To trenchermen who adore voting: you’ll revel in our Annual Meeting

Don’t miss our ANNUAL MEETING Monday evening, May 23. As part of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, you obviously love to vote and if you miss this meeting you’ll have to wait a whole ‘nother year to exercise your right to vote for: new studies, new Board members, a new budget, and new modifications to our positions.

We’ll meet at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Ln, Bethesda 20814. Registration is at 5:45, potluck dinner at 6, business meeting at 6:30.

For this potluck, we ask you to either bring a dish to serve 6-8 people, or if you’re unable to bring food for the dinner, please contribute $15 ($10 food & $5 donation). If your last name begins with A - L please bring a salad, vegetable dish, or dessert, while M - Zs please bring an entrée. The Board will bring appetizers and the League will purchase some prepared foods. We ask all attendees to donate $5 to help defray costs of the rental, paper goods, and other items.

Look for the reservation form enclosed in the newsletter and submit it to the office by May 18 so we know you’re coming! —from Bee Ditzler, co-vice president, programs.

‘I found density of development in Montgomery’s alphabet soup’

Balancing the preservation of farmland with population growth has long challenged Montgomery County. The transfer of development rights (TDR) from the Agricultural Reserve (AR) to areas of the county having the infrastructure to support increased residential density has been an important tool for meeting this challenge. The relatively new Building Lot Termination (BLT) program reduces development in the AR and offers developers an option for greater density in non-residential zones of the county.

The May units will find themselves slurping a big bowl of this alphabet soup when they review the history of the TDR program as well as the BLT, and examine the options the county zoning code offers for increasing density in both residential and non-residential zones while preserving agricultural land.

For your convenience, in the fact sheet you will find a list of some of the key ingredients from AR to Z. Read the fact sheet for background information on these programs and come to a unit meeting (list on p 4) with a friend to discuss the value of these programs and ways they might be modified to best serve county needs. —from Margaret Chasson, chair, Managing Density Study committee

What’s next for our Civic Roundtable? Find out inside, p 7
One of my favorite assignments in elementary school was to put together lists of words that were spelled differently but pronounced the same. So in honor of the month of May, I am going to write about the homonyms of marry, Mary, and merry and tie it all into the League.

A part of the League that makes me proud is the way in which we study issues before taking positions on them. And we update our positions to make sure they stay current with the changes that occur in the world. For example, this month’s units will focus on how development rights that occur in connection with the county’s Agricultural Reserve can be used today as the Reserve celebrates its 50th anniversary. We need to marry the positions we have developed over the years with what is happening today. Please be sure to attend a unit so that you can learn more and help create consensus.

Amazing to me is how many “Marys” I know. My mother’s name was Mary Jane. (The picture above is of my mother, my older sister Susan and myself, in honor of Mother’s Day.) Since this year’s Mother’s Day is May 8, it seems appropriate to honor all mothers, named Mary or not. Why not make a gift to the League in honor of your mother or, if you are one yourself, ask your children to offer a gift to the League in lieu of a gift for you? Or you might want to give a donation to the League in honor of one of our many volunteers like Mary Lanigan, who, with the rest of the Making Democracy Work committee, produced our wonderful Voters’ Guide for the April primary. (Its fresh format will continue with the Presidential election in November.)

Finally, I hope everyone’s calendar is marked for the evening of May 23 to “make merry” with League friends and to complete our work plan for the next year. This time the Annual Meeting is highlighted by our biannual potluck dinner. Members will bring their special dishes so that we can eat before our work starts. Be sure to fill out the form included in this Voter. —Linna

**This is the Voter’s final full, 8-page issue for the 2015-16 year. Meanwhile, have a merry summer. Keep in touch on our website at lwvmocomd.org or phone Cindy Snow at our office to volunteer with ongoing projects (301-984-9585).**
Join state Leaguers for ‘A Day on Capitol Hill’
The date is Wed., May 11, 10 am to 3:30 pm. Meet at DC’s Union Station. For questions, contact Carole Conors, 410-750-3960 (h), 443-794-4678 (c) or CaroleConors@verizon.net.
MAY 2016 UNITS CALENDAR: Density of Development in Montgomery County

All meetings are open to the public. The LWVMC office, Asbury Methodist Village, Leisure World and Riderwood are handicap-accessible.

