriam "Mimi" Bender, WHV



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President's Column

I do hope all of you are enjoying the spring weather that has arrived. I love spring with all the new growth and joy the flowers and trees are providing. This time of year seems to help charge my batteries and I ask each of you to take the time to enjoy the new spring growth, colors and picturesque views.

Kudos goes to the Board Members of our League for all the help and support each has given for our many events. Special thanks to Jean Brown who has outdone herself in coordinating three major projects for League; High School voter registration, Meet Your Legislator event, and the Women's History Tea event. She has coordinated the high school registration, providing registration for well over 1,000 students at eight high schools by the time we are finished. This has been a daunting task to coordinate this effort and place our volunteers in each school. This is probably one of the most important projects our League takes on every year and the project will continue to grow. If you have not had the opportunity to go into the high schools, talk to the students, and register them to vote, it is not too late as we still have schools to visit this year. Next year there will be 11 high schools and will be looking for a new coordinator for this project. Please consider helping us out as the rewards are great and it is a fun time.

Our "Meet Your Legislator" evening will be held on April 4, 2006 at Stone Bridge High School. The social hour will begin at 6:30; Legislators will make their opening statements at 7:00 followed by questions from the students representing each of our high schools. We have five of the seven legislators serving Loudoun participating. This promises to be an exciting and informative session and I urge each of you to come. Once again, thanks to Jean Brown for her coordinating skills and many hours of hard work to make this happen.

The Women's History Month Tea was a resounding success and we even made some money for the League. Jean Brown's catering skills really came to light for this event. The food was provided by the Board using their culinary expertise and the speakers were very informative

and enjoyable. A great time was had by all attendees as we celebrated women's accomplishments through the ages.

Kristen Kalina, our voter services chair, has done an outstanding job of coordinating the candidate forums for the Town of Leesburg and Purcellville. The Leesburg forum will be held on April 17 at Loudoun County High School beginning at 7:00 PM. The Purcellville forum will be held on April 19 at Harmony Intermediate in Hamilton beginning at 7:00 PM. The news media will be the questioners followed by voter questions in both towns.

Encourage all your friends who live in the towns to attend in order to learn about the candidates and where they stand on the issues. Encourage all those who live in the towns to vote on Election Day, May 2 for the candidates of their choice. It has been said the closer government is to you the more important for your involvement; the towns are as close as you can get and I think most important for you to know which elected officials will best represent your needs.

The Annual meeting will take place in June, with date, time, and location to be announced later. We will be electing a 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, three Board of Director members, Chair, and two members for the Nominating committee, as well as celebrating our many successes this past year. If you aspire to become part of the Board Team, please say "yes" when the nominating committee calls and asks you to serve. Our League can not survive without you and all the talents each of you have to share.

Happy spring!

Betsy

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

Thomas Edison

Candidate Forums in Leesburg, Purcellville

The LWV Loudoun is hosting two candidate forums for the upcoming town elections.

Leesburg Town Council - Monday April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Loudoun County High School auditorium. Bob Gordon will moderate.

Purcellville Town Council and Mayor – Wednesday, April 19, Harmony Intermediate auditorium, 7:00 p.m. B.J. Webb, Moderator.

Meet Your Legislator in April

Students from Loudoun County's high school government classes will meet Loudoun's State Legislators on Tuesday, April 4 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn.

Each legislator will introduce himself and make a brief statement on what he believes to be the most important accomplishments or failures of the 2005 General Session. A representative from each high school will then have the opportunity to ask questions. The public is invited to attend, but the Q&A session is reserved for the students.

The invited legislators are Sen. Russell Potts (R-27th), Mark Herring (33rd), Del. Chuck Caputo (D-67th), Del. Robert Marshall (R-13th), Del. Joe May (R-33rd), Del. David Poisson (D-32nd), Del. Tom Rust (R-86th).

League Registers New Voters

The League is visiting eight high schools in Loudoun County to register seniors who are eligible to vote. The schedule is as follows:

<i>Heritage</i>	<i>February 28/March 1</i>
<i>Loudoun County</i>	<i>March 2-3</i>
<i>Loudoun Valley</i>	<i>March 7-8</i>
<i>Broad Run</i>	<i>March 14-15</i>
<i>Dominion</i>	<i>March 16-17</i>
<i>Stone Bridge</i>	<i>April 4-5</i>
<i>Park View</i>	<i>April 19-20</i>
<i>Potomac Falls</i>	<i>May 11-12</i>

Jean Brown, who is coordinating the voter registration, needs people to assist at Park View and Potomac Falls from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You will be provided materials and instructions and will have an experienced volunteer with you. Jean guarantees it will be a rewarding experience. Please contact Jean at 540-338-7628.

