



# League Lines

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County

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## May Calendar of Events

Monday 5/4 11:30 to 1:30	Great Decisions—Egypt Plymouth First Congregational Church 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins
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Thursday 5/7 Noon to 2:00	Admin Team Rosemary Bergstrom's 627 Atwood Court, Fort Collins
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Thursday 5/7	Last day to make reservation for Local Convention—call Emily at 493-7095
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Monday 5/11 5:30 to 8:45	LWV-LC Local Convention Foothills Unitarian Church 1815 Yorktown Avenue, Fort Collins (Please don't' forget to bring your Convention Packet)
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Wednesday 5/13 9:30	The Growth/Sustainability Team Georgia Locker's 713 Duke Square, Fort Collins
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Sat/Sun 5/16-17	State Convention Golden
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Wednesday 5/20 Noon	Health Care Team Potluck Lunch Nancy Crow's 1707 Lakeshore Drive, Fort Collins
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## International Relations

### Great Decisions

On **Monday, May 4** Great Decisions will focus on Egypt: A Key Ally in the Middle East.

*Egypt has long played an important role in the Arab world while maintaining a strategic relationship with the U.S. With elections scheduled for 2009, how will Egypt deal with serious domestic issues, ranging from Islamic radicalism to food shortages? What factors will influence the path of this regional heavyweight?*

Our facilitators will be Sam and Sidna Rachid. Sam grew up in Egypt and they both have lived and traveled extensively in Egypt and the Middle East.

Meetings are at Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road in Fort Collins. We meet between 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Guests are welcome.

Our topic on June 1 will be Rising Powers: *Since the end of the cold war, the U.S. has emerged as the world's predominant power. However, in the 21st century some rapidly developing countries have become increasingly influential. Who are these rising powers? Will their emergence change the global balance of power? How will the U.S. react?*

### Delegates Pack Their Bags

Eight delegates from LWVLC will represent our chapter at the LWVCO convention in Golden later this month. These members are Rosemary Bergstrom, Sally Broste, Nancy Crow, Janet Fritz, Linda Mahan, Wanda Mayberry, Carol Rush, and Mary Jo Shafer. Besides attending to business matters, the delegates from the Health Care Team will caucus about health care matters. Rosemary will speak about the past year's activities of LWVLC and Carol will extend an invitation to all chapters and delegates to attend the 2011 State Convention to be hosted by our very own League that year.

## Local Convention: A Time to Reflect and a Time to Plan

Please join fellow League members at the local League Convention on Monday, May 11, 2009, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. The combined dinner and meeting will be held at Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Avenue in Fort Collins.

Members are reminded to come early, laden down with their items for the Treasure Tables and with a little extra change in their pockets so they can purchase someone else's unique donation. People have been known to find valuable jewelry pieces, artistic pottery, homemade jams and pickles, spring garden plants – all kinds of good things. Proceeds are used to restore our treasury after a year's activities.

Pot luck dinner will start at 6 p.m. Please call in your reservation to Emily Krause at 493-7095 by Thursday, May 7, and let her know if you prefer to bring a salad, vegetable plate, fruit plate, bread, dessert, or pay \$6. Food will be delicious and socializing lots of fun.

We have some serious League matters to take up, plus a time to hear from Frances Moore about some of her experiences in Singapore these past two years. The agenda for the evening plus a packet with the other business to consider is being emailed at the same time as this May "League Lines," but as a separate document in hopes that after you read it, you will print it out and bring it with you on the night of May 11. See you there!

The Growth/Sustainability Team will meet in May on Wednesday morning, May 13 at 9:30 am. We will be at the home of Georgia Locker, 713 Duke Square, Fort Collins (482-4875).  
All welcome.

The Health Care Team will hold a potluck lunch celebration on Wednesday, May 20 at noon at Nancy Crow's: 1707 Lakeshore Dr. Fort Collins.

## Membership Corner

**Linda Ambrose** joined the League in January after attending the Great Decisions discussions. She feels it is important to be an informed citizen and is "globally oriented".

Linda grew up in California and has lived in several places including Washington, DC and Littleton before moving to Fort Collins with her husband, Steve, who has retired from the U.S. Forest Service. Spanish was her college major and she studied for a time at the University of Madrid. She continues to enjoy using her bi-lingual skills as a volunteer with local agencies. Also she is a white - water rafting aficionado and has rafted 35 rivers on four continents.

**Jonnie Hamdan** is an interior decorator and a distributor for a company that provides kits to build log homes. She can ship her log home kits anywhere in the world!

Jonnie has 3 children, Kelsey (19), Youssef (16) and Ramsey (12). Family is a high priority for Jonnie and she is proud of her daughter's political and social interests, Youssef's hockey and Ramsey's focus on music. Jonnie has lived in the Loveland/Fort Collins area since attending CSU. Her hobbies, along with politics, include fitness and working out.

