



VOTER

League of Women Voters-Central Delaware County

February-March 2019

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LWV-CDC Wins Beth Israel 'Friend of Community' Award

Congregation Beth Israel has announced that it plans to award its annual Friend of the Community award for 2019 to the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County. The award ceremony will be Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue, 542 S. New Middletown Road (Rt. 352, Edgmont Ave.) Media.

Carol Briselli, chair of the reconstructionist congregation's Social Action Committee, said the award is given each year to a person or organization that best meets its standards for positive, non-partisan contributions to the Delaware County community.

Members of the LWV-CDC are

invited to attend the ceremony. League President Barbara Amstutz will accept the award and a monetary gift from the congregation and is invited to make a presentation about the League's history and many civics activities.

The League's directors said they are very honored by the congregation's recognition on the national League's 99th birthday.

All LWV-CDC members are invited to attend. Please join us for the festivities.



We are mourning the sudden death of our long-time member and board member Katherine Miller who gave the League so much of her time, energy and devotion over so many decades. See Page 5 for a tribute.



President's Message

One of the most important priorities of the League of Women Voters Central Delaware County is to educate our members and Delaware County residents about local government, municipal elections and the justice system in Delaware County. The upcoming Primary Municipal election on May 21 and General Municipal election on Nov. 5 are going to feature highly contested races for FOUR Common Pleas Court judges, and THREE County Council seats and District Attorney (1 candidate is running for each party) on the ballot in Delaware County.

County Council and Common Pleas judges are critically important to Delaware County.

- County Council members are elected at large for four-year terms. County Council has jurisdiction over issues of transparency for meetings, vendor contracts, prison governance, risk assessment for energy pipelines and whether a Public Health Department in Delaware county is in the public interest.
- Common Pleas judges sit for a 10-year term. Judges plays a major role in criminal justice reform and how crimes are handled regarding the opioid crisis and the mentally ill. Impartiality and independence are critical to establish confidence and fairness in our legal system. Electing the most qualified judges is an important step to creating an independent judiciary and to bringing new perspectives to the bench.
- The District Attorney for Delaware County is elected for a four-year term. The District Attorney's Office is involved with juvenile delinquency matters, appeals, victim advocacy, and criminal investigations. The current district attorney was appointed in January 2018 to serve out the remaining term of the former district attorney who was elected to the Delaware County Common Pleas Court in 2017. The current DA is running for a full term this year and is challenged by a candidate who just announced his candidacy in January.

Word is out that races for County Council, Common Pleas and District Attorney are going to be competitive. The press has reported that more than twelve candidates have indicated their interest in county council positions and more than 7 have announced interest in seats on the common pleas court. Closer to the election, we will be holding CANDIDATE FORUMS for both the Primary and General Municipal elections so you will be informed who are the best candidates. Keep checking our website, www.lwvcdc.org for postings about candidate forums.

Keep your eye out for some additional thought-provoking civic education programs in March:

- March 8, Hot Topics Panel, noon, Media Borough Hall Rabbi Jeremy Gerber of Temple Ohev Shalom will discuss managing conflict in today's world.
- March 30, half-day Civic 101 Workshop at the Hampton Inn at 10:00 am. to learn more about municipal elections, how to select judges and be a poll worker.

Hope you can join us for our many upcoming events.

Barbara Amstutz

Conflict and Civil Discourse

The Hot Topics Luncheon Friday, March 8, will feature Rabbi Jeremy Gerber of Ohev Shalom, who will speak to us about “Managing Constructive Conflict in Today’s World.”

The issue of how to have peace and civil discourse about opposing points of view in today’s deeply divided political atmosphere has been of a major concern of the League of Women Voters long before the white



Rabbi Jeremy Gerber

nationalist march in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017 and the mass shooting deaths of 11 people at The Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh last October.

The Hot Topics Luncheon will be at 12 noon in the Media Borough Hall Community Room. Lunch cost \$18. Contact Hank Thorne at 566-5474 or email hthorne@verizon.net to make reservations.

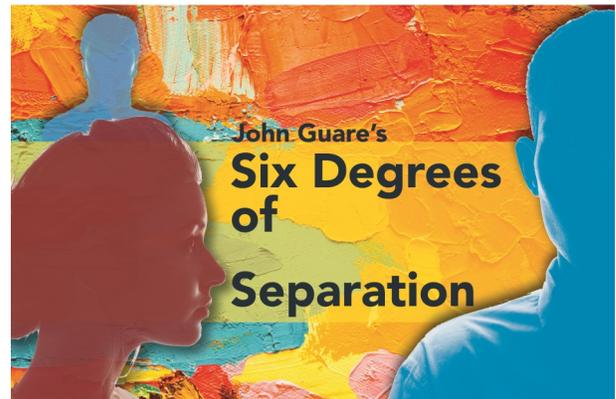
Six Degrees of Separation at Swarthmore Players

The League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County invites the public to join them for a matinee performance at the Swarthmore Players Club, 614 Fairview Rd. Swarthmore, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17. The John Guare award winning play “Six Degrees of Separation” explores the theory that everyone is separated by just six people. Tickets are \$25.

