

# GREENWICH VOTER

www.lwvg.org



JANUARY 2012

## From the President

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season! Now it is time to focus on the year ahead—come learn at our programs, inspire us with your ideas, and help us continue our important work. The League of Women Voters of Greenwich had an incredible autumn with noted speakers on Nuclear Safety and Water Quality, Selectmen and Tax Collector debates, and two Board of Education educational forums co-sponsored with the PTA Council. In addition, we supported the amazing research of local high school students on water issues. On top of all this, we celebrated our 90th Anniversary in grand style with an incredible party at the Bush Holley House. A big thank you to Claudia Carthaus, the Chairman of the 90th Committee. It was a night of memories, friendship and a rededication of our efforts to educate voters, register voters and increase voter turnout. We walk in the footsteps of the very brave suffragists who knew that after the decades-long struggle to attain the right to vote, the responsibility of voting was equally important.

I encourage you to attend our Legislative Breakfast on January 24. All of our State delegation will be there to answer your questions and speak on issues of great importance to Greenwich residents. Bring your friends, as this event is open to the public. Let your voice be heard!

The Board is working to change the format of our annual Program Planning meeting. In addition to discussing the local positions, we are going to make it a strategy session on increasing voter turnout and other goals for the coming year. It should be more engaging and less formulaic—a nice chance to interact with other members and brainstorm about our League. Please let me know other ways to make the League more meaningful to you.

We received tremendous publicity this fall for our anniversary, our programs and debates. The League made the front page many times and had a good amount of radio time. We continue to attract new members, enhance our website, and increase program attendance. The endeavor now is to ride this momentum and take advantage of all your League has to offer. Hope to see you soon!

Happy New Year!  
Cyndy

## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Please join us for our annual update from the Greenwich delegation.

**Tuesday, January 24 at 8:00am**

Snow date: January 26 - same place and time

**Nathaniel Witherell**

**70 Parsonage Road, Greenwich**

Senator Scott Frantz and Representatives Lile Gibbons, Fred Camillo and Livvy Floren will be there to discuss current issues and answer your questions.

A fee of \$5 per person will be charged.

Please contact Gay Coe at 203-912-0601 or at [gklc@optonline.net](mailto:gklc@optonline.net) to reserve your place.

## ★★★ MEMBER MEETING ★★★

### PROGRAM PLANNING NATIONAL AND LOCAL POSITIONS

**Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00pm**

Dessert and Coffee  
at the home of Cindi Tredwell  
89 Indian Head Road, Riverside

RSVP: Karen Taggart, [taggarts@optonline.net](mailto:taggarts@optonline.net) or 698-9411

*Please specify if you are able to contribute a dessert*

This is your chance to affect the course of the advocacy, programs, and priorities for our local League, as well as provide input on LWVGUS program planning. Local positions can be found on our website [www.lwvg.org](http://www.lwvg.org). Scroll over the "Members" button for the drop-down menu to "Current Positions/Local-LWVG." We encourage you to print and bring a copy with you to the meeting for a handy reference. Positions reviewed more than 10 years ago will be re-affirmed, reviewed, restudied or dropped. Affordable Housing, Ethics and Water have been the 2011-2012 priorities at the local level.

***Don't miss this opportunity to influence  
your League's action at home and nationally.  
We hope to see you there!***



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan 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. It was founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the 72 year struggle to win voting rights for women.

## 90 Anniversary Celebration

Our October 90th Anniversary celebration was attended by over 90 supporters who honored the Greenwich League's history and 90th anniversary of its founding date, October 24, 1921. The evening featured the LWVG of Connecticut's 90th Anniversary Celebration Display, *Marching in their Footsteps*, models wearing designs worn during the National Suffrage movement from Nancy Standard's collection of antique and vintage clothing, and a photo montage of LWVG members and leadership by Vivian Chaunu. Peter Tesei presented a Proclamation to LWVG President Cyndy Anderson in honor of the anniversary. The LWVG is proud to celebrate 90 years of commitment to an informed and vibrant democracy!