MONDAY, MAY 9
12:30 PM RIDERWOOD
Village Square Classroom 1
Riderwood, Silver Spring
Contact Nancy Allison, 240-204-0928

2 PM ROCKVILLE PM
LWVMC Office
Contact Mary Lanigan, 240-687-0517

TUESDAY, MAY 10
10 AM TUESDAY AM
Asbury Methodist Village, 417 Russell Ave.
Hefner Entrance, Gaithersburg
Contact Sarah Corbett, 301-987-6790

7:30 PM TUESDAY PM
3208 Pickwick Lane, Chevy Chase
Contact Carol Gross, 301-652-2236

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
9:30 AM BETHESDA/POTOMAC
9608 Hawick Lane, Kensington
Contact Margaret Chasson, 301-942-0497

10:15 AM ROSSMOOR
Leisure World Clubhouse 1
3701 Rossmoor Blvd, Silver Spring
Contact Elaine Apter, 301-438-8707

12 N WEDNESDAY NOON
15013 Westbury Road, Rockville
Contact Pat Laine, 301-929-1426

THURSDAY, MAY 12
9:30 AM SILVER SPRING
7314 Holly Ave., Takoma Park
Contact Jo Hoge, 301-589-4407

TWO POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, Simon Arango and Allison Winston, won the LWVMC prize for their video, “Cuban Women’s Revolution,” at the contest sponsored by the Montgomery County Historical Society. —Cindy Snow, office administrator

IN MEMORIAM
LWVMC has lost many long-time League members recently. Donations in memory of these treasured members continue to come into the office. We are grateful for the generous and heartfelt thoughts for Frances Edlow, Jewell K. Price*, Barbara Heyman, Mary Jane Noonan*, Jacquelyn (Jackie) Rusen Hoke*, Peg McRory* and Jonney Lawrence. (Note that long-time members of the Patuxent Unit are marked with an asterisk.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW 50-YEAR MEMBERS TO BE HONORED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
Marlene Ehrlich ● Edith Kirk ● Patricia Selmanoff
If you think you or someone you know also should be on this list, please contact the office.

OFFICE / LWVMC NEWS
Step right up, get your tickets, BIG TRAIN is coming June 25

Again this summer, Bethesda Big Train Baseball will showcase LWVMC as one of the extraordinary nonprofits that make Montgomery County special. Our night is Sat., June 25 at 7pm, when Bethesda Big Train takes on the Alexandria Aces at Shirley Povich Field. LWVMC has received 100 free tickets to share with members.

Contact the office to get yours on a first-come first-served basis. For more information about Big Train Baseball (a program of B-CC Baseball, Inc.), including the schedule and directions to the field, log onto http://www.bigtrain.org/. Povich Field is located in Cabin John Regional Park near Westfield Montgomery.

BIG TRAIN 2015 LEAGUE EXCLUSIVE: Ralph Watkins, Alex (Melpi Jeffries’ grandson, who threw out the first pitch for us) and Melpi at the League’s voter-registration table.
Sunday at the Movies 2016 - Girl Rising

Serious movie, serious fun, serious fundraising for voter education

“I’ll never forget those images of these young women trying to get the education needed to rise out of abject poverty,” said one Leaguer.

A WELCOMING RECEPTION: “It does take work to have so much League fun.” Is that really what Marcia Bond and Marge Wexler were discussing?

A THOUGHTFUL PANEL: Hadeia Amiry (Afghanistan embassy), Marjorie Alexandre Brunach (Haitian embassy) and Wendy Lesko of locally based School Girls Unite, which is collaborating with students in Mali. Panel moderator was Grace Rivera-Owen a native of South America who is a local citizen-activist, consultant in publications, marketing and media management, and a host of a Spanish language television show.

THE WIN-WIN-WIN RAFFLE gave three lucky winners some very nice prizes, beautifully wrapped. It garnered more than $1200 to add to the League Citizen Education Fund to produce more materials designed to inform and encourage more potential voters to exercise their right to vote. The raffle sub-committee (led by Benefactor Ann A. Jackson), included Ralph Watkins, (state Voter Services plus Citizen Education Fund leader/seeker); Kathy McGuire, raffle publicist, event co-chair, fundraiser; Diane Hibino, event co-chair, fundraiser; and Jackson who also gathered and wrapped the prizes. Oh yes, they all sold tickets too.

LEAGUE-SINCE WHEN, WHERE, WHY? I joined the League almost a year ago. I have always wanted to learn more about the election process and felt that voting responsibly was my prime responsibility as an American citizen. Joining the League provided a great opportunity to learn from members, and to be part of educating others about the importance of voting.