Seating is limited and reservations are due by March 5. Mail checks made out to LWVDC to P.O. Box 131, Wallingford PA 19086. Or use PayPal on our site. Processing fees will be included.

You are welcome to join the League for lunch at Swarthmore Pizza, 601 S. Chester Rd. prior to the show. Lunch

is not included in the ticket price. For more information call 610-566-8674.



March Events Calendar

March 8 (Friday) — Hot Topics Luncheon: Rabbi Jeremy Gerber. 12 noon, Media Borough Hall Community Room, 301 N. Jackson St., Media, 301 N. Jackson St. Media.

March 17 (Sunday) — Spring Excursion to the Swarthmore Players Club to see Six Degrees of Separation, 614 Fairview Rd., Swarthmore. 2 p.m. Register by March 5.

March 20 (Wednesday) — League 101 — Workshop for new members (and old), Olivia Thorne, Learn about the League’s structure and operations. Helen Kate Furness Library , ground floor meeting room, 100 N. Providence Rd., Wallingford. 2-3:30 p.m. No charge.

March 30 (Saturday) — Civics 101: 2019 Local Elections: What You Don’t Already Know, Hampton Inn & Suites, 300 S. Beatty Rd., Media 9 a.m. to Noon, No charge. See P. 4 to register.

League 101: Learn about and Get Involved with LWV-CDC

For members only — especially new members — Want to learn more about how the League and how it operates, plus gain a better understanding of how you could be a League volunteer in the coming year? We have 151 members, and 31 percent are new since January 2017.

Now seems like a great time to explain our committees to members and let you choose

where you want to put your skills and energy to work as an LWV member.

There are so many ways to be involved as a member. Come join Olivia Thorne and other League members for an overview of how the national, state and local Leagues function and to learn what they will be doing in 2019 and 2020. Learn how we will be working to build better communities as we celebrate our 99th anniversary and prepare for our 100th next year.



A Great Time at the Constitution Center

For our fall excursion, 20 of us went to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia to see the Alexander Hamilton Exhibit. Here from left to right are Voter Editor Jodine Mayberry, LWV-CDC President Barbara Amstutz and Past President Joanna Nealon standing in front of the “Rights for Women” photo at the center’s 19th Amendment display. Look on Page 3 to see what we’re doing this month for our spring excursion. And see Page 6 for the Olivia Thorne’s story of the League’s birthday.

For the Community: Civics 101 — Municipal and Judicial Elections

On Saturday, March 30, the LWV-CDC is holding a workshop entitled 2019 LOCAL ELECTIONS: WHAT YOU DON’T ALREADY KNOW. Local elections include those for school boards, municipalities, county council and county and magisterial district judges.

The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. (coffee and registration between 9 & 9:15) at the Hampton Inn, 300 Beatty Road, Media and ending at noon, it will cover three topics:

- OVERVIEW OF OUR LOCAL ELECTIONS
- HOW TO PICK A JUDGE
- HOW TO BE A POLL WORKER

There is no charge but participation is limited so please sign up for this workshop at our website www.lwvcdc.org and go to the calendar entry.



Delaware County Councilpersons, Left to right, Colleen P. Morrone, Kevin M. Madden, Chairman John P. McBlain and Brian P. Zidek, at the County LWV luncheon Feb. 13. Three seats are up for grabs in November. Morrone, McBlain and Michael Culp will not be running for re-election. Zidek and Madden are in the middle of four-year terms and are not running this year.

Katherine Miller — 1941-2019

Katherine Miller, Olivia Thorne and Marita Green joined the League in mid 1970s. We were the newbies together, mentored by Jeanette Ross and Mary Porter Owen and Alice Allen. In those days you were taught “League Like” ways of doing things and given tasks of writing, speaking and organizing to improve your skills. Katherine was smarter than us and could see connections between different ideas and problems.

Katherine and her husband Jay lived in a beautiful house in Wallingford. They invited us to have our parties, meetings and training programs there.

Katherine became the organizer of the statewide candidate forums, held at Channel 6ABC for many years. She knew the candidates for Governor, Senator and State row offices and their managers. She handled the details of forums smoothly. She went to Drexel with Olivia to learn how create a website and became the webmaster for LWVPA. In 2008 she started Smart Voter and later Vote411.

Katherine served the local league as Central Delaware County merged with Marple LWV, Upper Providence, Middletown LWV, Springfield LWV,

and Swarthmore LWV. She was President and held other offices over the years and participated in numerous studies. The last project she helped with was the 2019 County Council Luncheon on Feb. 13. She



Katherine Lord Miller

worked with Rosemary Kesling to organize this successful luncheon and for many of us, that was the last time we saw her.

