

February 5, 2008

The Net

A Newsletter of the Women's Network of the Upper Valley

Mission:

“A forum for women in all their roles, both personal and professional, to share their viewpoints and interests.”

Please Take Note:

- Evening event on Tuesday, February 12 at the Howe Library (Mayer Room) at 7:00 p.m.
- Deadline for submission to next newsletter: February 22

Networking Question for the February Program:

Do you feel safer from terrorism now than you did two years or so ago?

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P. O. Box 183
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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Betty Ann Trought adroitly blended the two topics we had asked her to speak about at our January evening program: non-partisan politics and an analysis of the primary elections. In past election years, political discussions at WNUV meetings have sometimes become “heated” (menopause can’t take all the blame!), and the Core Committee has been concerned that some women haven’t felt comfortable expressing their viewpoints. This evening was different, because Betty Ann, VP of the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley, kept the focus on issues and on processes, both national and local.

The LWV studies issues that transcend partisan politics, with dedicated members of disparate political leanings working together to come up with good policies. At the local level, the LWV works hard at increasing the number of registered and active voters, urging citizens to participate in government, educating local select boards on what constitutes legal activity (conducting business via email, private conversations, etc.), and reviewing regional growth management policies. Vital Communities, for example, grew out of earlier LWV activity.

Nationally, the LWV delves into immigration policy, international relations, and our natural resources, among other issues. When asked why the national League of Women Voters no longer hosts the Presidential debates, Betty Ann told us that the candidates themselves wanted to control and pre-approve the questions asked and that the LWV could not agree to those terms. That explains a lot!

Betty Ann’s respect and enthusiasm for citizen involvement in government gave us an inspiring and informative evening. Thank you!

Members and their guests who attended this year’s second “Remarkable Women” luncheon were treated to Professor **Kate Conley’s** excellent presentation about the lives, loves, and art of women in the Surrealism movement. The Surrealist movement began as a literary movement based on the free-flowing language of shell-shocked WWI soldiers and “trance” poetry, reacting to the horror of the war and exploring the Freudian realms of the unconscious. The movement quickly embraced other art forms, such as painting and photography. Women artists felt that Surrealism would give them more opportunities to support themselves than they had experienced in the more conventional art scene. Although many of the women were also lovers and models of the men in the movement, women did make significant contributions on their own. Kate treated us to slides of the works of Leonora Carrington, Dorothea Tanning, Lee Miller, and Remedios Varo, and others. I was thrilled last week to see an article in *Newsweek* (2/4/08), “A Model Photographer,” which included the photograph Kate had shown us of Lee Miller in Hitler’s bathtub. (Are we not on the cutting edge of art news?) Kudos to Kate!

Claire Ebel, Executive Director of the NH Civil Liberties Union, returns for our February meeting to give us an update on the Patriot’s Act. She’s a well-informed and dynamic speaker, as those who heard her at a WNUV meeting a few years ago can attest. I urge you to attend.

Sincerely,

Judy Music

Announcements & Members' News

Kind Words from a New Member:

*Carole Spearin McCauley moved to Hanover just a few weeks before attending the WNUV's January evening program and joining on the spot. Here's an excerpt from her January 23rd letter to the **Valley News** Editor:*

“Recently at the Howe Library in Hanover, I attended a talk by Dr. Elizabeth Trought, vice president of the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley, titled ‘Primary Election Analysis.’ She described her efforts to register new voters, both young and old, and the League’s work to provide public forums for various viewpoints, including to gain more input into national TV debates, such as those on CNN where the audience’s questions seem scripted in order to avoid any topic the sponsors don’t want to be associated with. Women’s Network of the Upper Valley organized the talk at the Howe Library. The network helps women contact and share interests with one another...”

Thanks, Carole, for the terrific “shout out.”

The “Rwanda” Branch of the WNUV Checks In:

Laura Clauson moved to Rwanda several years ago to set up a medical center in Rwanda with the Wyman Worldwide Health Partners (both Laura and Ro Wyman were active members of the WNUV up until then. Laura recently wrote an update to Inge Brown, which Inge read at the January meeting. Here are excerpts from Laura’s email to Inge:

“I am still in Rwanda. There has been a big upheaval in my project over the last couple of months because [of funding partnership problems] and therefore it looked like the project at Bisate Health Center would end half way through its pilot. It has been quite a story.... My brother, Sean (the filmmaker) has been here all year documenting the project, so you’ll hopefully be able to experience it all for yourselves one day on the big screen.

Things are looking up now, as I have found a new fiscal sponsor. We will be working with the Mountain Gorilla Vet Project. They have a ‘One Health’ Program that recognizes the importance of human and domestic animal health in protecting mountain gorillas.

At this time it is unclear whether we will continue working at Bisate Health Center or move to another center, but hopefully everything will be decided in the next two weeks and we can get back to work.

I am looking for someone to replace me and have committed to working through May... Working at Bisate has been tremendously challenging, frustrating and rewarding—an experience of a lifetime. The problems of a rural health center are vast, but also small changes can make a huge difference. You can watch three short videos on the project at www.clinicsrising.squarespace.com.”

For the Love of Paws – February 17, 5:30-7:00pm

Please join the Upper Valley Humane Society at the Norwich Inn to toast True Love and the animals who touch our hearts. Stop by the Norwich Inn from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm on Sunday, February 17 to sample a variety of local (people!) treats, including chocolate, cheeses, ales, and more. The event is \$20 per person for reservations ahead of time and \$25 the day of the event. To reserve ahead, call 603-448-6888, ext. 111. For more information, see www.uvhs.org.

--Submitted by Mary Kukowski

Governor Madeleine Kunin’s New Book

Madeleine M. Kunin, former three-term governor of Vermont, former ambassador to Switzerland, writer, and part-time Hanover resident has a new book coming out in April -- *Pearls, Politics, and Power: How Women Can Win and Lead* (Chelsea Green). She will be giving a book talk in the Upper Valley on Thursday, April 3, at 7:00 pm at the Marion Cross School (reserve your seat at the Norwich Bookstore, 802-649-1114).

League of Women Voters’ Event

On Wednesday, March 19, there will be a panel discussion about “Implementing the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) at the Local Level.” The event takes place in the Mayer Room of the Howe Library at noon. For more information and to verify time and place closer to the date, or to learn about this and other meetings, check out the LWV’s website: www.uppervalleyleague.org.

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Programs February – June, 2008

Evening Programs

February 12

“Civil Liberties Update”

Claire Ebel

March 11

Panel on Aging Well

April 8

“The Vermont Peace Academy”

Kathleen Shepherd

May

Spring Event

TBA

June

Potluck, Brainstorming, Elections

“Remarkable Women” Luncheons

April 21

“Hildegard von Bingen”

Monika Otter, Associate Professor of English

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THE UPPER VALLEY

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