March is Women’s History Month, and traditionally the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) plans a forum for March that highlights some aspect of women’s experience. This month, our forum will focus on women and economics, specifically the impact of women’s changing roles and strategies for achieving economic security and personal fulfillment. Our world is changing rapidly, and with it, societal structures for women and the choices available to them.

Our March Forum speaker, UW Professor Elaina Rose, is exceptionally well qualified to address these topics. Holding simultaneous appointments in the Departments of Economics, Women Studies, and South Asia Studies, she specializes in labor economics and the economics of gender. In her address to the forum, Dr. Rose will be discussing the economic gains that women have made in the workplace over the last 80+ years and the factors, societal and personal, that have affected women’s earning power, actual and potential.

In preparation for this forum and the unit discussions, we recommend that LWVS members read the article “From the Valley to the Summit,” which appears in this issue of the Voter. Written by Harvard economist Claudia Goldin, the article provides an enlightening analysis of the data on women, education, and labor trends in the U.S. It describes the “revolution” in women’s status in the workplace that occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s, explores the reasons for this, and discusses its effects.

In our unit discussions, we will be talking about our own choices on education, career, and marriage, and those available to the present generation, in light of the changes that have occurred in society, law, and economic conditions. We will also explore strategies for ensuring future financial well-being. Feel free to bring your daughters and granddaughters to participate.

The following may be useful in helping focus unit discussions:
- Globalization — the disproportionate effect on women of the outsourcing of jobs to other countries, and the greater difficulty faced by women workers, especially those over 45 and without college degrees, in obtaining new employment.
- Education — the increasing demand for college education as a prerequisite for financially rewarding employment, the spiraling cost of higher education, and the resulting debt load on graduates.
- Demographic changes — the large boomer generation nears or enters retirement, often uncertain of their ability to live on their income, while the pool of younger workers, whose payroll and other taxes will fund their elders’ retirement, is comparatively small.
- Employment changes — in length of work week, frequency with which workers change jobs, trend toward hiring non-permanent workers, decrease in job security owing to corporate downsizing, etc.
- Marriage — high divorce rates and their impact on women’s need for financial self-reliance.

All of us have our own personal strategies for ensuring our own economic well-being in light of the forces in society that may affect it. Come to the March forum for what promises to be a valuable and stimulating talk by Elaina Rose, and then come to your unit meetings to listen to other League members and contribute your own views.
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President’s Message

I stopped composing this letter soon after starting this morning. The window above the computer desk looks out to our back yard where absent winter foliage on the maples and tamarack reveal the last of summer’s successful blackberry growth. The air was chilly but dry and the pull was too great to stay on task. I dressed warmly and then proceeded to snip and tug for a few hours until a few snow flurries chased me back into the house. It was a refreshing change from normal winter activities, but not yet a reason to get out the gardening supplies.

I think this premature gardening foray is a good metaphor for where we are in the League this month. There is some excitement as we hold our presidential party caucuses and presidential primary. We have received many questions from the public on this confusing arrangement. (I for one am grateful Victoria Bennett gave such a thorough overview in the February Voter.) League members are involved with local and county council issues, but we have not yet entered the very busy season of voter registration and issue analysis. These few remaining winter weeks give us time to get our house in order and to familiarize our new office specialist, Monya, with our routines and the day-to-day work of the League.

We were fortunate to have a lively discussion by representatives of Seattle Public Utilities, King County and Cascade Water at our February Forum. King County TV has televised this forum on Water Issues of the Region. I encourage you to check your local programming for broadcast of this important discussion.

We have had frequent requests to oversee resident elections with Seattle Housing Authority and other communities. Supervising these small elections is a great voter service and opportunity to volunteer. Betty Sullivan will be offering a training session for those interested in helping with this service. Members of our Speakers Bureau, led by Jaclyn Wall and Victoria Bennett, are busy presenting to classrooms and groups on topics such as the importance of voting and the Electoral College.

