



LWV of Albany County

February 2008

Educate

Participate

Advocate



Locally Grown Food: Why Bother?

Thursday, February 28, 5:30 pm

"Souper Supper"

Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar

Locally grown food has become a trendy issue of the decade. But this begs the question: why bother seeking out locally grown food when it's more expensive and a whole lot less convenient? Why bother when we can go into the supermarket and find anything we want at any time and it's cheap? Because by buying locally grown food, we can conserve energy, support our local economy and preserve open space. Plus, it tastes better! (*See page 4 for more info on the 100 Mile Diet*)

Speaker: Cheryl Nechamen

Cheryl Nechamen is the Coordinator of the 100 Mile Diet Challenge and chairs the Regional Farm & Food Project. She also works on Farm to Chef and Farm to School initiatives. Dr. Nechamen is also a molecular biologist at the Wadsworth Center.

RSVP Gael Vecchio Tel: 459-9958

We need volunteers to bring soup to share! Just tell Gael if you can help!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE FOOD FOR THE MEETING AND WISH TO COOK LOCALLY:

The Honest Weight Food Coop (484 Central Avenue, Albany – www.hwfc.com) has local winter-type squash, potatoes, onions, apples, and whole wheat pastry flour from the bulk section. They only carry local meat, and have lots of local dairy products, eggs, and cheese - as well as lots of local specialty foods: jams, honey, maple syrup, nut butters (although we're not sure of the source of the nuts).

The Saturday Troy Farmers Market (Uncle Sam Atrium, Broadway at 3rd & 4th Streets, www.troymarket.org) is also an excellent source for all kinds of local food—vegetables, dairy, eggs, meat, honey, maple syrup, breads (although we can't vouch for the source of their flour). It is an excellent example of just what is available from local farms and food producers and they are open all year long – and inside for the winter! They are open from at least 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday.

AND if you get a chance, jot down a little sign about what's in the recipe you bring. It will help those who have a special diet, allergies, etc.

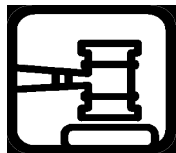
League of Women Voters of Albany County

Website: www.lwvalbany.org Email: lwvac@crisny.org

Lori Keegan-Brady and Maggie Moehringer, Co-Presidents

Susan Coleman (330-2992) and Audrey Kibrick (489-9931), Membership Co-Chairs

Laura Ladd Bierman, Newsletter Editor



From the Co-Presidents

Hello everyone!

Now that the Holidays are over, we have exciting things planned for the months ahead.

On **February 11** the Albany County Legislature – Opening Meeting Reception is scheduled at the Albany County Courthouse on the 2nd floor at 5:30 p.m. We have this tradition of wishing our Albany County Legislators well before their first meeting of the year by welcoming legislators, new and old, with a reception prior to the meeting. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet the legislators and let them know of our interests.

February 28 is our second “souper supper” on “The 100 Mile Diet” at the Bethlehem Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Come see what this is all about. The menu will be based on local food and Dr. Cheryl Nechamen will give a presentation about the 100-Mile Diet.

On **March 20** we are having our annual wine and hors d'oeuvres before a local play at the Curtain Call Theatre. The play is “Looking for Normal”. It's a great time to support the local arts and catch up with our League friends.

Mark your Calendars! On **April 2** Gloria Steinem will speak on Pay Equity and more information will be announced shortly. **May 12** is our Annual Dinner that will be held at Normanside Country Club with Congressman Mike McNulty addressing us. The next few months will be exciting!

Aimee Allaud, our member and LWVNY Election Specialist, has been very busy with all the activities around HAVA and its implementation. For background on the topic that is so important to us, please see <http://www.lwvalbany.org/issuesactions/index.htm> For the current status and up to date information, see the full article later in this bulletin.

Yours in League,
Lori Keegan Brady and Maggie Moehringer
Co-Presidents

SAVE THE DATE!

