



Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area
725 S. Adams Road, Suite 292, Birmingham, MI 48009
Phone: 248/594-6602 Fax: 248/594-6603 website: www.lwvoa.org
President: Judy Bateman e-mail: Pres@lwvoa.org

2010-2011 Issue 2

November-December 2010

2nd LWVOA DECEMBER FILM SOCIAL



"JOYEUX NOEL"

Saturday, December 4TH, 6 to 9 p.m.

at **Bernadette Najor's home**

4783 Walnut Creek Circle

West Bloomfield, MI 48322

**Join us for another award-winning Film, delicious Appetizers, Dessert and Wine
Help the League raise funds for our activities
Have a fun evening among League members and friends.**

Joyeux Noel tells the true life story of the 1914 spontaneous Christmas Eve truce declared by Scottish, French and German troops in the trenches of World War I. Enemies leave their weapons behind for one night as they band together in brotherhood to worship, to play, and to forget about the brutalities of war. A powerful film with both humor and heartbreak, it underscores the common denominator of all peoples and the terrible price of war for all. The 2005 film was nominated as best Foreign Film for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and a British Academy of Film & TV Award, and won audience awards at international film festivals.

Bernadette has again invited us to her beautiful home to enjoy the movie on a large-screen TV in her spacious basement which can comfortably accommodate 40 people. The LWVOA Board is preparing a wonderful variety of scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and desserts along with various wines. Enjoy a fabulous and relaxing evening. The party is also a fundraiser for the League. Charge for refreshments is \$30 for one person or \$50 a couple. Members' guests are welcome. **See map and reservation form on Page 7. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 1st.** If you have any questions, leave a message for Bernadette at 248-932-8499.

Brunch and State Program Planning Saturday, January 15th, 10 am

Home of Vicki Lange

115 Linda Knoll, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

(See map and directions on Page 7)

Program planning is your opportunity to suggest a topic for state study or update. To read about current LWV of Michigan positions, go to www.lwvmi.org and click on *Issues of Importance* under "Where We Stand". LWVMI has suggested a study of Redistricting process in Michigan.

LWV Oakland Area will enjoy a **potluck brunch** before the meeting, so **bring a brunch dish, muffins or whatever to share** in Vicki's beautiful western-lodge style living room. Combining League business with a pleasant social event makes this a perfect time to **invite a friend!**

Please **contact Fran Fisher** at 248-547-6246 or tchrofsci@sbcglobal.net
and **tell her what you plan to bring to the Potluck Brunch.**

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

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2010-2011

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THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. It is published seven times a year by the LWVOA. Articles and Letters to the Editor, with writer's name, address and phone number may be sent to the LWVOA office.

- Editor: Eva Packard

LWVOA ON FACEBOOK!

If you are not already a member of Facebook, you can sign up at www.FACEBOOK.com and make "League of Women Voters Oakland Area" one of your Facebook friends.

Invite your friends to learn about League activities and upcoming programs.

LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

This election season illustrated a fact for those of us who work so hard to do the work that the League was intended for. That fact is this: as the media blitz gets worse, our services are needed and appreciated more than ever. The forums that we held for school boards, for Oakland Community College, for the Legislature and County Commission, and for Beverly Hills were well attended. Our Proposal 1 and 2 meeting was well attended as well as the forum for the 9th Congressional District and the three judicial forums.

However, it was the Voter Guide that the public was waiting for and was so highly appreciated. Just as an illustration, I dropped some off at my car mechanic, my dentist, and my chiropractor's offices. In just a few days I was contacted by all 3 asking for more. People were looking for something non-partisan to guide them through the maze of candidates and proposals, and we provided it.

There are so many people to thank and I will do that later in this issue, but I want to take this opportunity to tell you that we are beginning our fall finance drive and we need your financial help to continue to provide this kind of service. We cannot operate on dues alone and every bit that you can spare is appreciated. When members help us in this way, we feel empowered to continue the hard work that it takes to fulfill the mission of the League, an educated electorate.

Our December fun night this year is on Saturday the 4th at the home of Bernadette Najor and like last year we are having wine, appetizers, and showing a movie. The film is "Joyeux Noel". It is based on a true event in WWI on Christmas Eve when German, French, and British soldiers put down their arms and celebrated the holiday. More information is in this issue. This is one of my favorite League events, and I look forward to enjoying a warm and casual evening with League members and friends. Please try to attend.