Many Seattle League members have joined our state lobby team in Olympia for this fast-paced legislative session. Many of you receive frequent emails from Barbara Bush on issues in our state legislature. Our Barbara Bush is the LWV Washington Action chair and a member of the Snohomish League. She is a wonderful and tireless asset to our state board. Barbara manages the state lobby team with their divergent interests and passion for issues and oversees the legislative newsletter, lobby team meetings, and Lobby Day. She also alerts us to those state and national issues which warrant our calls and letters to elected representatives. I urge you to pay close attention to her mailings. Also, if you are not getting the legislative newsletters I encourage you to check the Washington Voter or call the state office (206)622-8961.

The 2008 edition of the LWV Seattle Ed fund publication They Represent You (the TRY) is ready to be dispersed throughout the county. The TRYs are a great public service provided by our Education fund, but we depend on you, our members, to help get them to the voters. Please call the office to see how you can help.

Finally, I have saved the best news till the end. We are pleased and proud to announce that our past president Nancy Eitreim has been nominated to serve on the League of Woman Voter’s National Board of Directors. She must be elected at the National Convention in June. We encourage you to contact friend and family League members across the country and let them know what we all know, Nancy Eitreim is an outstanding advocate for the League. We wish her the best of luck.

2 February 2008

Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters of Seattle, 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.
### CALENDAR

#### March

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- **Board Meeting**: Saturday, March 1 9:00 a.m.
- **League office**

- **Voter deadline**: Monday, March 3

- **International Relations Committee**: Monday, March 3 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
- **League Office**

- **Get to Know League Dinner**: Thursday, March 6 5:30 p.m.
- **St. Andrew's Church, Bellevue**

- **Forum: Women’s Changing Roles and Economic Survival**: Thursday, March 6 7:30 p.m.
- **St. Andrew’s Church, Bellevue**

- **International Women’s Day**: Saturday, March 8

- **LVWWA Good in Government Brunch**: Saturday, March 8 10 a.m.
- **Bell Harbor Conference Center**

- **Civics Education Committee**: Tuesday, March 11 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- **League Office**

- **Social Justice Committee**: Tuesday, March 11 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- **League Office**

- **Transportation Committee**: Tuesday, March 18 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- **League Office**

- **Election Monitor Training**: Tuesday, March 18 2:00 p.m.
- **League Office**

- **Immigration Study Committee**: Wednesday, March 19 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- **League Office**

- **Land Use Committee**: Thursday, March 27 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Park Shore Building at 1630 43rd Ave. East**

### April

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- **Board meeting 9:00 am**

- **Seattle Voter deadline**

- **Forum: International Relations**

- **Election Monitor Training**

- **Immigration Study Committee**

- **Land Use Committee**

- **Park Shore Building at 1630 43rd Ave. East**
February Board Briefs  

Retreat Follow Up: At each month’s meeting, the Board will consider the top three priorities chosen at January’s retreat: Voter Services, Action/Issue Advocacy and Technology. Board members thanked Doreen Cato for providing us with a meeting place for our retreat at First Place School.

Nominating Committee: The committee is beginning to search for and interview candidates for positions on the 2008-2009 LWVS Board. The committee encouraged members to send in names of candidates who would be interested in serving the League.

Appointments: Karen Lahey will serve as chair of a new technology committee. Mickey Horwitz and Jackie Wall will help choose between the two bids for our new telephone system.

Membership: Our official membership number reported to National is 809. (Therefore, we will have eight delegates to the LWVUS convention in June.) The Get to Know League Dinner will be held on March 6 at St. Andrew’s Church in Bellevue.

Fundraising: There will be a fundraising brainstorming meeting in February.