May 12th

Annual Meeting and Dinner
with
Congressman Michael McNulty

We are very happy and fortunate to be able to host Congressman Mike McNulty at our Annual Dinner as he comes to the end of one career and starts another. Please join us at Normanside Country Club for an interesting evening as he reflects on the past and advises on the future!

Great Issues Discussion Group

The Great Issues Discussion group held its first meeting on January 28. We set up meeting times and places for the semester and discussed the first chapter of the Great Issues workbook.. The next meeting will be Monday, February 11. For more information, contact Katie Henrikson at 439-4308 or khenriks@nycap.rr.com

Health Care Crisis: Are the Patients Sick or Is It the System?

On Saturday, March 8th from 10 am until noon, the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County will be presenting a health care forum with speakers and a moderator on current health care issues and legislation in Rensselaer County and New York State. The speakers will be Richard Kirsch, Executive Director of Citizen Action of New York, James Sinkoff, CFO and CEO of the Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center, and Paul Sorum, M.D., Physicians for a National Health Plan. The forum will be held at The Arts Center of the Capital Region 265 River Street in Troy.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizen organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

This newsletter is published by the League of Women Voters of Albany County, 12 Coventry Road, Glenmont, New York 12077 and mailed to League members. The frequency of publication is as follows: one mid-summer issue followed by nine monthly issues from September to May.



League in Profile

Marggie Skinner

It all began in the early 70's when I found myself at home with three preschoolers and the need for some adult conversation. Newcomers' Club social gatherings and bridge parties weren't satisfying my need to do something relevant. In addition, Albany's neanderthal political scene presented an interesting challenge. Somehow I spotted a notice about a League of Women Voters meeting and, luckily for me, I was available. As I recall, they even offered daytime meetings with day care, and I was hooked.

I found myself surrounded by women who were not willing to accept the status quo because "It's always been done this way." They were also willing and able to take action to change things whether it was the mysterious school board in Albany that consisted of three men who had been appointed by the mayor-for-life and who didn't even live in Albany, or the County government that was run by a county attorney who answered to no one. The League of Women Voters of Albany County studied both of these situations and decided that there had to be significant changes in the law to make things better. We formed coalitions with other organizations, led petition drives, lobbied and even went to court, and things were changed.

State and federal issues also intrigued me, especially public assistance and the welfare system in the 1970's. On both the state and national level, the League supported changes in the laws to increase grants for welfare recipients, to increase food stamp and rent allotments, and to improve the process for applying and qualifying for this assistance. Unfortunately, we were not always successful at the legislative level, but a few of us with time and energy formed a local group of advocates who worked with the Legal Aid Society to help folks find their way through the maze of rules and regulations until they qualified for benefits, even representing them at "fair hearings" when all else failed.

As time went on, I decided that I needed a shorter answer to the question, "What do you do?" Explaining all of this League and advocacy activity took just too long, so I returned to school for a degree in Accounting and entered the work force full time for a few years. Then I picked up a tennis racket during a long weekend and added tennis to my resume. A few years later, I walked into a book store and stretched the resume a little further. But through all the years, I have maintained my league membership and a strong interest in working on the issues on the league's agenda. A couple of years ago it was my privilege to increase my level of commitment again and serve as co-president with Audrey Kibrick and a wonderful board of directors. Of course, handing the torch over to Maggie Moehringer and Lori Keegan-Brady last year felt pretty good too.

My adult life, my life in Albany, has coincided with my life in the League of Women Voters and I wouldn't trade a minute of it. Most rewarding of all has been meeting and becoming friends with the fantastic people with whom I have worked from the very beginning. My best and most interesting friends in Albany are people that I have met through the League of Women Voters and I am thrilled each time I attend a League meeting and see familiar faces as well as meet someone new whose League experience is just beginning.

Reception for the Albany County Legislature

On **Monday, February 11th, from 5:30 to 6:30**, the LWVAC Board and interested members will host a reception for newly elected and returning Albany County legislators and government officials attending the February session of the Legislature. This is a great opportunity to meet the legislators, put names to faces, and increase the visibility of the League.

