



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOMERS



VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 9

APRIL, 2015

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 21, 2015 - 12:30PM
Travelers Rest - Route 100, Ossining

MENU

Hors D'oeuvres - Glass of Wine
Salad
Choice of:
Sliced Sirloin Steak w/ Merlot Sauce
Chicken Francaise in Shallots, Wine & Herbs
Salmon Roulade w/ Dijon and Cracked Pepper Sauce

Roasted Red Potatoes Vegetable Medley
Choice of:
Carrot Cake
Chocolate Mousse Cake
Cheese Cake

COFFEE TEA
Members: \$49.00 Guests: \$52.00

See p. 4 for authors and Coupon

SOMERS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Co-Presidents

Francoise Bennett

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Barbara Rothman

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Lucille Kennedy

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3rd Vice President

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Treasurer

Anne Stafford

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Recording Secretary

Lucille Williams

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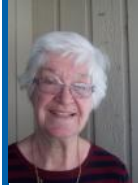
Corresponding Secretary

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CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Romans gave this month the Latin name Aprilis but the derivation of the name is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the verb *aperi*, aperture, an opening. We have *an aperitif* to open our appetite before a meal! April is the season when trees and flowers begin to “open”. April starts with Fool’s Day, then we have Passover, World Health Day, Easter, Tax Day, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, and last but not least in my books: Opening Day!

Earth Day is the annual ritual on which day events are held worldwide to demonstrate our support for environmental protection. The LWV position supports the protection and management of natural resources in the public interest, including energy conservation and energy options from renewable sources.

To celebrate the nature renewal, the Angle Fly Preserve is an important place to visit here in Somers. It is part of the Somers Land Trust, a non-profit organization committed to preserving open space in the town of Somers. In 2005, when a 104-unit subdivision was proposed for 654 acres in the heart of town, Westchester and the Land Trust acted as lead negotiators for the purchase of the land. In May 2006, the Town of Somers, New York City, Westchester County and New York State completed the acquisition of the 654-acre property from the developer-owner for \$20.5 million.

It should be noted that in exchange for financing the purchase of Angle Fly, Somers signed an agreement with the county to make a good faith effort to build 224 units of affordable housing in exchange for financing the purchase of Angle Fly. We are currently working toward the fulfillment of this agreement.

In 2006, the land purchased was set aside as a natural sanctuary. The 2006 agreement prevented large-scale development on the property; some abandoned houses are still standing. Do check the Somers Land Trust website!

Let’s keep marching!

Francoise Bennett

Co-President

SAVE THE DATE!

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

THURSDAY MAY 21, 2015—See p. 5

PUBLICATIONS: Carol Sturtz, editor.....Harriet Leib, Mac Sturtz

MAILINGS: Lucille Williams



Report to the People
From
The Somers Town Board

* * *

Monday, April 13th
Business Meeting - 10:00am
Town Board - 10:30am,
Somers Town Hall
Route 202



At 10:30am, Supervisor Rick Morrissey and Councilmen Garry, Clinchy, Cerieco and Faulkner will meet with our League at **Town Hall**, in Somers.

The Report is an annual event that provides a forum for a stimulating discussion of Town issues and concerns. Hear about plans for new housing and a **food market** with a new entrance to the shopping center. What are the plans for sidewalks? How will we deal with the loss of Pepsi?

Somers is a small town with an active local government. This is your opportunity to meet your new Town Board and to discuss topics that are of real concern to Somers. You can have an impact on your local environment.

Students Inside Albany: Meet Wesley Cash



The Somers League of Women voters is delighted to sponsor Wesley Cash, a junior at Somers High School, to *Students Inside Albany*, which will be held May 17-20. SIA brings high school students around the state together to learn about New York government. As part of the interactive program, students tour the Capitol and observe the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislator.

Wesley is the first junior to serve as SHS Student Council Executive Board President. He is in his second term on the New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities Board. In addition to his leadership roles, Wesley is the head of lighting in the Technical Theatre Program at SHS. "I am honored and excited to attend the *Students Inside Albany* conference this May," says Wesley, "and very thankful to the League of Woman Voters for allowing me to experience this wonderful opportunity!"

by Lucille Kennedy

SOMERS SCHOOLS



On Monday, March 9th, Dr. Blanch, Superintendent of Schools, joined by Ken Crowley, Assistant Superintendent, reported on the plans for 2015-2016 school year. The major challenges for the coming year are lower assessed property values, the tax levy limit, uncertain aid figures and continued use of Reserves to offset Tax Levy increase.