Program: The Board reviewed the January program planning process—a grassroots effort—as well as the unit responses for national and local program planning. The Board agreed that the following topics, mentioned by many units, would be forwarded to LWVUS:
- Review Disarmament and Arms Control.
- New study/program items: banking laws/personal debt; effect of privatization of public resources.
- For local program planning, unit responses did not suggest that we should go forward with a new study, but two issues emerged as possible forum topics: housing supply/affordable housing/homelessness and Community Benefit Agreements. Those possibilities will appear as recommended program items (forums) at the May annual meeting. The study originally planned for May—Local Immigration—has been postponed to September. The board endorsed Denise Smith’s suggestion that the May forum be devoted to voting issues.

Voter Services: The committee will target the League’s voter registration efforts at retirement homes (especially the workers), colleges and farmers markets. Voter Services recently presented information about caucusing and facilitated a model caucus in a 7th grade classroom at Washington Middle School. The committee is working on topics for the Speakers Bureau. Training will be offered for monitoring Seattle Housing Authority elections. The CIS desk is receiving many calls on caucuses and voter registration (on-line registration is now possible). Victoria Bennett is working on a radio program for the Washington Library for the Blind.

Action: The January Observer Corps training will be rescheduled for February. Harriet Morton and Anita Warmflash would like to hear from any members who are regularly attending public meetings.

Nancy Eitreim Nominated to National Board

Late breaking news ... Nancy Eitreim has been nominated for a two-year term on the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Seattle League has been the beneficiary of Nancy’s many talents and her enthusiastic commitment to the League — now the rest of the United States has caught on! To that end, Nancy is on the recommended slate of nominees to national board, which will be voted on by the delegates to National Convention this June in Portland, Oregon.

Stay tuned, next month we will have an article on Nancy’s story with the League and her goals as a member of the LWV-US board.
Committee Meetings

**International Relations Committee**
Date: Monday, March 3  
Time: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.  
Place: League Office
We will be planning our April forum on the UN’s Millennium Development Goals to cut poverty, improve maternal health, and increase literacy, among other things. E-mail Ellen Berg (ellenberg@msn.com) to find out more.

**Social Justice Committee**
Date: Monday, March 11  
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Place: League Office
The meeting date and time for the Social Justice committee has been changed to the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00.

At the February meeting, the committee reviewed plans for an Eastside panel on social justice issues, possible legislative action on housing and services for people leaving homelessness or for preventing homelessness, and began planning for May unit materials and a forum on voting rights. The committee will continue this work at the March 11 meeting.

All are welcome to attend and join in our efforts. If you have questions, please leave a message for Pat Cleary at (206) 329-4848.

**Membership Strategic Planning Committee**
Date: Tuesday, March 11  
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Place: League Office
The Civic Education Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month. New members are invited to bring ideas we can implement to promote civics education. For information contact Jaclyn Wall at speakingstrategies@hotmail.com.

**Transportation Committee**
Date: Tuesday, March 18  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
Place: League Office
The Transportation Committee meets regularly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Seattle LWV office. For March, the meeting will focus on bicycles and pedestrian issues. Our speaker will be Peg Staeheli, a founding principal of SvR Design and former member of the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board. Peg has extensive design experience in pedestrian treatments for urban and residential projects.

Please join us for what promises to be a very interesting and stimulating morning. Contact Linnea Hirst Lwvquilter@comcast.net.

**Immigration Study Committee**
Date: Wednesday, March 19  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Place: League Office
While we continue to interview members of immigrant communities and the staffs of various agencies that provide services to immigrants, we have begun the writing of our results. The September forum and unit discussions will focus on our final report about immigration in King County. If you’d like to get in on this fascinating study, please join us on March 19th.

For further information, please leave a message for Karen Kane at (206) 329-4848.

**Economics and Taxation Committee**
Date: Saturday, February 23  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: 909 E. Newton #D9
For more information, leave a message for Nora Leech at (206) 329-4848.