Particularly in years when important League issues are before the Legislature (such as the HAVA implementation and purchase of voting equipment), it is important that Albany County officials continue to view the League as a knowledgeable and credible advocate and partner in implementing public policy.

If you would like to attend, please notify Gael Vecchio (459-9958). Donations of appetizers and snacks are appreciated.

Can Global Food be the Eco-friendly Choice?

Food for Thought: An Opinion Piece

By Judy Jarnefeld

The “100-mile diet.” It’s the latest trend. I can’t say I’ve tried it, nor can I say I have plans to give up pineapple, kiwis, mangoes or the occasional lime in my beer, much less lemon zest on everything. If you haven’t heard, the 100-mile diet is the idea that you should eat only food grown within 100 miles of where you live. Proponents say this seemingly simple act provides a wide variety of benefits. For example, buying food from a farmer you know provides a more verifiable way to personally track the treatment of farm workers and animals. It also supports the local economy.

Saving transportation energy is another purported benefit. Energy is presumably saved when food travels a shorter distance to your table – there are fewer “food miles” so it takes less fossil fuel to get it there. Sounds intuitive, but is it true? Like a lot of ideas that spring suddenly into the popular consciousness, some of the finer points get lost along the way from high-minded principle to bumper sticker. While there may be a variety of good reasons for someone to choose to follow the 100-mile diet, saving energy might not be one of them. Energy efficiency calculations are just not that simple.

First of all, energy efficiency covers more than just fuel costs for shipping. A study done by academic researchers at Lincoln University in New Zealand points out that the life-cycle energy costs of food include production costs as well as transportation. They found that lamb raised on pasture land in their country, then shipped in tightly-packed ocean vessels to the United Kingdom used four times less energy than lamb raised in the UK on animal feed and trucked to market. Ocean barges, like freight trains, use much less shipping energy per item than pickup trucks that may have to return empty from a farmers market. Other factors like fertilizer use weigh in to this equation as well, and the lamb example is not unique. Unfortunately, there are few rigorous scientific studies on either side of this argument to point to.

For most of us who are not ready to commit to the 100-mile diet, its true value may be to make us think a little more about how our food arrives at our table. If you want to jump on the 100-mile diet bandwagon, go right ahead. But do so with forethought of the full energy required to bring that food from “production to plate,” and please don’t vilify me – I really enjoyed those fresh raspberries I had last week. Hey, at least I don’t drink coffee!

Descriptions of the “local food” movement, as it is also known, can be found online for those interested. (Try Wikipedia.org for a good overview. See reference 8 for the New Zealand study.)

The 100 Mile Diet

By Louise Frazier, LWVAC member and author of *LOUISE’S LEAVES: A Cook’s Journal Around the Calendar With Local Garden Vegetable Produce*.

After a marvelous meal put together with an old cabbage and some apples, combined with other food from the wild nearby their rickety cottage in British Columbia, a young couple questioned how they might continue this experience when they arrived back in their small Vancouver apartment. As journalists, Alisa Smith and James B. Mackinnon, had read many reports about the growing distances food traveled to the homes of most Americans with its subsequent costs to the environment and a healthy nutrition.

Deciding that they had to become responsible in a way that their everyday choices might make a contribution towards a more sustainable life, they vowed to nourish themselves for one year strictly on food that came from within 100 miles of their home. And what a year it was! Sometimes potatoes and honey seemed to be all they could find, and then it became an adventure to locate even some flour to make bread. Sometimes the effort became daunting, but in the end they got through the year with abundance as well as scarcity—and a new sense of possibility. Afterwards they knew they would not be able to go back to a careless, wasteful way of satisfying their needs on the basis of desire.

Fortunately for us, they wrote about their experiences in journal entries they put on the Web, which is now published as a book entitled *PLENTY*. It drew an unexpected tremendous response from a widespread audience. Albany was one of the areas expressing an early interest in promoting this idea. In the past year, many people in the Capitol District have entered into a commitment for a month or more to eat food that comes only from within a radius of 100 miles.