The State has not released the projected amounts for additional state monies. The amounts are contingent on controversial issues; e.g. appropriate method of evaluating teachers and required years for tenure. The 2015-2016 budget is \$86,497,809 and the projected tax increase for the coming year is 2.49%.

The District continues to enrich the programming for students. They are developing the International Baccalaureate Diploma which will include a high school teacher(s) training program. It will be associated with a college curriculum offering math, science, arts, language, social studies research, community service, international business stories and writing projects.

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON, CONT.

Authors & Books



Susan Allison Dean	TBA
Karen Engelman	<i>The Book That Must Be Named</i>
Stephen Kitsakos	<i>The Accidental Pilgrim</i>
Wendy Staub	TBA



LWV, Box 371, Somers, NY 10589

Name _____

Please reserve _____ place(s) for me

Members: \$49.00 Guests: \$52.00

Indicate Choices

Sliced Steak _____

Chocolate Mousse Cake _____

Chicken _____

Cheese Cake _____

Salmon _____

Carrot Cake _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Note seating companions below:

Please print, fill out, and mail to Bea Bartner, 367A Heritage Hills, Somers NY 10589

MONDAY, APRIL 13TH



10:00am Monthly Meeting
10:30am "Report to the People"
Members of the Town Board
Somers Town Hall
Route 202

MONDAY, MAY 11TH

10:00am Monthly Meeting
10:30am "Women and their Money"
Paul Sheldon
Somers Library, Reis Park



THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

12:00 Book & Author Luncheon
Traveler's Rest
Route 100, Ossining



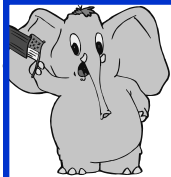
SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH & 7TH

2015 NY State Convention
Desmond Hotel & Conference
Center
Albany, NY

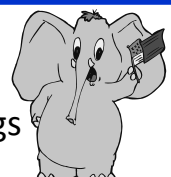


MONDAY, JUNE 8TH

10:00am Final Meeting
"All You Can Eat" Brunch
Somers Library, Reis Park



TOWN PLANNING STUDY COMMITTEE



This Committee has been attending Planning and Town Board meetings to monitor developments which propose affordable housing, for which the Town has a legal obligation. The Town Board meeting of March 5 had a public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to rezone and build 80 town houses and a grocery store in the area adjacent to the current Somers shopping center, called Somers Crossing. The Impact Statement is a two-inch thick document which we are studying. Comments made, or questions asked must, by law, be answered in the Final Impact Statement, which is the next step in the application process. Such issues as the planned exit road going through or close to wetlands, the adequacy of the Heritage Hills Water Treatment Plant and the Heritage Hills Wells to provide services required by the new development, and the rezoning of land, currently zoned for single family homes, to multi-family town-houses, without an affordable housing requirement are of interest.

League members wanting to join our Study are welcome; call Polly Kuhn, 279-2634 to find out about meetings and the work.

by Polly Kuhn



SUPPORTERS OF OUR LEAGUE — 2014-2015

American Portfolios	Louis Tagliaferro	100 Mill Plains Road, Danbury Ct. 06811
Annie's Nails		5 Heritage 202 Center, Somers
Appliance Plus		3 Lovell St., Lincolndale, 10541
Aries Automotive of Somers		253 Route 100
Fred's Haircutting		270 Katonah Ave., Katonah
Hair by Lisa		256 Route 100, Somers
Il Forno Trattoria		343 Route 202, Somers
Marti Lowenfeld, Houlihan/Lawrence		Somers, NY
The Mexican Shack		256 Route 100, Somers
Osceola Garage		44 Route 118, Baldwin Place
Rainbow Tailors & Cleaners		7 Heritage 202 Center
Somers Smiles		356 Route 202, Somers

SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS



BENEFACTORS — 2014-2015

Francoise Bennett	Loretta Nelson
Flo Brodley	Jane Pelavin
Leslie Jay-Gould	Pat Ploss
Polly Kuhn	Willa Reichbach
Harriet & George Leib	Barbara Rothman
Doris & Walter Lipman	Anne Stafford
Marti Lowenfeld	Carol & Mac Sturtz
Fran McLoughlin	Lucille Williams



Democracy is not a spectator sport!

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.