**Land Use Committee**
Date: Thursday, March 27  
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Place: Park Shore Building at 1630 43rd Ave. East (in Madison Park)
Although it is extremely limited, free parking is available on site and along adjacent streets, plus the #11 bus provides service to Madison Park.

The Land Use Committee will review a draft design proposal prepared by SRG Partnership in anticipation of this fall’s public vote on a levy providing $80 million for infrastructure and other upgrades at Seattle’s century-old Pike Place Market. If passed, approximately 85% of these levy monies would go to upgrade infrastructure that has not received any major work in over thirty years; additionally, the number of public restrooms and elevators would be increased to better serve the nearly 10 million visitors the Market welcomes each year.

While there is widespread agreement within and outside the Pike Place Market community about this portion of the design proposal, there is definite disagreement over the proposal’s suggestions on how to use the remaining monies. Specifically, a few design ideas would reconfigure some tenant spaces and, in the estimation of the proposal writers, enhance the appearance of various Market areas. It is these ideas that are attracting increased scrutiny and causing a growing debate: Would the suggested changes create attractive additions, or are they merely adornments of questionable taste that compromise the Pike Place Market’s historic character? These design concerns and other questions will be discussed at the meeting. For further information, please leave a message for Karen Kane at (206) 329-4848.
Announcements

Voter Service Volunteer Opportunities

VOTER REGISTRATION
Do you want to engage people in the political process? A telephone call or email from you starts the whole process. Set up opportunities for the League’s voter registration team at universities, colleges, farmers’ markets and retirement homes. You will make a difference! Email voterservice@seattlelwv.org or call (206) 329-4848 to be involved.

BALLOT ISSUES RESEARCH
You can be indispensable! Do you enjoy research? Do your fingers reach toward the keyboard to record your findings? Do you like to understand both sides of an issue? The ballot issues research group needs you! Email voterservice@seattlelwv.org or call (206) 329-4848 to express interest.

ELECTION MONITORING
The League is often asked to monitor elections by various groups. Monitors staff the voting area and tabulate the ballots and validate the election results. We need more qualified monitors to serve our community. Betty Sullivan will lead a training session at the League office Tuesday, March 18 at 2 pm. Email voterservice@seattlelwv.org or call (206) 329-4848 to sign up.

Board Candidates Wanted

The Nominating Committee is now meeting regularly and welcomes suggestions for persons to serve on the LWV Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the Board or if you know of anyone else who has leadership potential, feel free to contact any member of the nominating committee. The new directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting in May. Contact information is listed below or you can call the CIS desk.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Cathy Liu Scott scott7911@msn.com
Lynn Felsinger mlfelsinger@hotmail.com
Kitty Mahon membership@seattlelwv.org
Mickey Horwitz stellarinteriors@hotmail.com
Lois Laughlin leave a message at (206) 329-4848
Marilyn Knight mlnknight32@comcast.net

LWVWA Good in Government Brunch

The 2008 League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) Good in Government Brunch will be held on Saturday, March 8 (International Women’s Day), from 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the Seattle Bell Harbor International Conference Center.

The LWVWA has chosen Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, co-founder and executive director of MomsRising, an online grassroots organization promoting motherhood and family issues, to receive its annual Good in Government Award, which will be presented at the brunch.

Seattle League member Lael Braymer will also be honored at the brunch for her long and tireless service to the LWVWA and its Education fund.

Margaret Larsen, veteran broadcast journalist and VP of communications for Mercy Corps, will be the featured speaker, on the topic of “The Status of Women Around the World: How Women Can Help Women Build a Better World.”

For more information, contact the LWVWA at (206) 622-8961, or email lwvwa@lwvwa.org.
Get To Know League Dinner
MARCH 6TH AT 5:30, ST. ANDREW’S CHURCH, BELLEVUE

If you are new or relatively new to the League or would like to learn more about us, please come to a Get to Know League dinner to be held on Thursday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the Women’s History Month forum at St. Andrew’s Church in Bellevue. The forum will focus on economic strategies for women.