Stepping up to the 100-mile diet plate is not a game or a fad, but has very broad implications for a sustainable future in terms of agriculture, local economics, and the environment, by scaling back our carbon footprint. As Marion Nestle, nutritionist and professor at NYU said: “Is it possible to do it in practice? That’s politics. People have to demand it and exercise their democratic rights”.

Board Recruitment

This is the time when we begin to recruit members to join our LWVAC Board for the coming year. While board members, according to our bylaws, are “elected”, they for the most part are volunteers who want to become more intimately involved in the running of the League, the issues it takes on, government, voter service, advocacy, education, and all the other good things we do. It is a WONDERFUL opportunity to take your passions and turn them into action, your talents and turn them into public service.

All of the good things we do don't happen by themselves. We are a VOLUNTEER organization, and we are only effective through volunteer effort. Officers and committee chairs can ALWAYS use a co-officer, co-chair or willing committee member, and are ALWAYS interested in involving and training the next generation of board members. Are you interested in becoming more involved in advocacy, government at any level, voter service, the study of issues, the education of the public and students? Do you have administrative skills that you would like to volunteer? Are you interested in growing the League? WE NEED YOU!!! Don't be shy! Please contact Maggie (475-0969, mmoehrin@nycap.rr.com) or Lori (475-0396, lkeeganbrady@nycap.rr.com) and we can give you more information about what it means to be on the board.

Students Inside Albany

LWVAC is planning to sponsor two Albany High School Students for “Students Inside Albany (SIA)”, which will be held Sunday, April 27 through Wednesday, April 30 at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Albany. Wendy Dury-Samson will coordinate with Albany High in selecting the students. LWVAC will fully fund one student; LWV Education Fund will sponsor the other.

SIA is a student conference sponsored by the Education Foundation of the LWV of NYS. The program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. Students attend information sessions on public policy, leadership workshops, tour the Capital, State Museum and the Governor's Mansion, and shadow their assemblyperson and senator, in addition to fun activities and an awards ceremony. The students that have participated in past years have given the conference very high marks.



Project Sunlight

LWVAC members were present at the unveiling in December of the new website of “Project Sunlight” by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and our good friend, Blair Horner, the project manager (formerly of NYPIRG). It was an exciting beginning to more transparency in state Government. Our members and other good government organizations will be the prime target audience for this wonderful new facility, and the League is very supportive of this project!

The website can be accessed via <http://www.sunlightny.com>, and a tutorial can be found on the home page. The website promotes transparency in government by making easily accessible information about individual elected officials, campaign finance activities, legislation, lobbyists, state contracts, registered corporations and charities, and, especially exciting, the links between them all! You may perform advanced searches and examine seven different datasets, or follow simple search options to easily explore governmental information. The website also offers educational videos and materials to inform you about the basic laws governing official conduct.

Please browse the website, and be sure to submit any questions or comments you may have to the AG's office by clicking on the “Contact Us” button in the top right hand corner of the page. The Attorney General is especially interested in League input. This website will be extremely useful to high school Participation in Government programs, our local Community Colleges or SUNY systems, our coalition members in other advocacy activities, and anyone else interested in open Government, novice and expert alike.

As we go to press, LWVNYS and its partners have been successful at eliminating the problematic DRE machines from consideration in the first wave of machines purchased. Congratulations to LWVAC members Aimee Allaud and Barbara Bartoletti for their unrelenting advocacy on this issue!"



LWV Public Comment on Voting Technology

Albany County Legislature - January 14, 2008
By Aimee Allaud, NYSLWV Election Specialist

On the Subject of Choosing New Voting Machines for Albany County

As a result of the US DOJ lawsuit regarding NYS's lever machine replacement, NYS's county boards of elections (BOE) commissioners have until February 8, 2008 to choose whether to use either a paper ballot based ballot marker and optical scanner system, or a direct recording electronic (DRE) voting system for each county.

