



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County, Delaware

October 2017

www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org

Vol. 22, No.3

The Mission of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities.

You are invited

HOT TOPIC LUNCH Monday, October 23, 2017 11:30 A.M - 1 P.M.

HOT TOPIC EVENING Tuesday, October 24, at 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

AT THE GREENE TURTLE IN CHRISTIANA

**What is Social Media, and how should we be using it within the League?
Jennifer Wells will give an overview of Social Media platforms such as
Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and explain how they are used.**



As a blogger and young entrepreneur, Jennifer maintains a strong Social Media presence for her own business, Jenn Wells Design, and has agreed to share her knowledge with us.

The session will include hands-on practice, so bring your smart phone, tablet, and/or laptop computer along. We'll start with LWVDE and LWVUS's own social media feeds as examples.



All are welcome to attend. We'll be in the private room up front, and use the overhead televisions as instructional aids. Food/beverages can be ordered as desired from the regular menu.

The Christiana Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grill is just off of Route 7 near the Delaware SPCA, 5 Stanton Christiana Rd, Christiana, DE 19713, <https://thegreenturtle.com/location/Christiana/> 302-660-7222. No RSVP is required but if you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail 302-571-8948.

The public is invited to all Hot Topic meetings to **become informed on a wide variety of topics.** It is also a time to check in with members of LWV, make new friends, invite your neighbors, and colleagues to experience the League in an informal setting.

TED Discussion Groups in Newark and Bear next page



TED Discussion Groups in Newark and Bear

These events are free and open to the public. This is a "pilot" program for small local League discussion groups; we hope to expand to other areas of the county later in the year. Mark your calendar now, and bring a friend or neighbor! No RSVP is necessary.

TED DISCUSSION - PRISON JUSTICE

- **Thurs Oct 12, 6:30-8pm - Newark Senior Center, classroom 1 - Bryan Stevenson / Social Justice**
- **Sat Oct 14, 11am-12:30 - Bear Library, meeting room 1B - Bryan Stevenson / Social Justice**

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County (LWVNCC) will host a viewing of Bryan Stevenson's 2012 TED talk, "*We Need to Talk About an Injustice*," followed by an informal discussion on social justice topics. This is an engaging and personal talk by the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of the 2014 best-selling book *Just Mercy*. **No Cost.**

Bryan Stevenson is a public-interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. He's the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based group that has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent prisoners on death row, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

His engaging and personal TED Talk from 2012 has been translated into 32 languages and inspired millions of viewers.

Get your TED on with LWVNCC! These events are free and open to the public.

"EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT ADDICTION IS WRONG,"

- **Wed. Oct 25, 6:30-8pm - Newark Natural Foods, small meeting room - Johann Hari / Addiction**
- **Sat. Oct 28, 11:00 am-12:30pm - Appoquinimink Library, library meeting room - Johann Hari / Addiction**

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County (LWVNCC) will host a viewing of Johann Hari's 2015 TED talk, "*Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong*," followed by an informal discussion on drug addiction and treatment.

What really causes addiction -- to everything from cocaine to smart-phones? And how can we overcome it? Johann Hari has seen our current methods fail firsthand, as he has watched loved ones struggle to manage their addictions. He started to wonder why we treat addicts the way we do -- and if there might be a better way. As he shares in this deeply personal talk, his questions took him around the world, and unearthed some surprising and hopeful ways of thinking about an age-old problem.

Discussion handouts will provide information on related resources, including local community groups that are working on these issues, and related bills that are currently before the Delaware General Assembly

Get your TED on with LWVNCC! These events are free and open to the public.

- **Thurs Nov 9, 6:30-8pm - Newark Senior Center – Lawrence Lessig / Campaign Finance**
- **Sat Nov 11, 11am-12:30 - Bear Library - Lawrence Lessig / Campaign Finance**
- **Sat Dec 9, 11am-12:30 - Bear Library - Topic 4 (TBD)**
- **Thurs Dec 14, 6:30-8pm - Newark Senior Center - Topic 4**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I just returned from a wonderful hiking trip to the four corners area—so many beautiful and different national parks –and I expected to return the end of Sept. to fall in the East. Instead, I arrived to sweltering summer! What a crazy season we have had! Speaking of seasons, it is the season of membership renewal. Thank you to all of you have joined, rejoined, paid your dues, and/or made donations. As you may know, we are quite dependent on membership dues and donations to fund our activities, so if you have not yet joined, or rejoined, please send in your membership form and your dues. A follow-up letter

will be coming out soon, but you can save us all the postage if you go ahead and send in your membership by mail or online.