Sincerely,
Judy Bateman, President

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES for 2010 General Election – Many Helped!

By Judy Bateman

The following people contributed their time and effort to make this election season one that we can be proud of. Every one of these volunteers should be proud of providing a voice of reason in a sea of media cacophony.

General Election forums were held for 2 Congressional Districts, 3 State Senate, 5 State Representative and 4 County Commission races, 1 District Court race, Oakland Community College board, 2 School board elections, and a Village election. Thanks to LWVOA *Coordinators* Jerry Burden, Ann Edwards, and Judy Bateman. Thanks to *Moderators* Jerry Burden, Linda DePoorter, Carla Gribbs, Tera Moon, Ann Marie Hudak (LWV Northwest Wayne), Brian Dickerson (Detroit Free Press), and Andy Nicholhoff (COHA). Thanks to those who *screened, timed, or paged*: John Magary, Tera Moon, Mary Ann Barkach, Judy Bateman, Karen DeGrendel, Ann Edwards, Chelsea Edwards, Patricia Finn, Melinda Hill, Mary Howarth, Sheryl Mitchell, Marge Polidori, Barb Rosalik, Renate Soulen, Pat Szura, Barbara Talley, Sue Whalen and OCBA members Judge David Lawson, Kelly Allen, Michael Hughes and Sheldon Larky. Thanks to Dorothy Conrad for arranging the Pro and Con forum concerning **State Proposals 1 and 2** at the Baldwin Library and to Eva Packard for inviting the speakers: **Henry Woloson** of Energize Michigan and **Sarah Hubbard** of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to the various *organizations* that helped arrange, co-sponsor and assist at forums: LWV Northwest Wayne (US district 11 which we share), Oakland University, Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA), Detroit Free Press, Bloomfield Hills PTO Council, Farmington Hills COHA (Council of Homeowner Associations) and the Huron Valley Schools. Participating as *panelists* asking questions for US District 9, the judicial and COHA forums were Stephen Henderson and Brian Dickerson (Free Press), Nolan Finley (Detroit News), Roger LaRocca (Oakland University), OCBA members Eric Pelton, Judith Gracey, Gerald Gleeson II, Spencer Brown (COHA) and Eva Packard. Special thanks go to West Bloomfield Civic Center TV which filmed several forums of wide community interest and showed them on its website. Other forums were taped and broadcast by SWOCC, BCTV and governmental and educational cable for Rochester Hills, Southfield, Bloomfield Hills Schools, Novi Schools, and Huron Valley Schools.

A very special thanks to Deb Horner who handled the **Voter Guide** questionnaires and created the online Voter Guides and to Webmaster Tera Moon who posted them on www.LWVOA.org website. Thanks to Ann Edwards who took charge of proofing and printing the Guide and the following members who assisted her: Kathy Dorn, Karen DeGrendel, Nadine Harvey, Margaret Kanost, and Barbara Rosalik. **Thanks to the generous contribution of the Taubman Company**, LWVOA printed and distributed **35,000 copies of a 56-page consolidated Voter Guide** with races from Governor to Oakland Community College. Every public library and city/township hall in Oakland County received guides and was re-supplied when needed.

Thanks to **Speakers** Barbara Suhay, who spoke about the election and proposals to the AAUW of Rochester and the Fox Run Senior Complex in Novi and about Proposal 2 at our Pro/Con forum, and Fran Fisher, who spoke on the election and proposals at the Prentis Senior Apartments in Oak Park.

Finally, thanks to Patricia Finn for all her work handling requests for the guide and publicity and to everyone else who came to the office to pick up guides and get them out to the public.

UPCOMING 2011 LWVOA EVENTS

Saturday, January 15: State Program Planning and Brunch at Vicki Lange's home. (See Pages 1 & 7.)

Sat., March 5: State Study on Alternative Forms of Voting (Plurality, Approval, Instant Runoff)
– Background, Discussion, Consensus. Article coming in January Voter on the topic.

Sat., March 26: Redistricting – Learn how it happens for Congress and the Legislature in Michigan and for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Fri-Sun, May 20-22: State Convention in Traverse City. Consider being a delegate & let Judy Bateman know.

Saturday, June 11: Annual Meeting and Luncheon with speaker at Shenandoah Country Club.