After reaching a compromise with the federal court to provide ballot marking devices for persons with disabilities in each polling place in 2008, the NYS BOE has recklessly redefined ballot marking devices (BMDs) to include DRE voting machines.

Because this choice will commit over half of the funding available for new voting machines, Albany county commissioners Graziano and Clyne should select a BMD which will be compatible with optical scanners for the full machine replacement, scheduled under the court plan, for September 2009.

This body overwhelmingly passed a resolution in October 2006 in support of optical scan voting machines – a decision which makes you unique in NYS. Only several other county legislatures have taken the step you have taken to endorse the most secure and accurate type of voting which is currently available. You are to be commended for that decision.

Since that time, more states have taken steps to abandon DREs: Ohio, Maryland, California have begun to question their prior decision and to require new certification processes for testing their machines, preparatory to moving to optical scan voting. Their decisions are hampered by the fact that their HAVA monies have been spent – how will they fund new machines? Albany County does not want to be in this camp – and it will be, if our election commissioners choose DREs.

Now, however, is the time for you to urge our county election commissioners to honor that resolution by selecting ballot marking devices (BMDs) which will enable the choice of a full optical scan solution in 2009.

The League of Women Voters of Albany County asks you to let Commissioners Graziano and Clyne know that the most prudent and cost-effective choice for voting machines is the optical scan system with accessible ballot marking devices.

LWVNYS Legislative Agenda, 2008

In the Fall of every year, League members discuss within their local boards what items they feel should take priority in our NYS Senate and Assembly lobbying efforts for the coming legislative session. These priorities are communicated to the State League board, and discussed with the board members in the Issues and Advocacy area, and our Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti. Agreement is reached on which items should take priority, in light of what is considered important to the League and what is likely to see action in the Legislative session.

You can see the results of all that discussion in the Agenda pamphlet, included with this bulletin. You will notice the breadth of the areas this year!



Capitol Beat

Volume 1, Issue 1 ~ Barbara Bartoletti

2008 began as always with the State of the State address given by Governor Eliot Spitzer to start his second year in office. The Capitol was abuzz with anticipation about how the Governor would try to resurrect himself after what was a disastrous first year in office. Would the Governor extend an olive branch to the legislature and make this session a more collaborative and cooperative one? Would the vitriol that followed the “troopergate” scandal continue to suck the air out of Albany as it did last summer and fall or would the petty bickering and name calling end? Many insiders in Albany believe that until the 2008 legislative elections are over, the Senate will do whatever it can to stymie and weaken the Governor. A special election will also occur soon for the seat being vacated by the retiring Senator James Wright, Republican of Jefferson/Oswego/St. Lawrence County who will become an energy lobbyist. This special election will be hard fought and until then, Senate majority is down to one vote.

The Governor began his State of the State Address by extending his condolences to Majority Leader Joe Bruno on the loss of his wife, Barbara. Mr. Spitzer then went through a litany of issues he will promote as solutions to the problems that New Yorkers consider to be their top priorities. It was clear from the tone of his speech, plus by the many times he mentioned legislators by name, that this was an attempt to show the legislature that he was willing to work with them cooperatively. It was much less a “steamroller” speech and much more a “lets govern together” speech. The speech included the following initiatives:

- **Education Accountability** – the Governor restated his commitment to improving the quality of our schools that was begun last session with his 2007/2008 budget, where a formula was enacted designed to direct aid increases to the highest need school districts. In this State of the State, the Governor was clear that unless investment is tied to accountability that increased aid would be wasted and our educational system would not become an engine of economic growth and opportunity. The Governor also reiterated several measures to further enhance the initiatives he began last session.
- **Higher Education** – the Governor talked about strengthening our economy while making higher education affordable for every New Yorker. He endorsed recommendations made by the Commission on Higher Education including:
 - o Full-Time Faculty: The Commission found that existing levels of full-time faculty in New York’s public higher education systems are well below the levels in comparable institutions in other states.
 - o Research and Development: Our colleges and universities play an essential role in conducting research and development activities that foster economic growth, and the State should encourage world class research efforts, which could include making funding available to underwrite meritorious scientific and technological research projects.
 - o Community Colleges: Students seeking to transfer from community colleges to senior colleges often do not receive full credit for the courses they have completed. The resulting duplication of classes drains both the wallets and financial aid eligibility of those students who can least afford the added burden.