National, State, and Local League News

LWV National Capital Area

The **Airport Study Committee** meets April 22 at the home of Naomi Glass. The Committee would like a delegate from Loudoun County in order to represent both Dulles Airport and Leesburg Airport in the study. For information on the Committee, contact Naomi at 202-686-0124; naomisol@juno.com.

The **NCA Board** discussed program Planning at its February 3 meeting and made the following recommendations to LWVUS:

- New study on immigration reporting on problems, causes, and policy options, with recommendations for appropriate positions;
- Concurrence Study on the death penalty;
- Action campaign implementing LWVUS housing positions and promoting methods of producing affordable housing;
- Action campaign related to Civil Liberties including Right to Choose.

LWV Virginia

The League of Women Voters of Virginia has begun a two-year study of Reapportionment and Redistricting. League members throughout the state will be educating themselves and discussing the issue. Learn more about this controversial topic on Friday, April 14 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Leesburg Airport. Study materials may be accessed at <http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/redistrict.html>.

Loudoun's President, Betsy Mayr, will attend the LWV Virginia Council Meeting April 29-30 in Williamsburg, VA. For more information, go to <http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/>.

This is our moment, this is our time, this is our chance to stand up for what is right.

Bono

Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre Celebrates Women's History Month

Women across the country enjoy the right to vote today, thanks in large part to the tireless work of the National Women's Party, and their 75-year battle for voting rights. On Friday April 7, 2006, the Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre (KHGDT) will examine the end of this battle in *Women Win the Vote*. The concert, which will also feature popular works from the company's 28-year repertory, will be held at 8 p.m. in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. The concert is made possible in part by grants from the Alexandria and Virginia Commissions for the Arts.

Set at what was then the Occoquan workhouse prison, *Women Win the Vote* follows legendary suffragists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns and their contemporaries as they are incarcerated at the Workhouse, stage their hunger strike, and ultimately learn of their vindication - the passage of the 19th constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote. KHGDT choreographer and Artistic Director Kathy Gray selected a jazz saxophone composition by local composer Bill Barner to accompany this work. "The suffragists were incredibly brave — willing to endure force-feedings and other horrific conditions in their pursuit of women's voting rights. They knew it was about more than voting - it was about equality. Their story must be told, as it expresses a vital part of our history as women and as a nation. In this piece I honor their sacrifices, and celebrate their victory - which we all enjoy today." After its debut at the April 7th concert, *Women Win the Vote* will be included in a full-length concert *Women in Virginia History - Stories to Remember* on October 27, 2006. This piece will tour the state as part of the celebration of the Virginia's 400th anniversary in 2007.

KHGDT will also present its *Dance History Pageant*, which celebrates the pioneers of American Modern Dance - Martha Graham, Charles Weidman, and Jose Limon. It is a rare opportunity to see portraits of these legendary



figures and their stylistic influences. *Asian Garden* and *Baroque Excursion* complete the program.

Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre is a nonprofit, professional modern dance company that has performed more than 200 concerts since its founding in 1978. For reservations and information, call 703-413-3811 or visit www.khgd.org.

The mayor of Appalachia, VA and 13 others were charged with 269 counts of election fraud and corruption that included trading cigarettes, pork rinds, and beer for votes. A grand jury accused the 14 of fixing a 2004 election; among those charges were a town councilman and two police officers. The town council suspended four of the indicted town employees and the mayor surrendered his duties as town manager.

The Washington Post Express

2006 Calendar

Date	Time	Place	Description
February -May	8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Loudoun County High Schools	High School Voter Registration
Tuesday, April 4	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Stone Bridge High School	Meet Your Legislator
Monday, April 17	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Loudoun County High School	Leesburg Town Council Candidate Forum
Wednesday, April 19	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Harmony Intermediate School	Purcellville Town Council and Mayoral Candidate Forum
Tuesday, April 25	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Leesburg Airport	Board of Directors meeting Open to all League members
Saturday - Sunday, April 29-30	TBD	Williamsburg, VA	LWVVA Council Information at 866-427-8512; info@virginia.va.lwvnet.org
Saturday, May 13	TBD	TBD	NCA Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 23	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Leesburg Airport	LWVLC Board of Directors Meeting Open to all League members
Friday - Tuesday June 9-13		Minneapolis, MN	LWVUS 47th National Convention “Meeting in the Middle”
Tuesday, June 27	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Leesburg Airport	LWVLC Board of Directors Meeting Open to all League members

Don't count the days, make the days count.
Muhammad Ali



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF LOUDOUN COUNTY**

P.O. Box 822, Leesburg, Virginia 20178

Please add my voice to the 120,000 members and supporters nationwide!

Please make checks payable to: *LWVLC* and send them to:

Joan Hand, Treasurer
35909 Bell Road
Round Hill, VA 20141

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(703) 777-9425, www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org/

Betsy Mayr – President

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