Health care and campaign reform are of particular interest to Jonnie and she is already an active member of the health care team.

**Sonia Koetting** is also a CSU grad, having completed her degree in technical journalism with a minor in art/ceramics. Her professional background includes writing and editing for magazines and a weekly newspaper; currently she enjoys freelance writing on human interest stories with an ethical perspective. Check them out on her wonderful website <http://www.fingersfly.com>. She and her young family moved to Fort Collins from Ouray and she has quickly become involved in the League's health care team and participates in the Fort Collins "City Works" program. With abundant energy, a taste for adventure and an observant eye she brings a wealth of experience and ideas to the League.

**Annie Wolfe** moved to Fort Collins from Alaska where she lived for almost 20 years. She grew up in a political family in Cleveland, Ohio that enjoyed discussing important issues and was active in political campaigns. Coming from the Cleveland area, U. S. Representative Dennis Kucinich is a family friend. Since moving to town Annie has become active in many volunteer activities, League being one of them, and she hopes to focus on children's issues and some part time work.

## Educational Forum Series on Local/State Fiscal Policy

League members are invited to an educational forum series on local and state fiscal policy. The next forum is on the effects of TABOR, Gallagher, Arveschoug-Bird and Amendment 23 on local government in Larimer County. It will be held at 7 pm, Thursday, April 30, in the Larimer County Democratic Party South Office, 507 N. Cleveland, Loveland. (just north of 5th St.) Speakers on April 30 are Bob Keister, Larimer County Budget Director, Renee Wheeler, Loveland Assistant City Manager and Finance Director, and Ann Harroun, LWV LC member.

Mark your calendar also for Wednesday, May 20 (state-wide effects...) and Thursday, June 11 (recap and options for the future).

Please be reminded that LWV of Larimer County is a non-partisan organization. We support neither candidates nor political parties. We offer this announcement to LWVLC membership in the spirit that it is offered to the community at large - a non-partisan review of a matter of importance.

### **Civil Liberties Reading Group**

The Civil Liberties Reading Group has decided to take time off for the summer. Our intention is to re-examine our focus in the fall. We will let you know what we come up with. Meantime, anyone with any suggestions for readings, etc., is encouraged to contact Linda at 667-9214. Happy Summer!!!!!!



### **The Juvenile Justice System In Larimer County**

The Civil Liberties Team of the LWVLC held a meeting on Monday evening, April 13, at the Coloradoan Community Meeting Room in Fort Collins. The topic was "The Juvenile Justice System in Larimer County." The speakers were Randall Lococo, a Fort Collins attorney with extensive experience defending juveniles in the Larimer County justice system; and Robert Percifield, deputy district attorney in the Juvenile Division of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The presentation was well attended by both league members and the public. There was a lively discussion with many questions from the audience, concerning the steps and consequences after a youth's arrest.

Both attorneys described the juvenile justice system as one that strives to be rehab and humanity oriented. Since the enactment of CO SB94, (1991), the juvenile justice system seeks to provide for the rehabilitation, safety, and wellbeing of offending youths. Under Magistrate Berenato's direction, there

is a team approach which can include social service, and mental health intervention according to the child's needs.

Before this presentation, the Civil Liberties Team had observed juvenile justice court, conducted by Magistrate Berenato. (The court is open for observation by the public). The team also interviewed Magistrate Berenato; Randall Lococo; a supervisor with the Department of Human Services; and an assistant principal of a junior high school. The observation of the court was "heartbreaking" as some youths were on probation and some were in prison uniforms. The information from the interviews, and the presentations by the attorneys at the meeting, however, conveyed a team effort to assess the child and his family situation, and to provide intervention. The goal, as stated by Magistrate Berenato, is rehabilitation and reducing the incidence of sentencing to juvenile prison. Prosecuting attorney, Robert Percifield, said at the meeting, he tells the child, "My goal is not to see you, again."

### **Presidential Guest at Meeting**

Monday, April 13, was quite an evening. LWC-CO President Marjory "Margie" Beal was a guest at the meeting on Juvenile Justice. After being introduced at the beginning of the meeting, she thanked us for planning the meeting to be on "an evening between snow storms," as she had driven from Denver, and said a few words about how pleased she was to be able to attend meetings such as this one to see first hand how local chapters were reaching out into the communities about matters of interest. Margie urged the audience to visit the local, state, and national websites of the League of Women Voters to keep current on activities and issues of prime importance. She also announced that the LWVUS Annual Meeting, which is June 13, can be viewed on the internet as it is occurring.