Go to [www.lwvg.org/photogallery.htm](http://www.lwvg.org/photogallery.htm) to view the 90th Anniversary Photo Album!

### 2011-2012 LWVG Board of Officers and Directors

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GREENWICH VOTER EDITOR

Jennifer Baldock 203-629-7007  
NOMINATING



Left: LWVG Board members Claudia Carthaus, Caroline Adkins, Karen Taggart, Robin Kencel, Gay Coe, Leslie Petrick and Barbara Bellafore. Right: Claudia Carthaus, LWVCT President Cheryl Dunson and LWVG President Cyndy Anderson with the Town Proclamation.




## 2011 Election Season Wrap-Up

Voter Services was very busy this fall. We held debates for the First Selectman and Board of Selectman candidates and a debate for candidates for Tax Collector. Both debates drew a capacity crowd. In addition, the League co-sponsored with the PTA Council two debates for BOE candidates. Material on how to vote for the BOE was widely distributed. Emails and Constant Contact communications were frequent to get the vote out.

The *Voter's Guide* appeared as a pullout section of the *Greenwich Time* and *Greenwich Citizen* on November 3. The *Guide* was also posted on the League's website. Cheryl Dunson and Jara Burnett participated in an election coverage talk show on WGCH on election night.

Thanks to all who helped: Marilyn Myers, who exhibited extraordinary patience in editing the *Voter's Guide*; debate volunteers Ravi Arora, Boo Durkin, Gay Coe, Meg Cole, Marge Curtis, Mary Ferry, Robin Kencel, Jonna Mosoff, Princess Okiemi, Kate Schmalz and Karen Taggart. It could not have been done without you.



# Protect Yourself Against IDENTITY THEFT

Guest Speaker:  
Detective Mark Solomon of the Greenwich Police Department

**Wednesday, March 28 • 7:30 - 9:00pm**

Greenwich Police Department Headquarters, Training Room  
11 Bruce Place, Greenwich

Detective Solomon's discussion will address:

- types of fraud and how to protect against it, including the latest frauds with ATM machines
- phishing scams, elderly scams
- an overview of the Federal Trade Commission's recommendations to protect against identity theft and steps to take if you are a victim

Detective Solomon is an 18-year veteran of the Greenwich Police Department. He currently serves as president of the CT chapter of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI). In 2010, he received the CT Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the IAFCI and the International Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from MasterCard.

## *Fourth Annual 'Mary Award' Nominations*

The LWVG Board is accepting written nominations for the fourth annual Mary Award (named in honor of Mary Lou Woods and Mary Sullivan). The Board's goal in establishing this award is to honor outstanding individuals during their lifetime. Past Mary Awards recipients are Dodie Blanche, Annette Fox, Jara Burnett and Mary Ferry. The award will be given at the 2012 Annual Dinner to a League member who has made outstanding contributions to the League and the community.

The individual who receives this award should be:

- a) a long term League member;
- b) an active participant and leader in the community;
- c) someone who has promoted the League's mission by encouraging informed and active participation in government and has worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influenced public policy through education and advocacy.

Please describe how your candidate meets these three criteria and e-mail your nomination to Cyndy Anderson at tyander@aol.com, or send by regular mail to 22 Marlow Court, Riverside, CT 06878. The Board will make its decision after all nominations are reviewed. **Nominations should be received by March 15.**

## THANK YOU!!

The League of Women Voters appreciates all of our 2011 donors to the Educational Fund and to the LWVG. The monies for the Educational Fund will be used to finance the distribution of our 2012 *Voter's Guide* directly to every household in Greenwich. This is a true service to the electorate.

The following donors helped to make both our 2011 Spring Appeal and the 90th Anniversary Appeal successful. In addition, many members added a donation with their membership renewals. Our heartfelt thanks to you all!

(Donors who may have given to more than one appeal are listed only once.)