We are also looking to add fundraisers to our activities to help bolster our budget, so please let Letty or me know if you have ideas or would like to implement or work on any fundraisers.

We have been trying some new things this fall with the addition of Tuesday night Hot Topics groups to meet the needs of working people. And in October there will be numerous gatherings in the Newark, Bear, and Middletown areas to hear and discuss a variety of TED talks related to the League's mission. We hope you will come out for these sessions and stay informed and up to date.

Thank you to all members who are working on various committees to effect policies that will take our country forward toward justice and sustainability. It only takes one person to make a difference, and each of you in the League is making a difference in your own way. Keep up the good work!

Marj Johnson

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

REMINDER: If you have received a letter in the mail, it is that time of year to renew your membership in the LWV. Whether you are active, or not, we need your financial support. The membership fee is shared with the LWVUS \$32.00, LWVDE, \$11.00, which leaves \$8.00 to fund your local League out of the \$51.00 it collects. The LWVNCC pays for part of the rent, office insurance, Internet, copier and printer costs, as well as all its programming and one part-time staff. We depend on donations either to the LWV Education Fund (NCC account) and your donations to the LWVNCC above the dues rate.

VOTER SERVICE UPDATE



At NEWARK COMMUNITY DAY held on September 17, LWVNCC league members registered voters, distributed our listing of elected officials, answered many questions about the league, and how to register to vote on line as well as numerous inquiries about absentee voting from out of state students attending UD. .



Pictured above on left are Kim Wells and her daughter Jenn. Pictured on right is Kathy Gifford (facing us).

Many thanks to the following volunteers: Carole Walsh, Bill Walsh, and Letty Diswood who set up and took down the canopy and table. Working in the booth was: Kim Wells and her daughter, Bea Webb, and Kathy Gifford.

Save the date!! There are plans for a candidate night for Newark City Council in the evening of March 20, 2018 from 5:30 - 9:30.

March for Racial Justice and Compassion-Saturday, October 28th in Newark.

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County and several organizations and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark have come together to **organize a March for Racial Justice and Compassion on Saturday, October 28th in Newark.** The march will begin at the historic George Wilson Community Center at 9:00 a.m. It will be a silent march in solidarity with the Silent Protest Parade in New York City in 1917. That march was organized by the NAACP, church, and community leaders to protest violence directed towards African Americans at that time.

The League will have a voter registration table that morning at the George Wilson Center. The hours are from 9:00 am - noon. There will be other presenters there at the George Wilson Center during that time for those who want to attend but are unable to march.

NEW CITIZEN CEREMONY



At the September Naturalization ceremony league members Lorraine Botticelli and Catriona Binder-Macleod distributed a welcome folder to each new citizen.

If you are interested to attend the ceremony and/or help to distribute the League's welcome packet, contact Lorraine Botticelli 354-2585 cell, lsbotticelli@gmail.com.

Welcome back Connie Georgov who took a medical leave of absence from her volunteer job coordinating volunteers with Botticelli who helps distribute the welcome folders.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

What: Great Decisions: Afghanistan and Pakistan

When: 3rd Monday, October 17, 18, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Where: Newark Free Library

Who: Dubravka Morgan will lead the discussion

What else: Lunch, for those who wish it

When: Before discussion, 11:30 am

Where: Skipjack Restaurant, Shops at Louviers

How: Contact Vicky Kleinman, kraver@udel.edu or 302-731-4950

SEPTEMBER HOT TOPIC



We thank Michelle Lauer for giving a fascinating talk on "Trauma/adverse childhood events and the impact on substance use disorders" at our September Hot Topic Lunch and also presenting the following night at Michaels's Restaurant.

Lauer is a psychiatric nurse who is currently pursuing a post-Master's degree as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She discussed the ACE Study and what Delaware is doing to address trauma when working with people of all ages.

(Continued on page 5 Sept. Hot Topic)

(Continued from page 4 Sept. Hot Topic)

Trauma comes in many forms and does not discriminate. According to a landmark study, known as the ACE Study, or adverse childhood events, trauma affects the brain development of children, the immune system, hormonal systems and even the way our DNA is read and transcribed. People exposed to high 'doses' of trauma have triple the lifetime risk of heart disease and lung cancer and a 20-year difference in life expectancy.