DAM THOSE FISH

What can we do to protect the Great Lakes?



Our annual **Fall Luncheon program** on September 20th hosted by **Dorothy Conrad and Marge Polidori** focused on protecting the waters of our Great Lakes from threats such as the Asian Carp. Members and guests were treated to an educational program and a tasty lunch including delicious desserts arranged by Dorothy and Marge who deserve a major thanks for again hosting an informative fundraising event.



Nick Schroek of the **Great Lakes Law Environmental Center** and an adjunct Professor at the Wayne State University Environmental Law Clinic provided background on the Great Lakes, environmental dangers to them, and related legal issues, compacts and cases.

He noted that the Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh water and act like a soup bowl with water flowing into it. Many years ago the Chicago River was reversed to flow into the Mississippi River instead of Lake Michigan to solve a Chicago sewage problem. Later an electric fence was built by the Corps of Engineers to handle a problem with Round Gobi fish migrating to the Mississippi. It did not work.

Silver and Bighead Asian Carp were imported to carp farms in the southern U.S. and have escaped from there into the Mississippi River and moved north and into rivers in Illinois. They eat 40% of their body weight daily, endangering the food supply for other fish. The electric fence is being reinforced against Asian Carp, but it is not clear it will work. Shipping locks control the flow of water into Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes states (except Illinois) want to close those Locks to stop the carp from moving into the Great Lakes. The case is in federal court. However, because of alternative pathways, closing Locks may not be enough to protect the Great Lakes. Michigan recommends a return to making separate watersheds for the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River, as nature designed.



Jeanette Neagu is Co-President of the **LWV Lake Michigan ILO** (Inter-League Organization) which consists of 60 Local Leagues and their states and was formed in 1966 under the national position on natural resources in order to protect the Great Lakes. The EPA rates Great Lakes water as between poor and fair. And the quality is getting worse. The ILO joined the "**Healing Our Waters Coalition**" of many environmental organizations. It includes the Leagues of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin, but not Pennsylvania. Jeanette discussed various concerns: (1) wind turbines and their impact on migrating birds and bats and on aesthetics, (2) the infrastructure and sewage flow, (3) invasive species, and (4) sediment contamination.

Jeanette then talked about what can be done. She noted that the Coalition has asked for \$650 million annually for the next five years to work on these problems and separate the watersheds of the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi system. Leagues and members can write Letters to Editors in support and ask legislators at all levels for funding. She closed by quoting an Indian proverb: "**We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.**" President Judy Bateman noted: "We need to be aware of every threat to our wonderful lakes so that we can act to keep this treasure that has been entrusted to us."

We also want to thank Barbara Suhay, Sue Leich, Margaret Kanost, Joan Heinicke, Nadine Harvey, Pam Brady, Margaret Betts and Judy Bateman for helping at the event and bringing goodies to enjoy. I appreciate Pam Brady of LWV Troy Area taking photos at the event, including of the two speakers as pictured above.

ASIAN CARP UPDATE by Judy Bateman

The Army Corp of Engineers has completed two barriers in their efforts to keep the Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes. First they have finished building a 1,200 foot fence in the Wabash River in Indiana. Scientists feared that floods could carry the carp from the Wabash into a marsh near Ft. Wayne and then into the connecting Maumee which flows into Lake Erie. Flood waters can still move through the fence and the marsh, but the fish can't. Secondly, the Corp has finished building a 13 mile barrier to prevent the carp from leaping from the Des Plaines River into the parallel Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in Illinois. The river is just feet from the canal at a point past electric barriers in the canal. Officials feared that in a flood, the carp could jump or be washed into the canal, where they would have easy access to Lake Michigan.

What Can I Do?

The Green Power of One



Greg Bowman's "*Making the Grade*" spotlight on **WWJ-950 radio** on November 9th featured **LWVOA's Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest for high school students in Oakland County**. Renate Soulen, PSA Chair, was interviewed about the contest whose **focus is the opportunities and responsibility of each individual to conserve energy**.

Contest categories are TV, radio, and essay with a cash prize for the winning entry in each. Winning TV and radio PSAs will be broadcast on local TV and radio; the winning essay will be published in a local newspaper. Renate Soulen and Shelly Goldberg have found sponsors sufficient for first prize money and hope for more so that additional prizes can be awarded. Please contact Renate at 248-642-6568 or rsoulen@comcast.net if you have suggestions regarding potential sponsors.