If you would like to contribute your favorite lasagna or share your League story, your participation is also welcome. The Get to Know League dinner is the first contact for many new members and involves many volunteers.

Tasks include helping with setup, acting as a table captain, bringing flowers, greeting guests, and providing food.

To request an invitation or to volunteer to help, please contact Kitty Mahon at membership@seattlelwv.org, or call the CIS desk at (206) 329-4848 and leave a message.

Directions to St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Bellevue

FROM I-405 (NORTH OR SOUTH BOUND) — Take exit 11 onto I-90 Eastbound (Spokane). Then take exit 11-B, 148th St. (Bellevue Community College). Go North on 148th to stop light at SE 28th. The church is on the NE corner.

FROM EASTBOUND I-90 — Take exit 11-B, 148th St. (Bellevue Community College). Go North on 148th to stop light at SE 28th. The church is on the NE corner.

FROM WESTBOUND I-90 — Take 156th St. exit. Turn left at light, go to 148th. Turn right (north) onto 148th and go to stop light at SE 28th. The church is on the NE corner.
Help Wanted: Broadband As A Public Utility

At the 2006 Annual Meeting, Seattle League of Women Voters members approved a study with this title: Broadband as a Public Utility. Also in 2006, the delegates to the June League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) Convention adopted a resolution that stated: “Resolved that the League of Women Voters of the United States support the concept of Internet Neutrality by: Calling upon Congress to protect equal access to the Internet.” This resolution was based on the LWVUS position on Citizens Right to Know/ Citizen Participation. (The following material is taken from the LWVUS website.)

In order to provide essential background information and supporting material for this interpretation of position, the [LWVUS] Internet Neutrality Taskforce was formed. ...

The taskforce was asked to develop materials in response to the following questions:

- What are the essential features of the Internet that make it an effective tool for political discussion, education and participation?
- How can these essential features best be protected and enhanced? What are the threats to these essential features?
- How does the issue of “Internet Neutrality” interface with other telecommunications policy, both technically and politically?
- How can protections for political participation be designed to enhance rather than retard technological advancement?
- How can the legitimate, commercial interests of the providers of electronic communications be differentiated from the essential tools of political discussion, education and participation?
- How do the interests of cable, broadcast, telephone, Internet and other communications providers intersect or compete?
- How should the providers of electronic communications be compensated for providing “public” services?
- Who is funding the lobbying effort in favor of and against “Internet Neutrality?”
- What sources did the task force consult in responding to these questions?

The taskforce met by conference call and communicated regularly by e-mail. The discussions proved that the topic was complex and controversial. Varying opinions were held by the members of the taskforce, causing the timeline for the taskforce’s work to be extended past the stated deadline of June, 2007.

[The task force could not produce a unified report, so they published majority and minority responses, with rebuttals, in a series of four reports, available on the LWVUS website, http://www.lwv.org, search: internet neutrality.]

The LWVUS will continue to monitor Internet Neutrality as we do other non-priority advocacy issues. State and local League members may follow the issue at the state and local levels. To act on this issue using the national position, Leagues should follow the usual procedure: Leagues must first clarify the action that is contemplated; cite the relevant LWVUS position to support the action; indicate that it is a priority for the state or local League; and contact the Grassroots Lobbyist at LWVUS for guidance.

And that brings us back to the local study approved in May of 2006. The scope of the study is as follows: Identify the benefits and costs of making broadband available to citizens as a public utility and the risks to the polity of failing to do so.

Broadband is clearly a topic of continuing importance to league members—indeed to all citizens. Our recent program planning unit sessions produced requests for attention to issues of privatization of public resources as well as to election reform and the need for access to media for all candidates.

Unfortunately, those initially expressing an interest in conducting the study have not been able to bring that about. We need a small but stalwart band (ouch!) to step forward to pick up this project. The first question they might ask is whether—in the light of the work already done by LWVUS—a local study is still needed.