LEAGUE-WHY NOW? I recently retired and have time to commit to a cause that is so important. I consider myself so lucky to have the opportunity to learn from and work with such a smart and committed group as the members of the Montgomery County League. Thank You.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Storytelling

NAME: Marge Wexler
FIRST HOMETOWN: Brooklyn, NY
FAVORITE HOMETOWN: That’s so difficult because I was extraordinarily lucky to grow up with New York City as my backyard. I have lived in Gaithersburg, MD almost my entire adulthood, and have enjoyed a wonderful and fulfilling life here. Seeing Gaithersburg and the entire Washington area transform from a sleepy town to a sophisticated, cosmopolitan area has been a great adventure.

LEISURE OBSESSION: Traveling through Italy, entertaining, football, binge watching TV series!!

WHAT I’M GLAD I’M GOOD AT: Cooking for my friends and family. They are glad too!!

SECRET AMBITION: To own a neighborhood restaurant.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

NEW Voters’ Guide spells t-e-a-m-w-o-r-k

We hope our readers like the redesigned Voters’ Guide. It took many hours to compile and edit information and work with our design contractors. Our publications team, part of Making Democracy Work (MDW) included Elaine Apter, Chris Hager, Mary Lanigan, Karen Lechter, Karen Logsdon, Barbara Sanders, and Marge Wexler. We began meeting last summer to revise the Guide with the aim of making the information, layout, and visual presentation more readable and understandable to voters. We were guided by some best practices developed by the California LWV. Our two major changes were to present all the general information about voting at the beginning of the Guide and to provide candidate responses in a table format so the reader could more easily compare them.

...NEXT PAGE
MDW cont...

We contracted with freelance graphic designers Chuck Somerville and Ben Moser, who designed an entirely new format for the Guide, using color coding to help guide voters to the candidates in their Congressional district. FNP Printing and Publishing in Frederick, MD printed the Guide and prepared copies for mailing. FNP and our graphic designers worked together throughout, which was crucial in helping us meet our deadlines and end with a well-designed product with few glitches. From the very beginning, our graphic designers and FNP understood how important the Voters’ Guide is in helping the League provide information to voters.

We printed 80,000 copies and mailed 55,550 to newly-registered voters, apartment dwellers in five target precincts, League members, elected officials representing Montgomery County, and candidates running for office in the primary election (with the exception of candidates for President and convention delegates). Part of the mailing cost was offset by a grant from the Montgomery County Council. Guides were delivered to county public libraries and county facilities, such as regional service centers, and community and senior centers. Copies were also delivered to senior-living communities and Giant Food stores under the aegis of Marcia Bond and her volunteer crews. (See picture.)

This was a totally new process. Undoubtedly we’ll need to iron out a few things. That’s why hearing from you is so important. What did you like? What would you do differently? Please send comments and suggestions to Barbara Sanders at BSanders@TerpAlum.umd.edu.

—reported by Mary Lanigan and Marcia Bond

Heads up for our Karen Logsdon and her Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) newsletter report on us! The only thing missing was a link to vote411.org that it is easily accessible from our website lwvcommd.org. We thank them for this important outreach.

LWVMC voter education garners two rewards. LWVMC received one donation In “Thanks to Diane Hibino and the LWV for help with voting information,” and another in honor of Making Democracy Work chair Mary Lanigan, who quoted from her note while thanking the donor: “We appreciate this generous way to provide tribute to our wonderful League members. We also have received many donations in support of the Voters’ Guide, including encouraging words like yours: ‘Thank you for all your work—it’s almost enough to restore my faith in USA and in our democracy!’”

LWVUS NEWS

U.S. 52nd CONVENTION, JUNE 16-19, WASHINGTON, DC: MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK FOR ALL

LWCMC nominated for Effective Community Engagement Award

EDITORS NOTE: In 2015, The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) awarded their prestigious Madeline Naumann Achievement Award (named for their first president who served from 1963-66) to two Maryland Leagues—those of Montgomery and Howard counties. A Montgomery leader who accepted our award, Judy Morenoff reported:

“This year LWVMC applied for LWVNCA’s Madeline Naumann Achievement Award for our Roundtable on Civic Participation, and today at the NCA Convention, we learned that WE WON! Actually, it was a tie; we shared the award with the Howard County League that produced a Board of Education voters’ guide to be used in 5th grade civics classes. (We need to find out more about their project!).”

Now in its first national election test, the Roundtable has become an award nominee due to its recruitment and training of community activists to get out the vote in five precincts heavily populated by new citizens. Right now they are using their training in Voter Education at visits to mosques, temples, churches, Chinese organizations, homes, and yes—middle and high-school leader conferences. From the first meeting of the Roundtable to the present many local League leaders have been working tirelessly — including from the start Zaida Arguedas and Vicky Strella along...