A TV Promo for the contest was filmed at Community Media Network with a cast consisting of Tera Moon and two students. Copies will be provided to schools and the Promo will be shown on CMN TV and put on YouTube and linked to our website.

Follow-up calls on prior mailings to both public and private schools are being made. Shelly Goldberg is also visiting schools to help create interest. PSA material has been sent to all public high school PTSA Presidents in Oakland County; private schools have been asked to share PSA information with their parent organizations.

Details concerning the PSA contest and application forms can be found on the LWVOA web site at www.LWVOA.org. To hear the Podcast of Renate's interview, Google "Making the Grade 11/09". Please help promote the contest through your contacts with high schools, students or PTOs.

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2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW DUE

Thank you to those who have already paid their dues for this year which began on July 1, 2010. **Dues cover membership from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.** New members who joined in 2010 are covered through June 30, 2011. **If you haven't already done so, please renew now.** Write your check now or renew online at <http://www.lwvoa.org/Join.html>. You can print out a renewal form and mail it to the office with your check or you can join online via PayPal using a credit card. Don't have access to email? Write a **check to LWVOA**, fill out the form below, and send them to us **at 725 S. Adam Rd., Suite 292, Birmingham, MI 48009.**

Individual membership is \$60. Household membership is \$30 for each additional member at the same address. Student membership for students 18 years and older is \$30. **Be sure to write DUES on your check** so it can be credited to the correct account. **Timely renewal saves us the additional postage and printing expense required to mail out reminder notices.** Your support of the League is very much appreciated. It enables us to work on issues and provide information for Oakland County voters.

League of Women Voters Oakland Area Membership Form

Date _____



Primary member:

Last name _____ First name _____

Household member: (each additional person residing at same address can be a household member)

Last name _____ First name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell phone (if available) _____ FAX _____

Email address _____

I am a **NEW** member - **\$60.00**

Please **renew** my membership - **\$60.00**

Membership for **additional person in Household** - **\$30.00**

Student membership - **\$30.00**

for office use only:

date rec'd _____

ck date _____

ck # _____

db date _____

ty date _____

I want to make an additional contribution to LWVOA \$ _____

I want to contribute to the LWV Education Fund (tax deductible) \$ _____ (**Separate check please**)

Total enclosed \$ _____

School District Name: (to assist us in mailing information) _____

Please make checks payable to LWVOA and send to:

LWVOA

725 S. Adams Rd., Suite 292

Birmingham, MI 48009

Questions? Call 248-594-6602.

Membership year is from July 1 through June 30.

Membership includes subscription to the Oakland Voter and the Michigan Voter.

Dues and contributions to LWVOA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to LWV Education Fund ARE tax deductible.

RESERVATION FORM for SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th SOCIAL
\$30 for 1, \$50 for Couple **Please RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 1**

Make CHECK PAYABLE to LWVOA.

