



# ***LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY***

**APRIL 2008**

**PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748**  
**MEMBERSHIP: MARIA EISNER 277-4404**

**EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436**  
**www.lwvtompkins.14850.com**

## **Annual Meeting: The Local Food Movement**

**Speakers: Monika Roth and Jennifer Wilkins**

**Monday, April 21: Dinner at 6:30 pm and Presentation at 7:30 pm**  
**Salvation Army Community Center, 150 North Albany Street**

**(Reservations required for dinner: see details on page 2)**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

What a year! 2007 was action-packed, as you can see in the Annual Reports. We were particularly active in Voter Service.

2008 promises to be just as exciting. Coming up we have the Annual Membership Meeting on April 21st. In May we are hosting a candidates' forum for the Ithaca City School Board. We are in the planning process for our annual interviews of our state legislators about our Legislative Agenda. In June is the National Convention.

We have an enthusiastic board of directors. We've added a Director for Healthcare, which is one of our 2008 legislative priorities. I want to thank the Board for their tireless work on the organization of our League.

I hope to see you at the Annual membership Meeting. We will be voting on our slate of new Board members.

Kay Sharp

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## ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING: THE LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT

Local Foods are Hot! During the past few years local food has become a consumer and marketing phenomenon. Along with consumer demand for local food, claims about local food have proliferated. What is the local food movement all about, what are the origins, why is it so popular? The speakers will discuss the evidence behind the claims, the benefits of local food, and the broader context of this consumer trend. They will also provide information about how you can get involved in supporting the local food system. Learn about what is happening in Tompkins County and beyond and how you can become a locavore.

**Speakers:** **Monika Roth** is Agriculture & Environment Program Leader with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Ms. Roth has been involved with the Ithaca and Tompkins County Local Foods Movement since 1980. She has been an advisor to area farmers and the Ithaca Farmers' Markets, she coordinates Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty and for the past 3 years, has coordinated a Tompkins County Local Foods Campaign. **Jennifer Lynn Wilkins** is the Director of the Cornell Farm to School Program

<http://farmtoschool.cce.cornell.edu> and PI for the Cornell Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. She also developed The Northeast Regional Food Guide <http://nefoodguide.cce.cornell.edu> and writes The Food Citizen, a monthly column in the Albany Times Union <http://timesunion.com/opinion/alphacolumns/>.

**Details:** Monday, April 21 at the Salvation Army Community Center, 150 N. Albany Street. Dinner and business meeting at 6:30 pm and presentation at 7:30 pm.

**Reservations:** Make your reservation for the Annual Meeting Dinner today!! On Monday, April 21, our Annual Meeting will be preceded by a pasta and salad dinner catered by Collegetown Bagels starting at 6:30. The cost is \$15/person, to cover the meal and rental of the

hall. It is very important that we have an accurate count of the number of people planning to attend the dinner, and that we receive payment from everyone who makes a reservation. Please call (not after 9 PM, please) or e-mail Martha Hamblin (277-3025, [mth3@cornell.edu](mailto:mth3@cornell.edu)) to make a reservation or if you have questions. We need to notify the caterer of our final head count on April 18, so all reservations or cancellations must be made by 9:00 PM on April 17.

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## ANNUAL REPORT: PROGRAMS

Our Vice President for Programs, Martha Hamblin, deserves the thanks of all of the members for the outstanding set of programs that she has orchestrated for the 2007-2008 year.

September 17, 2007

Mary Jo Dudley

New York's Immigrant Farmworkers:  
An Endangered Workforce

October 23, 2007

Candidate forum, City and Town of  
Ithaca

November 26, 2007

John Ward, Paul Mazzarella, Martha  
Robertson, John Spence:  
Affordable Housing in Tompkins  
County

January 29, 2008

National Immigration Study Consensus  
Meeting

February 9, 2008

Brainstorming Ideas for the League,  
Soup Luncheon

March 24, 2008

Bethany Schroeder  
Ithaca Health Alliance and the Ithaca  
Free Clinic

April 21, 2008

Jennifer Wilkins and Monika Roth  
The Local Food Movement

## ANNUAL REPORT: FINANCE

The LWV-TC has been seeking tax-exempt status for that portion of our activities which can be classified as educational, e.g., candidates' forums, as opposed to political, e.g., lobbying. Our Vice President for Finance, Sunny Gooding, has been making heroic efforts untangling the red tape required to obtain recognition as a nonprofit entitled to federal tax exempt status (also known as §501(c)(3) status) on behalf of the Tompkins County League of Women Voters Education Fund, Inc. The application was filed in December; action generally takes a minimum of six months.

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## REFORM NEW YORK DAY 2008

Here's an opportunity to DO rather than COMPLAIN. Under the auspices of Common Cause, over 20 organizations, including the

LWV, are organizing Reform Day 2008, a day devoted to lobbying in Albany for the interests of the citizens of New York. To quote from their poster: "On April 29, Albany's special interest lobbyists will need to step aside. On that day, hundreds of New York reform activists will demand New York's legislators stand for an ethical, accountable state government and demand they fight for the people's interests before the special interests. Get on the bus and join us."

Yes, there will be bus transportation available from Ithaca, loading at 6:45 am and leaving at 7:00 am from an, as yet, undisclosed location on April 29 and returning that evening. We will post the location on the LWV-TC web site <http://lwvtompkins.14850.com/> as soon as it is announced. You should go to <https://www.commoncause.org/NY/ReformDay2008> to register for the event and for further information.