If you are interested in participating in this undertaking, please contact Nan Moore, Program VP, at the League office (206) 329-4848 or by email (nannm@comcast.net).
LWVUS National Convention 2008, Reaching New Heights Together

June 13 – 17. Mark those dates on your calendar! Excitement is growing and the buzz is getting louder: National Convention will be in Portland next June! Our theme is “Reaching New Heights Together”. With your help, we will.

Based on its membership, the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) is entitled to eight official delegates; board members have priority for these spots. But all league members are invited to attend; non-delegate members may participate fully except for voting privileges. With the convention in our neck of the woods, this is a great opportunity for LWVS members to get involved.

Another way to attend the convention is as a volunteer. The League of Women Voters of Portland needs help in many areas, described below.

Convention Floor: Volunteers working “on the floor” at one of the five plenary sessions must be there from an hour before the session until about ½ hour after. The job titles are self-explanatory (door keeper, time keeper . . .), but task flexibility will be appreciated. (i.e., the door keepers are also asked to hand out materials as delegates enter; a time keeper might be asked to help to speed the entry process.) NOTE: If you are a delegate, you cannot volunteer here!

Registration needs volunteers the first two days, with only a few on successive days. The Credentials committee needs volunteers the first two days and again the day ballots are distributed for electing the new board. Both of these groups will work with national staff, and have their own location/work station. Personnel volunteers maintain the location/work station for the many volunteers.

Hospitality will be in varied locations, giving on the spot assistance to our many guests!

The information desk, which includes “lost and found”, will be staffed at the same times the Wares Market is open. Our organizing committees will provide all the information you need: we ask volunteers to provide cheerful interaction with attendees seeking information. The Dine Around, Tour and Fundraiser committees will each need a volunteer at the information desk to answer questions about their respective events. Volunteers will also escort groups to dinner on Sunday evening, escort groups for tours (there will be a “guide” but you will accompany the group to assist), and help during the fundraiser on Saturday evening. NOTE: These are great activities where delegates can help!

A volunteer form is included and on line at www.lwvpdx.org. Please email or mail your response today. Thank you in advance for embracing this opportunity to serve and support our League of Women Voters. National Convention is a great event; we want everyone, volunteers and attendees from around the United States, to have an excellent experience. With your help, the League will, indeed, Reach New Heights.

June 13-17, 2008 • Portland, Oregon

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER
League of Women Voters of the United States 48th National Convention

FINAL CALL TO CONVENTION
The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States now issues the final call to all recognized local and state Leagues and Inter-League Organizations to send delegates to the 48th National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The convention will be held June 13-17, 2008, at the Hilton Portland, Oregon.

For more information, check the LWVUS website at http://www.lwv.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ForMembers/Council/conv_preview/Convention2008_Preview.pdf
REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER

LWVUS National Convention, Portland OR
June 13-17, 2008
Hilton Hotel

Please Volunteer to Work at the 2008 LWVUS Convention, June 13 - 17
Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:
EVERY DAY (June 13 - 17) Registration, Credentials, Information, Tours, Personnel
FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY (June 13 - 15) Hospitality and Dine Around
SATURDAY - TUESDAY (June 14 - 17) Door Keepers, Ushers, Timekeepers, Teller/Elections,
Microphone Monitors

Questions? Contact: Carol Cushman, chcrail@aol.com
Debbie Kaye, djek53@aol.com
Portland LWV office, 503-228-1675 or lwvpdx@aracnet.com

Return before the end of March 2008 to:
Debbie Kaye, 2235 NW Aspen Avenue, Portland, OR 97210-1218
or download from www.lwvpdx.org or www.lwvor.org and email to djek53@aol.com
Volunteers will be notified of their assignments in early May.