Mail to: LWVOA, 725 S. Adams Road, Suite 292, Birmingham, MI 48009

NAME(s) _____

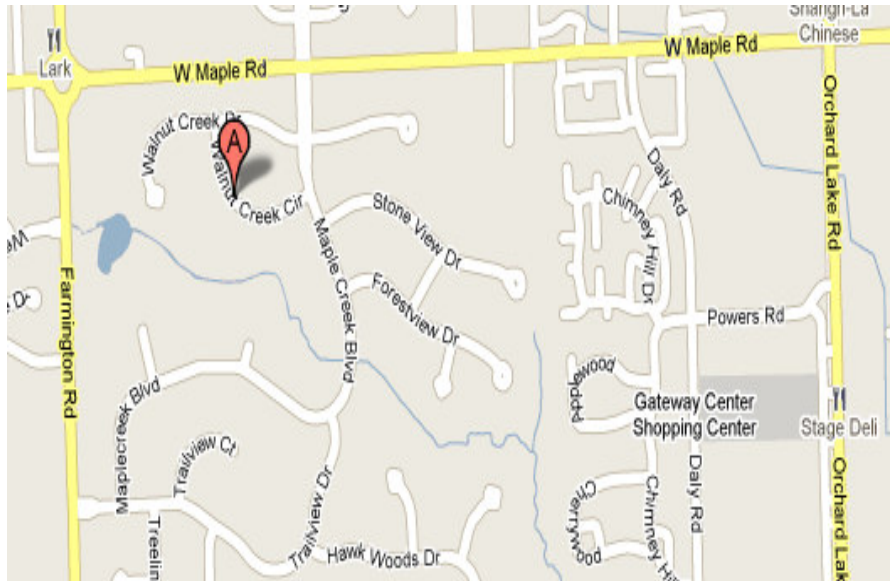
Address: _____

Phone _____ No. of People attending _____ \$ _____ **Enclosed**

4783 Walnut Creek Circle is between Farmington Rd and Orchard Lake Rd. and south off Maple Rd.
 in the Maple Creek development in West Bloomfield Township.

Go South at Maple Creek Blvd;
Right at Walnut Creek Dr;
Left at Walnut Creek Circle.
 House is on the Right.

Bernadette Najor's phone:
 248-932-8499.



January 15, 2010 State Program Planning Brunch

LWV of Michigan's current position: (Details at www.lwvmi.org *Issues of Importance* under "Where We Stand")

Government

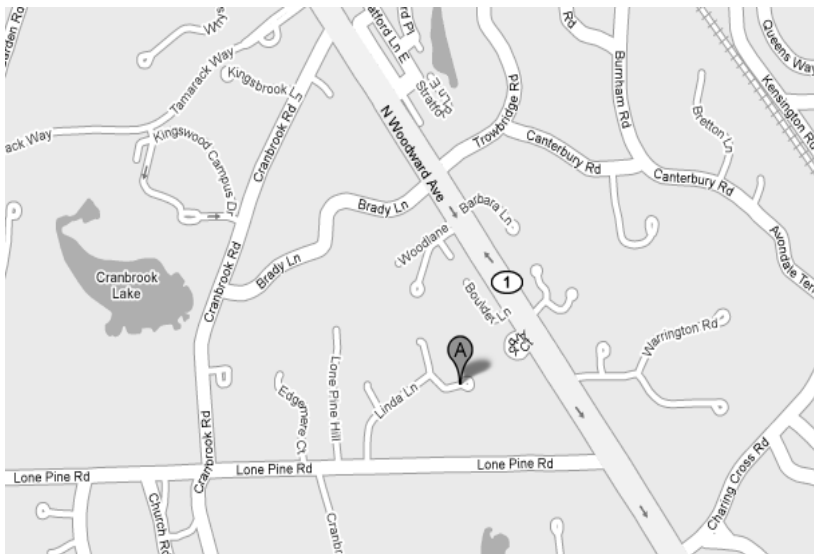
- Election Laws
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Taxation and Budgeting

Natural Resources

- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
- Great Lakes Ecosystem
- Land Use Pesticides
- Solid Waste Management

Social Policy

- Children & Youth
- Education – Structure, Finance and Goals
- Education – Teacher Certification
- Education – Public School Academies
- Health Care
- Social Services System
- Public Libraries
- Prisons



Map to Home of Vicki Lange
115 Linda Knoll,
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Vicki's home is located off Linda Lane, which is north of Lone Pine Rd. between Cranbrook Rd. and Woodward.

Drive north on Linda Lane to a yellow sign with an arrow; the house behind the sign is Vicki's and has a long circular driveway.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Oakland Area

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Time Dated Material Enclosed

Calendar of Events

- Sat. Dec. 4 6 pm** **"Joyeux Noel" Holiday Social with hors d'oeuvres, dessert, wine**
@ Bernadette Najor, 4783 Walnut Creek Circle, West Bloomfield 48322
Reservation form and Map on Page 7. \$30 for 1, \$50 for Couple.
- Thu. Jan. 6 7 pm LWVOA Board meeting at 725 S. Adams Rd, Birmingham 48009
- Sat. Jan. 15 10 am** **State Program Planning Brunch** at Vicki Lange's home
115 Linda Knoll, Bloomfield Hills, 48304. See Map on Page 7.
- Sat. Mar. 5 10 am** **Alternative Voting Methods** – Study & Consensus
@ Renate Soulen's home.
- Sat. Mar. 26 10 am **Redistricting** – How it is done for US, Michigan, Oakland County
- Fri.-Sun. May 20-22 **State Convention**, Traverse City
- Sat. Jun. 11 10 am **LWVOA Annual Meeting & Luncheon with Speaker**

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