We are missing her already. May she rest in peace.

~ Olivia Thorne and Marita Green

Memorial Donations for Katherine

Please join the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County in expressing our respect and condolences to Katherine Miller’s family. Katherine was a long-time member and important and valued contributor to the League. We are grateful that her legacy will live on at the League. If you would like to give a donation on behalf of Katherine Miller to the LWV-CDC, your donation can be contributed to one of the following two funds:

The Legacy Fund: This is a non-tax-deductible fund established to honor and celebrate the legacy of important League members. If you are interested in giving a donation to this fund in honor of Katherine, make your check payable to LWV-CDC, Legacy Fund, and send your check to LWV-CDC, P.O. Box 131, Wallingford, PA 19086.

The Education Fund: This is tax deductible fund established to provide funding for educational activities conducted by LWV-CDC. If you are interested in giving a donation to this fund in honor of Katherine Miller, make your check payable to LWV-CDC, Education Fund, and send your check to the address above. A letter will be sent to you from the LWV-CDC confirming your donation for tax purposes.

We will inform Jay Miller, Katherine’s husband, of the various contributions that have been donated to the LWV-CDC in Katherine’s honor.

Condolence notes can be sent to Jay Miller at 1048 West Baltimore Pike, H510, Media, PA 19063.

Happy 99th Birthday League of Women Voters!

By Olivia Thorne

Two thousand women from 48 states gathered on Feb. 13, 1920, for the last convention of the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Carrie Chapman Catt was president and reported five more states would ratify the 19th amendment in 1920 in time for all women to vote in the 1920 General Election. NAWSA delegates voted to disband NAWSA and adopted a "constitution" to create the League of Women Citizens. The constitution provided that the name would change to League of Women Voters as soon as the 19th Amendment was ratified. That's why the League of Women Voters celebrates its birthday on Feb. 13.

At that 1920 convention, the delegates elected Maud Woods Park, NAWSA's chief congressional lobbyist as their first national president. During the next six months state Leagues and local chapters of Women Citizens were formed all over the country. A Media League of Women Voters was formed to serve all of Delaware County in fall 1920.

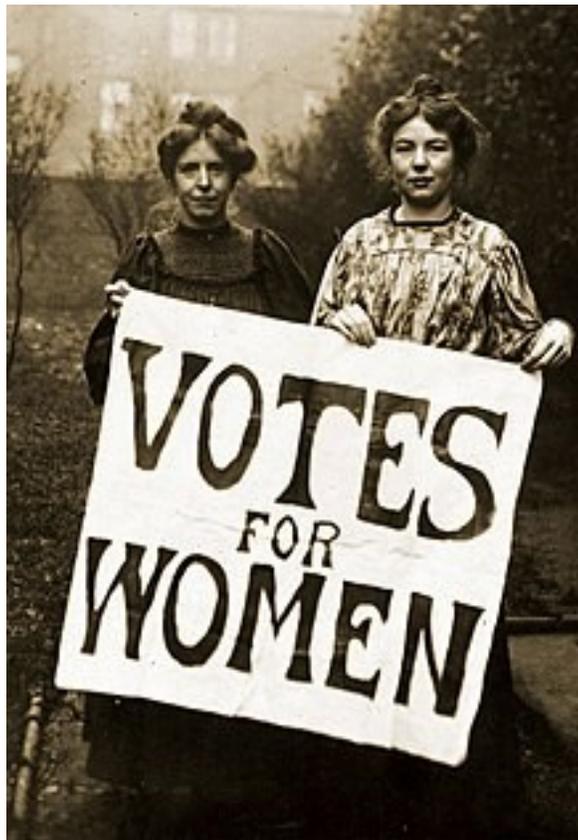
In August 1920, when women, white and black, got the vote, 2 Million women in PA needed to register in just one month. It was a

three-day process:

- Day 1 – declare your wish to vote.
- Day 2 – pay a 50 cent poll tax.

If you were a property owner you could show a receipt for property taxes and your name was on the deed or you did not have to pay the tax if you were between the ages of 21 -22.

- Day 3 – register to vote - giving name, age, date of birth and approximate height or weight to prevent fraud.



The newly formed League mailed letters, held meetings, and made phone calls to members and friends to make sure women understood the election laws and how they applied to them. The state accepted the League's offer to help in the process and by Election Day about 26 percent of all women across the country were registered.

The League started Government Academies at women's colleges and state universities. There was one at Bryn Mawr College and

West Chester University. The goal was to make sure women understood how their government worked so they could understand how they could use government to improve their country, their communities and the rights of women. In 1925, they allowed men to attend as well.