**Florence Field introduces the evening's speakers.**



**Several League members joined Margie for dinner at Taipan restaurant before the meeting.**



## United Nations Association

As always, League members and friends are invited to events sponsored by the Northern Colorado Chapter of the United Nations Association-USA. Two opportunities are offered for May:

### MORE ABOUT THE MDGs:

**Friday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.:** The last in the series of Faith and Film programs on the UN's Millennium Development Goals will take place at **Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Stuart, Fort Collins.** The focus will be on **MDG #8, Achieving Global Partnerships for Development.** There will be a film on microcredit as a means of building economic opportunities for the world's poor. Bob Waltermire of the local Murulle Foundation will speak on their collaborative work in Africa. There will be a discussion, refreshments, and several displays about other local groups doing collaborative development work in developing countries. Come, and bring a friend.

### HEAR SOME YOUNGER VOICES ON THE U.N.!

Millennium Development Goal no. 7, Ensure **Environmental Sustainability**, was the subject for this year's United Nations Association national high school **essay contest.** **Kyle Uhlman of Thompson Valley High School** in Loveland was Northern Colorado's regional winner, and one of 73 semi-finalists nationally. Kyle will read his essay, in the form of a letter to the President of the U.S., at the **May 9** meeting of the Northern Colorado Chapter of the UNA-USA.

The Chapter is sponsoring a **local college-level essay contest on UN Peacekeeping:** Lessons Learned and Future Prospects. The contest is open until April 24, so at this deadline time we don't know who the winner will be nor if he or she will be able to read his or essay at the meeting.

The meeting may also include comments from some of the **Fort Collins High School Model UN** delegates to a national conference in New York City.

Whatever arrangements are made between League Lines deadline and the event, this is sure to be an interesting program! League members and friends are always welcome, so add this to your calendars: **Saturday, May 9, 2:30 p.m., Fort Collins Main (downtown) Library.**

For information, call Eleanor Dwight at 377- 0863



### From the ACLU

A documentary by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), "Freedom to Dream: Rights of Immigrants," will be shown on Thursday, May 14, 2009, from 7 to 9 pm, at Harmony Public Library, Shields St. and Harmony Rd., in Fort Collins. Admission is free.

The documentary looks at local laws which punish landlords and employers who rent to or employ undocumented immigrants. These laws violate the Constitution, which extends protections to all people in this country and makes the federal government responsible for regulating immigration. The documentary features immigrants and native-born Americans discussing the effects of such laws in Hazelton, Pennsylvania and Farmers Branch, Texas.

The showing of the film will be followed by a discussion period, facilitated by Charles Ross, Rocky Mountain High School faculty member.

The program is co-sponsored by the ACLU of Northern Colorado, the City of Fort Collins Human Relations Commission; and the ERACISM Film Series.



### Advertise Your Business

Cost: \$15/ issue; \$75/10 issues (1 year)  
Submit your business card with payment made out to the LWV-Larimer County to Linda Hutchinson, 216 West Fourth Street, Loveland, CO 80537.

Dr. Paul A. Smith

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Click *Support LWV* and then  
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### Please.....

Don't forget to make your reservations by May 7 (Thursday) .  
for the Local Convention to be held on May 11 (Monday).

Call Emily Krause at 493-7095 and let her know if you prefer to bring a salad, vegetable plate, fruit plate, bread, dessert, or pay \$6.

### Also...

Please don't forget to bring your copy of the Convention Packet to the Local Convention. You should have received your convention packet as a separate attachment with the same e-mail as this newsletter. The Convention Packet can also be downloaded from our website at [www.lwv-larimercounty.org](http://www.lwv-larimercounty.org).

### Meeting of Northern Colorado Chapter of Health Care for All Colorado Wednesday, April 29, 7-9 pm Harmony Library, Fort Collins

"**Health, Money and Fear**", a video production by Paul Hochfeld, MD, emergency medicine physician in Oregon, will be viewed. It outlines the reasons behind the rising costs of health care and suggests proposals which can address the issues.

Discussion will follow the film and national and state legislative proposals will be reviewed. Resources for education and opportunities for involvement will be provided.

The meeting is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Health Care for All Colorado is a state-wide organization dedicated to achieving guaranteed, affordable, quality health care for all.

For further information: [www.HealthCareForAllColorado.org](http://www.HealthCareForAllColorado.org) or (970) 484-2259



**The League of Women Voters  
of Larimer County**

*League Lines* editor:  
216 West Fourth Street  
Loveland, CO 80537

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The League of Women Voters of Larimer County  
[www.lwv-larimercounty.org](http://www.lwv-larimercounty.org)

The League of Women Voters is *the* organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

*Our Mission*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

*Our History*

Established in 1920, the League is one of the nation's most respected grassroots organizations. We explore issues from many points of view and take action on issues affecting our families and communities.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan. We do not support or oppose candidates.