The Governor will propose in his budget the establishment of a higher education endowment, which initially would be at least \$4 billion dollars.

- **Property Tax Relief, Cap, and Reforms** – the Governor obviously has recognized the angst of the New York taxpayer when it comes to property tax increases in the state. He spent much time during the speech outlining both the challenges and his approach to relieving the property tax burden on state taxpayers. These included:
 - o Direct Relief: The Governor’s Executive Budget will provide another round of property tax rebates targeting the most amount of relief to middle class homeowners.
 - o Mandate Relief: The Executive Budget will include a series of mandate relief proposals and initiatives to help school districts and local governments control costs.
 - o Property Tax Commission: Governor Spitzer will appoint a bipartisan Commission with Moreland Act investigatory powers to examine school district property taxes. The Commission will be headed by County Executive, Tom Suozzi.

Last year, Governor Spitzer initiated a Middle Class STAR Rebate program targeting over \$1 billion in relief directly to 3 million households with incomes below \$90,000 upstate and \$120,000 in the higher cost New York City metropolitan region. The League opposed this STAR Rebate program and will continue to advocate the League’s alternative approach to property tax relief.

- **Health Care** – the Governor spoke extensively on his initiatives for improving both access to health care and quality health care. He spoke about chronic disease management targeting childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. His initiatives under this issue include:

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Capitol Beat

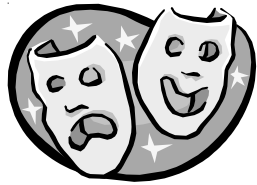
- o Enacting the Healthy Schools Act an issue that was introduced last session and was caught up in the end of session acrimony. The Governor has restated his intention to submit similar legislation with the executive budget incorporation this session many recommendations, which were made by the legislature during last year's debate on the issue. This proposal will include funding in the executive budget.
- o Health insurance for all children – last session the Governor and the legislature proposed expanding children's access to healthcare by allowing subsidized coverage under Child Health Plus for children from families with income up to 400% of the federal poverty level – which would make health insurance accessible to all 400,000 children. The current eligibility limit is 250% of the federal poverty level. The federal government blocked the proposed expansion of New York's version of the federal program, Child Health Plus. Therefore:
 - o The Governor's Executive Budget will include full funding for the planned expansion of Child Health Plus, which will provide access to health insurance coverage for all of the 400,000 uninsured children in New York State.
 - o State support will be provided, along with an increase in family contributions tied to income level, to fully fund the planned expansion of Child Health Plus from 250% to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level.
 - o The Department of Health is streamlining enrollment and renewal procedures to ensure that eligible individuals are able to get and keep coverage under Child Health Plus, Medicaid, and Family Health Plus.
 - o The Governor also proposed the use of electronic health records to provide individuals with the ability to access their individualized health care information whenever and wherever they choose. The Governor feels this will improve the quality and efficiency of care while reducing health care costs and medical errors.
 - o The Governor also noted that there is a serious shortage of physicians in rural and poor urban areas throughout New York. Over ¼ of the State's population live in areas designated "underserved" by proper health care providers.
 - o To help alleviate this shortage the Governor's Executive Budget will propose programs to provide physicians and clinics grants and enhances reimbursement rates designed to encourage new primary care and specialist physicians to establish or join existing practices in rural and inner-city underserved communities.
 - o Specifically, the Budget will propose a new education loan repayment program tied to service in underserved communities.
- **Campaign Finance Reform** – in the last paragraph of his State of the State address, the Governor spoke briefly about items from the last year that were not finished. In that paragraph, he mentioned campaign finance reform.