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2006-07

LWV NYS website			<a href="http://www.lwvny.org">www.lwvny.org</a>
LWV US website			<a href="http://www.lwv.org">www.lwv.org</a>
LWV-Tompkins County	leave message at 273-8350		<a href="mailto:lwvtc@twcnny.rr.com">lwvtc@twcnny.rr.com</a> <a href="http://www.lwvtompkins.14850.com">www.lwvtompkins.14850.com</a>
<b>Officers:</b>			
President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	<a href="mailto:kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com">kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com</a>
VP Program	Martha Hamblin	277-3025	<a href="mailto:mth3@cornell.edu">mth3@cornell.edu</a>
VP Membership	Maria Eisner	277-4404	<a href="mailto:mle3@cornell.edu">mle3@cornell.edu</a>
VP Finance	Sunny Gooding	277-3598	<a href="mailto:shgooding@clarityconnect.com">shgooding@clarityconnect.com</a>
Secretary	Mary Caldwell	272-5769	<a href="mailto:bcaldwel@twcnny.rr.com">bcaldwel@twcnny.rr.com</a>
Treasurer	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	<a href="mailto:alene@lightlink.com">alene@lightlink.com</a>
<b>Directors:</b>			
Action	Mary Berkelman	257-6450	<a href="mailto:mberkelman@twcnny.rr.com">mberkelman@twcnny.rr.com</a>
Director-at-large	Libby deProse	257-6678	<a href="mailto:deprose@lightlink.com">deprose@lightlink.com</a>
Co-Voter Service	Debbie Levin	273-7746	<a href="mailto:dlevin01@twcnny.rr.com">dlevin01@twcnny.rr.com</a>
Co-Voter Service	Barbara Thorp	257-2462	<a href="mailto:bthorp@twcnny.rr.com">bthorp@twcnny.rr.com</a>
Publications/PR	Kathy Burlitch	539-7316	<a href="mailto:klburlitch@frontiernet.net">klburlitch@frontiernet.net</a>
Phone	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	<a href="mailto:ldutt@twcnny.rr.com">ldutt@twcnny.rr.com</a>
Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	<a href="mailto:rhs1@cornell.edu">rhs1@cornell.edu</a>
<b>Off-Board Members</b>			
Web Master	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	<a href="mailto:mdutt@twcnny.rr.com">mdutt@twcnny.rr.com</a>

## Health Care For America

**Health Care Costs are Soaring!**

### Health Care Reform Training Workshop

**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:30 p.m.**

**208 Buffalo St., UU Church Annex**

#### Presenters:

**Bonnie Wilson—Field Coordinator for  
the Central NY Labor Council**

**Rebecca Elgie—Co-Director of  
Tompkins County Health Care  
Task Force**

This workshop is designed to answer your questions about health care plans and provide you with tools and resources to reach out to others and action ideas to help bring about change. Bring a brown bag lunch, beverages and refreshments will be provided. For questions and to reserve a spot call Rebecca at 272-0621.

### ANNUAL REPORT: MEMBERSHIP

The official number of members on January 31, 2008, the cut-off date, according to the LWVUS was 148. We lost 22 members during this last year, but gained 15 new ones; and added an additional seven members, since January. As is apparent it is an on-going effort to keep our membership up to its present level and an even greater effort to increase the number of members. So, if you know an interested person, please bring your friend along to our annual meeting on April 21.

Maria Eisner

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### ANNUAL REPORT: PHONE AND WEBSITE

The League phone service has responded to approximately 20 phone calls since April 2007. The board voted to discontinue the League phone at the December Board meeting due to cost and the small number of calls. Phone and e-mail inquiries request voter service information, primarily. There was an increased number of requests for moderators at local candidate nights for local government and school board elections. Other requests relate to specific areas for which we have positions. There have been 1,008 'hits' on our website. The primary elections this year brought many inquiries. Forty-two inquiries have come in via e-mail from the website. Eighteen Action Alerts from LWVUS and LWVNYS were posted.

Linda and Michael Duttweiler, 277-0006

### LWV-TC CALENDAR—SPRING 2008

<b>11:30 Fri., Apr. 18</b>	<b>HEALTH CARE REFORM TRAINING WORKSHOP</b>	<b>208 Buffalo St.</b>
<b>12 pm-9 pm Apr. 21</b>	<b>LANSING VILLAGE ELECTION</b>	
<b>6:30 Mon., Apr. 21</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING: Jennifer Wilkins and Monika Roth</b>	<b>Salvation Army</b>
	<b>THE LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT</b>	
<b>6 am-9 pm Apr. 22</b>	<b>SPECIAL ELECTION: COUNTY LEG. DIST. 12</b>	
<b>7:00 Mon., May 5</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Kathy Burlitch</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>CANDIDATES' FORUM FOR ICSD</b>	
<b>Tues., May 20</b>	<b>ICSD SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION</b>	
<b>7:00 Mon., Jun. 2</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Kay Sharp</b>

## IMMIGRATION

The recent League study of immigration questions has resulted in the following position statement from the LWV-US:

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

### Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;

- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;

- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

### Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

### Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

## YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

## SENATORS:

Hillary Rodham Clinton US Senate, 476 Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4451; Syracuse Office: 315-448-0470  
e-mail: senator@clinton.senate.gov web-site: clinton.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-6542; Syracuse Office: 315-423-5471  
e-mail: senator@schumer.senate.gov web-site: schumer.senate.gov

## REPRESENTATIVES;

Michael Arcuri 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-3224  
202-225-3665; Utica Office: 315-793-8146  
e-mail: send from web-site web-site: arcuri.house.gov

Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515  
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