...NEXT PAGE
In Illinois, the League of Women Voters of Jo Daviess County has spearheaded a two-year Water Resource Management Planning Project that sought to reach a consensus about sustainable water management, improve storm water quality, protect general water quality and conserve groundwater resources in their community. In doing this, the Jo Daviess County League worked in cooperation with their county Health Department and county Soil and Water Conservation District to hold 39 meetings in 23 different towns and engaged over 20 different stakeholders on the issue of water management. The League is currently working to finalize recommendations and a timeline for implementation of the proposed solutions.

In North Carolina, the League of Women Voters of Piedmont Triad used a Youth Voter Registration Grant to register 3,200 high school and college students in advance of the North Carolina primary election. The Piedmont Triad League worked with a variety of diverse community groups to train new volunteers for their voter registration teams. In addition to bringing an ice cream truck to college campuses, the League made sure to go to where underrepresented voters are, including homeless shelters, naturalization ceremonies, bus depots and soup kitchens.

Looking at all these amazing projects, it can be hard to choose just one! Help us decide by voting for the project that you think did the best job at effectively engaging their community! Anyone can vote and the polls will close on May 31. You can find the ballot, Vote for the Effective Community Engagement Award, at the LWVUS website Making Democracy Work on http://lwv.org/blog/help-us-recognize-local-league-effectively-engaged-their-community.
2016 ANNUAL MEETING and POT LUCK DINNER
5:45 pm to 9:00 pm, Monday, May 23, 2016
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Directions to Annual Meeting

From southbound I-270 or Beltway Inner Loop (eastbound I-495) & Rockville Pike/Wisconsin Ave (Rt. 355):
Exit at Beltway exit #35 or I-270 south take DC - not VA- spur, then left exit from spur, onto Rt. 355 south toward Bethesda. At the third light turn left onto Cedar Lane. From Wisconsin Ave (Rt. 355) north go past the Naval Hospital and turn right at the traffic light onto Cedar Lane. Church is .7 miles. The entrance (marked by a low sign) is on the right near the top of the hill (second driveway after the light at Beach Drive).

OR

From the Beltway Outer Loop (westbound I-495) & Connecticut Ave: Take Beltway exit #33, which splits into two ramps. Bear right and take the one marked "Connecticut Avenue North, Kensington." When you get onto Connecticut Avenue, move to the left lane as soon as possible. Turn left at the traffic light onto Beach Drive. Follow Beach Drive about .5 miles through the park to a traffic light at Cedar Lane. Turn right onto Cedar Lane and proceed up the hill to the Church entrance which is the second driveway (marked by a low sign).

POTLUCK DINNER
Setup 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm

If Your Last Name Begins With    Bring A Dish to Serve 6-8 People
A – L    Salad, Vegetable Dish, or Dessert
M – Z    Entrée

If you are unable to bring food for the dinner you may contribute $15 ($10 + donation) and the League will use that to purchase prepared foods (e.g. ham, chicken, salads).

Please return this reservation form to the League office: 12216 Parklawn Dr, Suite 105, Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 301-984-9585 Email: lwvmc@erols.com

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016

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2016 ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION

( ) I will come for Dinner and Annual Meeting AND bring a dish – please specify category __________________

( ) I will come for Dinner and Annual Meeting, however I cannot bring a dish, instead I will pay a $15 registration fee. ($10 + donation)

( ) I will not be eating, I will come for Annual Meeting ONLY (business meeting starts at 6:30 pm)

( ) I need a Member Handbook.

We ask for a $5 donation to help defray the rental, paper goods, printing, etc. costs of the meeting. Donations may be mailed in or made at the Meeting.

Name(s):__________________________________________________________

Phone Number:____________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________

Make your check payable to LWVMC and please enclose with registration.
JOIN HERE! JOIN NOW!
HERE’S WHY

The women and men (yes, men) of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County promote good government through non-partisan, grassroots volunteer work. We—

• Examine Issues
• Educate Citizens
• Register Voters
• Participate in Advocacy

Join today and receive valuable information from your free subscription to The Montgomery Voter. Membership also includes affiliation with the League of Women Voters of Maryland and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

NAME______________________________________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________________________
TEL (H) __________________ EMAIL _____________________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP_____________________________________________

ANNUAL DUES
Regular Membership $65.00
2nd member, same house $32.50
Student Membership $15.00
Optional Contribution __________
(Non-deductible) TOTAL ________

Please make your check payable to: LWVMC
Tel: (301) 984-9585 • Email: lwvmc@erols.com • Web: lwvmocomd.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, INC. - CITIZEN EDUCATION FUND

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