As many of you are aware, reform issues were prominently part of the Governor's 2007 Inaugural State of the State address. During the 2007 regular session and long into the summer and fall, the League met frequently on the second floor with the Governor's top staff. Local League participated in forums bringing the issue to the public and putting our state Senators and Assemblymembers on the record. We also testified in late June before the Senate Elections Committee. The Governor, last session, made campaign finance reform a condition of getting a legislative pay raise which was another of the League's initiatives; a pay raise for judges. This initiative suffered because it was linked to legislative pay raises and subsequently to campaign finance reform. The League made it clear at that time that these substantive issues should not be linked and should stand on their own merit. We will continue to advocate for these pay raise issues in the 2008 legislative session.

Campaign finance reform will remain a top priority issue this session and we will continue to work with the Governor's office to put forward comprehensive and real campaign finance reform. We will also vigorously urge that following the Senate hearings on campaign finance reform the Senate needs to come forward with a bill and the Assembly needs to again pass its legislation. Both houses then need to go to conference committee with their bills so that their differences can be worked out. This is an election year and we intend to beat all legislators over the head with this issue until there is comprehensive campaign finance reform.

These are a few of the League issues which were addressed in the Governor's State of the State address, if you would like more information on his address, please visit the Governor's website: <http://www.state.ny.us/governor/sos/index.html>.

Like the first day of school, much comradery and good feelings marked the first day of the legislative session. There were several receptions following the State of the State address where legislators and lobbyists gathered to wish one another a happy new year and wallow, for at least a day, in good feelings. Next week the legislature returns, the battle begins, and the League will be there.



Albany County League of Women Voters Invites you to

"Looking for Normal" at the Curtain Call Theatre

By: Jane Anderson

Thursday, March 20, 2008

6:00 p.m. Reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres

Show time: 7:30 pm Price: \$25

To reserve your tickets send your check by March 10 to
Lori Keegan-Brady at 19 Journey Lane, Glenmont, NY 12077

Any questions, call 475-0396.

Come support the League at our annual fundraiser.

Roy, is a middle-class mid-Western John Deere employee who, after 25 years of marriage finally faces his life-long secret: he believes he is a woman in a man's body. Most dramatically, we see the effect of this confession on his family. Irma, Roy's beloved wife, and mother of 22-year-old Wayne and 13-year-old Patty Ann each have their own way of trying to understand. This bitter-sweet domestic comedy-drama is thoughtful, touching, full of wit and wisdom.

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- Mary Logiudice - Delmar
- Donna Lee Davidson - Albany
- Helen Staley - Albany

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Address: _____

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- Individual Membership \$45/year
- Household Membership \$60/year
- Student Membership \$15/year
- Contribution in support of my local League
- Please send me more information

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Albany County
PO Box 611 Slingerlands, NY 12159
Or Contact: Susan Coleman Tel: 330-2992

League Calendar

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>MORE INFO</u>
Wed., Feb. 6, 5:45 pm	Board Meeting	Albany Public Library	
Mon., Feb. 11, 5:30 pm	LWVAC Reception for Albany County Legislators	Albany County Courthouse	see page 3
Thurs., Feb. 28, 5:30 pm	Souper Supper The 100 Mile Diet	Bethlehem Public Library	see page 1
Tues., Mar. 4, 5:45 pm	Board Meeting	Albany Public Library	
Sat., Mar 8, 10 am	Health Care Forum	The Arts Center, Troy	see page 2
Thurs., Mar. 20, 6:00 pm	"Looking for Normal" LWVAC Fundraiser	Curtain Call Theater	see page 9
Tues., Apr. 1, 5:45 pm	Board Meeting	Albany Public Library	
Wed., Apr. 2	Gloria Steinem	More info coming later	
Wed., Apr. 30	Souper Supper	Bethlehem Public Library	
Tues., May 6, 5:45 pm	Board Meeting	Albany Public Library	
Mon., May 12	LWVAC Annual Mtg & Dinner Speaker: Cong. Mike McNulty	Normanside Country Club	see page 2

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALBANY COUNTY
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