



League of Women Voters of Central Vermont

Bulletin

Spring 2017

Spring Message

We kicked off the year with our annual New Year Breakfast and have yet to hit the pause button!!

In February we held a Birthday Tea celebration of the League's 97th anniversary at Down Home Kitchen. It was a lovely evening with a gathering of more than 30 guests; the youngest is a ninth grader at Montpelier High School. [Anyone over 16 is eligible to join the League.] After talking about the League and its activities, we sat down to an elegant tea with delicious spread of sandwiches, cookies, scones, and the works! A thank you to owner Mary Alice Proffitt for accommodating us!

This month, we once again teamed up with the Kellogg Hubbard library (KHL), to offer *Privacy, What Do We Know About It?* James Duff Lyall of the ACLU of Vermont spoke of the invasiveness of technology in our lives and shared resources from the ACLU (see p.3). We cap off our first year collaboration with KHL on May 11th with a panel discussion on the First Amendment at 7 p.m. Our focus will be the press, speech, and religion.

Every year prior to Annual Meeting, the League holds a "program planning" meeting where members make recommendations for the next year's activities. "Program" is a core component of our mission and, in League parlance, is the process of study and advocacy of issues. Please let us know what issues you might like our League to focus on for our next fiscal year: iracansue@gmail.com or catherine.rader@myfairpoint.net. Final decisions will be made at our Annual Meeting - see page 3.

Our Annual Quilt Raffle is in progress (p. 4). A sheet of a dozen tickets accompanies this mailing. You may print as many as you can sell. This fundraiser keeps our dues low, so please do your best.

And finally, we hope to see you at the Quad States Conference in Maine next month. See details and register at http://www.lwvofvt.org/quad_states.html.

LWVCEN Celebrates League Anniversary

Thirty Central VT Leaguers and guests gathered at Down Home Kitchen in Montpelier for a celebratory tea to observe the 97th anniversary of the LWVUS.

Down Home owner Mary Alice Proffitt put on a fine spread of tea sandwiches and pastries, accompanied by pots of fine Indian and herbal teas.

Members took the opportunity to chat and explain the mission and work of the League, and to encourage our guests to join is in Making Democracy Work for All.



Party goers arrive at Down Home



LWVCEN member Barbara McAndrew and guest Cary Brown

Fundraising at E. Montpelier Towne Meeting

East Montpelier members made a bit of money at their Town Meeting on March 7, selling coffee, donuts, and raffle tickets. [You'll have your chance; see p. 5.] Thanks to Capital Grounds coffee and Dunkin' Donuts for our provisions.



Actually, 19 dozen donuts!

Special Thanks to Chris and Sue Racanelli for arranging for the contributions, returning coffee urns, and taking leftover donuts to Christ Church, Montpelier, for their food shelf.

The special LWVCEN Leadership Team meeting, scheduled for March 14 and open to the public, was cancelled because of the snowstorm.

It has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11 at 3:00 p.m. In the East Montpelier Room at the K-H Library. Do join us and bring a friend to learn about the League!

Privacy in the Age of the Internet

James Duff Lyll, Executive Director of ACLU of Vermont spoke at Kellogg-Hubbard Library on March 9. This was the third of a series of four programs jointly sponsored by the Library and the LWV Central Vermont.

Lyll confirmed much of what we have heard in the last few months about electronic surveillance capabilities. (You may want to put a piece of tape over the webcam on your computer.)

Time didn't allow for more than cursory discussion of commercial use of these techniques, the sort that remembers what you ordered over the 'net and then sends related advertisements to your Facebook page.

He did, however, tell the very engaged audience about steps that can be taken to protect your digital privacy. Some useful links among those that can be found on the ACLU website are:

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/speak-freely/how-protect-yourself-government-surveillance-and-criminal-hackers>

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/speak-freely/few-easy-steps-everyone-should-take-protect-their-digital-privacy>

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/five-ways-keep-your-data-safe-right-now>

<https://www.facebook.com/aclu.nationwide/videos/10153896697616813/>

He also recommended *State of Surveillance with Ed Snowden*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucRWyGKBVzo>

**First Call to Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, 2017
Angeleno's Restaurant
15 Barre Street, Montpelier
Save the Date – Details to Follow**

Quilt Raffle!!

We're getting an earlier start on our quilt raffle this year, giving us more time to supplement our revenue from dues.

This quilt was made by Luanne Lindeman, professional quilter from Rockville, MD. It can be used as a small lap quilt, or as a wall-hanging (there's a sleeve of the back to hold a rod to support the quilt). You can see more of Luanne's quilts at <http://www.yellowwoodquilts.com/index.html>.

Bits and Pieces



Front



Back

Size: 42" x 52"

Original Pattern, made from blocks left over from other quilts. Machine pieced and home machine-quilted in a leaf pattern.

Tickets: \$1 each or six for \$5.



LWV Central VT

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