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Tina Lindstedt	Robin Zorthian

# *Nuclear Plant Safety Issues: Should We Be Concerned?*



Can a nuclear disaster similar to Japan's Fukushima happen here? That was the question on everyone's mind who attended the Forum on November 16 in Town Hall. Two of the three members of the panel thought it could if concrete steps are not taken to address serious shortcomings in nuclear plant safety and security.

The panelists were Dr. Edwin Lyman, Union of Concerned Scientists, an expert on nuclear plant design and radiation effects (above, middle left); Phillip Musegaas, Hudson River Program Director and Indian Point Policy Analyst for Riverkeeper, New York's Clean Water Advocate (above, middle right); James F.X. Steets, Director of Communications, Entergy Nuclear, the owner and operator of Indian Point and several other U.S. Power Plants (above right).

Greenwich is approximately 20 miles from two nuclear reactors at Indian Point in Buchanan, New York, on the Hudson River. This facility has been on-line for more than 35 years, and the re-licensing process for another 20 years is under way. In Japan, following the severe earthquake and tsunami, radiation fallout from the nuclear reactors at Fukushima Daiichi has been detected at distances greater than 20 miles. In fact, the U.S. government advised Americans within 50 miles of the Fukushima Daiichi reactors to evacuate because of the high contamination

levels recorded well beyond 10 miles from the plant. Therefore, a similar nuclear reactor accident at Indian Point could directly affect the residents of Greenwich and a large portion of Fairfield County.

Dr. Edwin Lyman said there is little truth to the claims that power plants like Indian Point in New York are designed better than the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. After the 9.0 magnitude quake and subsequent tsunami, the cooling systems for the reactors at Fukushima failed, leading to radiation leaks. The plants are designed to protect against known risks, but measures need to be taken to better secure plants against "potential" risks. For example, Lyman said that after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, equipment was eventually required to protect the reactors in the event a plane crashed into them. The equipment, he said, wasn't designed to withstand an enormous earthquake or other unforeseen disasters, which could affect multiple parts of the plant at once.

Jim Steets disagreed and stated that there is potential for an earthquake at Indian Point, but not of the magnitude that occurred in Japan, where damage was caused by the earthquake as well as the massive tsunami. He stated that it was the tsunami that took out the electrical power that is necessary to cool the reactor and the storage pools.

Mr. Musegaas added that Indian Point has a history of safety problems. In the last 10 years, radioactive water has leaked into the Hudson River, and there have been two incidents when transformers exploded. A year ago, 600,000 gallons of radioactive steam escaped from the Indian Point facility through an open valve and drifted into nearby neighborhoods.

All the panelists agreed that the United States will continue to obtain a portion of its electricity from nuclear power for many years to come, regardless of how rapidly other energy sources are developed and deployed. Nuclear reactors currently account for about 20 percent of U.S. electricity, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is in the process of granting 20 year license extensions for most of the 104 U.S. operating reactors.

## **RESPONSES TO SOME QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Emergency Notification And Evacuation:** The panelists addressed the issue of evacuating the densely populated areas surrounding Indian Point, especially if evacuation is needed beyond the 10 miles where roads are filled with traffic during a normal rush hour. Mr. Musegaas noted Fukushima is located in a rural area. Mr. Steets replied that Indian Point has a "responsible emergency response plan that can get infor-

*continued on next page*

## Nuclear Safety Issues *continued*

mation to people and get people out of harm's way." He was referring to a response plan for the people located only within the 10-mile radius, as required by the NRC. Phillip Musegaas and Dr. Lyman argued that that was all the more reason to assure that adequate safety measures are in place and that the NRC should require that protective and evacuation measures be extended over a much wider area—not just for people within the 10-mile zone.

**Nuclear Waste:** Members of the audience were concerned about the amount of nuclear waste that is stored at Indian Point in storage pools that need to be kept cool to prevent a meltdown. The number of spent fuel rods in those pools is growing and becoming increasingly difficult to cool. Back-up generator operated equipment is necessary for cooling in the event of a power failure when the plant can no longer produce electricity. There is no plan to move the waste to another location. Dr. Lyman suggested that the NRC should require plant owners to transfer spent fuel from storage pools to dry casks, and that is expensive.

