



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

April 2007

About the Program

It is widely known that the United States has thousands of warheads ready to launch and many more stockpiled. Russia has similar amounts and several other countries including China and India have nuclear war capabilities.

Many scientists and political theorists fear that current non-proliferation policies have failed in their objective although they still believe nuclear disarmament must happen. At least there is attention paid to large nations such as Iran and North Korea who threaten to develop nuclear war capability.

What is less well-known is the possibility of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of rogue nations or terrorist groups who procure nuclear materials from unsecured sites. They can pose an equally devastating effect on any country considered "an enemy". Our two speakers will address these issues from various points of view.

Bidisha Biswas is on the faculty of the Political Science Department at WWU, with an interest in global strategy politics, including Islamic issues.

Jim Stewart is a professor in Physics and Science Education at WWU. He will speak about basic nuclear science,

LWV General Meeting
Saturday, April 21, 2007
Downtown Public Library
210 Lottie Street
(Lecture Room in Basement)

9:30 a.m. Social Time
(Refreshments will be served)

10:00 a.m. Program
"Is There a Threat of Nuclear Terror?"
Speakers:
Assistant Professor Bidisha Biswas
Professor Jim Stewart

***For Members Only—If your last name begins with A through M, please bring cookies or sweet breads to be served at this meeting.**

the various treaties and efforts at arms control as well as our vulnerability to terrorist activity.

This program will shed light on a little known but important aspect of our national security.

From Co-President Jo Morgan

April seems to come sooner every year! It is “wind down time” for our monthly meetings but delegates will be going to the state convention in June in Vancouver, WA and in August the board meets to organize for the next year. The LWVUS holds a council meeting which involves all the state Presidents.

Immigration is THE ISSUE of the year both locally and nationally. If you check the LWVUS web site: <http://lwv.org/> you will find eight background papers on immigration which have been written by members of the national League committee. Locally, Community to Community (C2C) is organizing a series of forums which I hope several League members can attend. Please email me or call me if you would like a listing. Actually, the first one, “Immigration 101” is tomorrow, before you will get this.

With the primary being moved up, summer will be a busy time for Voters

Service. I know that Georgia MacGregor will welcome members on her committee. The League will be meeting with members of the Mayor’s Neighborhood Council to talk about cooperating on election forums. With so many seats open on the City Council this fall, it is certain to be an exciting time. League members can learn a great deal by volunteering to help a candidate that they support. (I worked on Barbara Ryan’s committee two years ago.)

This is my last column to you as your Co-President but I will be continuing on the board. This League has become a vital part of this community and our monthly meetings have been well attended. The annual meeting will be May 19th and I hope you all will think about bringing a prospective member to the brunch/talk. Dues are due July 1st and I believe if you pay your dues at the annual meeting, you get a wonderful chocolate!

The leg is almost healed!

“Walk and Talk”

We continue to meet at the Taylor Street dock for our weekly walk at 2 p.m. on Fridays. Our route then will be to Boulevard Park and back, then on to Fairhaven and to Bookfair at Village Books for coffee or tea.

Hope to see you then.

- Phyllis Haberstroh



LWV Urges Newspaper Leaders to Address DC Voting Rights

Excerpts of a letter LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson, wrote on April 12th.

“I am writing to urge you to devote space in your papers to educate voters on the grievous injustice suffered by American citizens residing in our nation’s capital. Through our DC Voting Rights Education Project, the League of Women Voters is focusing national attention on the lack of voting rights in Washington, DC...”

“The District of Columbia is home to teachers, nurses, firefighters, and small business owners just like your hometown. These citizens pay federal taxes, serve in the military, and work to improve their community like your readers, yet they are denied full voting representation in Congress... That’s taxation without representation, and 82 percent of Americans polled agree: it’s just plain wrong.

Now, for the first time in decades, this issue is receiving serious attention from our nation’s lawmakers. Legislation is moving through the House of Representatives that would take an important step forward by providing DC citizens a voting representative in Congress... I encourage you to visit [www.lwv.org/DCVoting Rights](http://www.lwv.org/DCVotingRights) to learn more about this great injustice.”

Honoring Some League Members

Gene Brown, president of our League from 1982 to 1986 celebrated her 90th birthday on April 9th. Times have changed since someone once asked her why she joined “that stuffy Republican group.” *Happy Birthday, Gene!*

Longtime member **Hilda Bajema**, 93, passed away March 17th. Hilda joined the League in 1968 and became interested in land use planning. She served on the Industrial Subcommittee of the Whatcom County Land Use Code Committee and later on the Blue Ribbon Solid Waste Committee. She worked on the boards of the YWCA and Planned Parenthood and helped to found the Whatcom Land Trust. Her service to the Whatcom Land Trust is

Success At Last!

EHJR 4202, which is a constitutional amendment that allows for a simple majority vote of the people to pass a school levy, passed the Senate on April 12 with the required two-thirds vote (passed House on March 12). Now, League members all across the State need to get involved in the campaign to see that voters approve the constitutional amendment this November. It took a simple majority to put the supermajority requirement into the State Constitution in 1944, and it will take a simple majority to take it out again this November.

Thanks to State Senators **Dale Brandland, Harriet Spanel**, and Representatives **Doug Ericksen, Kelli Linville, Jeff Morris, and Dave Quall**, for voting in support of this amendment.

Another Huge Thank You to...

Craig Hersman at The Print Stop in Lynden who printed our TRY’s (They Represent You: Directory of Government Officials) again this year. We truly appreciate his support these many years.

honored by a bench in her name at Squires Lake Park and by the Hilda Bajema Racehorse Creek Salmon Preserve on the North Fork of the Nooksack River.



We also pay tribute to **Jane Raney**, who passed away March 30th. Jane was also a longtime member of the League as well as the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, Amnesty International and many other planet-sustaining organizations. Jane’s service as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines from 1984 to 1986 exemplified her commitment to world peace.



**League of Women Voters of
Bellingham/ Whatcom County**

LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County
P.O. Box 4041
Bellingham, WA 98227-4041

Phone: 360-734-2366
Fax: 360-734-2366
Website: <http://lwvwa.org/bellingham/>

Inside :

*— General Meeting, April 21, 2007
“Is There a Threat of Nuclear Terror”*

LWVWA Good in Government Brunch

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!!
LWVWA GOOD IN GOVERNMENT
BRUNCH
OF THE PEOPLE
BY THE PEOPLE
FOR THE PEOPLE
Sunday, April 22, 2007
Bell Harbor Conference Center,
Seattle
11:00am - 1:00pm**

We will be honoring **William Ruckelshaus**, who served as the first Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and held several other federal government po-

sitions. Now living in Washington State, Mr. Ruckelshaus is currently chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, co-chair of the Puget Sound Partnership, and chair of the Ruckelshaus Policy Consensus Center, co-managed by the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Tickets are \$50. If you haven't made your reservation yet, call the State League office right away.
206-622-8961, 1-800-419-2596.