LWVUS UPDATE - ADVOCACY - EDUCATE - <http://www.lwv.org>

League Files Amicus Brief in *Gill v. Whitford* ★

The League [filed a brief](#) in the historic partisan gerrymandering case, *Gill v. Whitford*, which will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on October 3rd. If you are interested in this case check out [our latest blog post](#) previewing the challenge at the center of the case and highlighting some of the history around partisan gerrymandering.

League Submits Brief in *Husted v. A. Phillip Randolph Institute* ★

LWVUS and LWVOH submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of [Husted v. A. Phillip Randolph Institute](#). The case will be heard by the court on November 8, 2017. The amicus brief argues that the process used by Ohio to purge voters from voter rolls is illegal, inaccurate and unreasonable under the provisions established by Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

League Supports We the People Democracy Reform Act ★

The legislation has been introduced by in the House and Senate with Senator Udall (D-NM) and Representative Price (D-NC4) and offers a clear path forward for improving our democracy. This legislation will elevate the voices of the American people so we can be heard over the special interests and partisan bickering. This bill will strengthen our elections with automatic and online registration, enabling more voters to participate in our great democracy. [Read statements endorsing the Act here.](#)

Graham-Cassidy Health Care Proposal Rejected by U.S. Senate ★

The U.S. Senate's latest attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed this week. [Graham-Cassidy](#) would have eliminated affordable quality health care for millions of Americans by gutting the Affordable Care Act (ACA); slashed federal funding and destroyed Medicaid by turning its funding into per capita caps; eliminated the Medicaid expansion, and defunded Planned Parenthood health centers.

CALENDAR

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| Wednesday, October 4, 9:30 am - 12 pm | Legislative Hall, House Majority hearing room, 411 Legislative Ave. Dover, DE 19901 | LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS MEETING. Contact Committee Chair Sandy Spence for details (302-841-2882) and if interested in attending. (sandyspence325@gmail.com) |
| Thursday, October 12, 6:30-8:00 pm | Newark Senior Center, classroom 1, Newark, DE | TED TALK discussion groups - Bryan Stevenson / Social Justice <i>"We Need to Talk About an Injustice,"</i> followed by an informal discussion on social justice topics |
| Saturday, October 14, 11 am -12:30 pm | Bear Library, meeting room 1B, Bear, DE | TED TALK discussion groups - Bryan Stevenson / Social Justice <i>"We Need to Talk About an Injustice,"</i> followed by an informal discussion on social justice topics |
| Monday, October 16 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Pat Todd's home at 1401 Pennsylvania Ave, Apt. 1204 | LWVDE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING. The meeting time has been changed to the end of the working day to accommodate our guest, Susan Love of DNREC's Division of Energy and Climate. |
| Monday, October 23, 2017 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | The Christiana Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grill is just off of Route 7 near the Delaware SPCA, 5 Stanton Christiana Rd, Christiana, DE 19713 | HOT TOPIC - SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING- What is Social Media, and how should we be using it within the League? Jennifer Wells will give an overview of Social Media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and explain how they are used |
| Tuesday, October 24, 2017 6:30 - 8 pm | The Christiana Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grill See directions above. | HOT TOPIC - SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING- What is Social Media, and how should we be using it within the League? Jennifer Wells will give an overview of Social Media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and explain how they are used |
| Wednesday, October 25, 6:30-8:00 pm | Newark Natural Foods, small meeting room, Newark | TED TALK - Johann Hari's 2015 TED talk, <i>"Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong,"</i> followed by an informal discussion on drug addiction and treatment. |
| Friday, October 27, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm | Hilton - Wilmington/ Christiana, 100 Continental Drive, Newark, DE 19713 | VISIONS OF JUSTICE 2017: BAIL REFORM: FACTS VS. FICTION - Register with Delaware Center for Justice 302-658-7174 |
| Sat October 28, 11am- 12:30 pm | Appoquinimink Library, library meeting room | TED TALK - Johann Hari's 2015 TED talk, <i>"Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong,"</i> followed by an informal discussion on drug addiction and treatment. |
| Monday, November 6, 6:30 - 8:30 pm | Community Rm, Immanuel Church Highlands, 2400 W 17th Street, Wilmington, DE 19806 | LWV OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD MEETING Back to regular first Monday meeting schedule. (Note: Not in the League office - main entrance has elevator, no steps.) No board meeting in October. |
| Wednesday, November 15, 5:30 - 7:30 pm | Dover City Library Loockerman Street, Dover | LWVDE & EDUCATION FUND BOARD MEETINGS RSVP joannhase@aol.com. No board meeting in October. |

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
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