**Property Values:** Members of the audience were also concerned about their property values in the event of nuclear fall-out in Greenwich. Mr. Steets responded that the industry has insurance but couldn't remember the limit of the industry's liability. Dr. Lyman responded that every plant is required to carry a \$200 million policy, and after an accident, every reactor has to put money into a pool of money totaling roughly \$10 billion to cover claims for radiation exposure. "Fukushima's already well over that, and that was an agricultural area".

**What We Can Do:** When a member of the audience asked what we as Connecticut residents could do to influence a decision about relicensing Indian Point, all of the panelists agreed that the NRC should be contacted. You can find more information about the role of the NRC and suggestions for what should be required to increase safety from the Union of Concerned Scientists at [www.ucsusa.org/nuclear\\_power](http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear_power). For more information about what safety measures Indian Point has in place go to: [www.safesecurevital.com](http://www.safesecurevital.com). For arguments about why Indian Point should be closed go to: [www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/stop-polluters/indian-point/](http://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/stop-polluters/indian-point/).

The entire forum was video recorded and will be shown on Channel 79. We hope to have a link on our website so that you can view it from there.

## Clean Water Series



The Greenwich League of Women Voters continued its Water Series with an inspiring program on November 2 that highlighted local science students and their research of water issues on November 2. The event at the Cos Cob Library was hosted by Susie Baker, a marine biologist and oceanographer, who taught in the Greenwich High School science department for 25 years. Guest faculty speakers were John DeLuca, Chairman of Science Department at Greenwich High School; Guy Pratt, Science Department at Brunswick School; and Andrew Bramante, Science Department at Greenwich High School. The featured students included Austin Mulunovich from Brunswick School and Ryoka Ishizuka from Greenwich High School. The program focused on the schools' ecology and water curricula, as well as presentations of the students' award-winning projects. The two students researched and executed projects exploring how energy is produced from our waste water and how to potentially increase the supply of clean drinkable water. Their projects are a testament to the dedication of our local teachers, the inquisitive minds of our students, and the possibility for change in our world.

Both students have impressive resumes in the field of science. Austin Mulunovich attended the Brown Leadership and Global Health summer camp, where he learned that providing basic health care to people in resource-poor settings remains a challenge and how impure water can spread disease. He was also selected to participate in the Environmental Education Student Internship Program at River Watch in Westport. Through water quality monitoring, Austin and his team were able to provide an overview of the health of the river. He recently attended the Brown University Leadership Institute Symposium on Social Action. There he had the opportunity to consult with water experts and attend skill-building workshops in which he developed an action plan to improve water quality in Connecticut.

Ryota Ishizuka was the top winner of the Connecticut Science Fair last year, which earned him a trip to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), where he finished in 3rd place. He was also chosen to compete at the International Sustainable World (Engineering, Energy, and Environment) Project Olympiad, where he received a silver medal. And lastly, he was one of 50 students in the United States who were selected to participate in MIT's Research Science Institute (RSI), a very prestigious appointment, where students work with researchers at MIT for the entire summer.

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### Program/Event Highlights:

- 90th Anniversary Celebration
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### Upcoming Events:

- January 24 - Legislative Breakfast, 8:00am
- February 8 - Member Meeting: Local/National Program Planning, 7:00pm
- March 28 - Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft, 7:30pm
- June 6 - Annual Meeting and Dinner (mark your calendar)

## A Warm Welcome to our Newest Members!

Andrew Burke

Kristen Globell

Darcy Hadjipateras

Lillian Horn

Debra Mecky

Barbara O'Neill

Bonnie Novek

Keith Novek

Eileen Simonson

Hilary Stark

**You can join the League or renew your membership online at [www.lwvg.org](http://www.lwvg.org).**

Your membership is very important because it helps us continue our educational and advocacy work.

**Together, we really can make a difference!**



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