Please print:

Name _______________________________ Phone ____________________________

E-mail ________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

League __________________________________________________________________

Do you prefer e-mail? ______ US mail? ______

Area(s) of Interest: (mark in order of preference 1, 2, 3, etc)

Convention floor during Plenary sessions: Other:

_____ Door Keeper
_____ Usher
_____ Timekeeper
_____ Teller/Election
_____ Microphone Monitor

_____ Registration
_____ Information
_____ Personnel
_____ Credentials
_____ Hospitality

_____ Dine Around
_____ Tours
_____ Dine Around Host
_____ Fundraiser
_____ Wherever needed

Dates: Please choose time(s) and day(s) you are available to work and indicate AM, PM or all day.
The number of hours you will be asked to work will depend on the number of volunteers and areas of interest.

Friday, June 13 (PM and/or Eve) ________ Saturday, June 14 ________ Sunday, June 15 ________
Monday, June 16 ________ Tuesday, June 17 (AM only) ________

Note: Volunteers should note that the AM shift for most volunteers begins at 7:30.

I am interested in B&B accommodations (limited number available): __________

Will you be a delegate to the Convention? _____Yes or _____No

Note: Delegates will have to pay the registration fee. You may volunteer to work at the Convention and will
be assigned a job that does not interfere with your duties as a delegate. Most delegates who volunteer will be
assigned Friday or Saturday AM for Information or Hospitality, or Sunday as a Dine Around dinner host.
February 14th is the birthday of the League of Women Voters and a fitting day to share with Valentine’s Day as we celebrate our love of taking action. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has set its Legislative Priorities for 2008: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and, newly added this year, Tax Policy.

Tax Policy was added “in recognition that income inequality has grown substantially over the last several years and a comprehensive look at tax policy is possible.” By concentrating resources on priority issues, we can increase our effectiveness and make sure we have the knowledge necessary to act. For more in-depth information regarding many of these Legislative Priorities, see the National Beat articles from September 2007 in our Seattle Voter. Here is a review of and update on what is currently going on with these Priorities.

**Ethics and Lobbying Reform:** In January, LWV et al sent a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi calling for an independent professional entity in Congress to help the House Ethics Committee enforce ethics rules. This entity must have subpoena power or access to subpoena power through the House Ethics Committee in order to be effective. **YOU** can tell your Congressional members to uphold the lobbying and ethics reform already accomplished by supporting an amendment “giving access to subpoena power to an independent, bipartisan ethics enforcement office.”

**Election Administration:** The LWV suggests the use of VOTE411.org, which hosts the only nationwide polling place locator. LWV has noted an increase in voter turnout in the earlier elections for this presidential election. As we enter this history making year, when one of the political parties will either have a women or a minority presidential candidate, even more voter interest will be generated in all parties. The LWV continues to monitor voter ID requirements throughout the country. Our national office suggests that we stay involved in protecting enfranchisement and being ready to take action as necessary. For a complete list of the 5 essentials we should keep in mind, see The Hill Bulletin in the February 2008 National Voter (available on line and in the mail.)

Also in the National Voter, Michael Slater explores compliance with the National Voter Registration Act and how it affects numbers of possible low income voters. The fact that many states are NOT complying with the NVRA could affect as many as 2.5 million voters. The U.S. Department of Justice is NOT investigating allegations of non-compliance. Congress can and should hold states accountable for compliance.

**Civil Liberties:** The LWV urges repeal of the Protect America Act, which gave surveillance powers to the executive branch, including warrantless wiretapping of American citizens. To extend the act, there was a push to grant telecom companies immunity retroactively for handing over phone records to the government. The idea of retroactive immunity in particular has been unpopular, and not all telecom companies handed over the records. **YOU** can urge your Congressional members to repeal this act.

**DC Voting Rights:** This continues to be a hot ticket, as National has identified key targets in the Senate to lobby to get the DC Voting Rights Act passed. These senators include: Max Baucus (D MT), Robert Byrd (D WV), Thad Cochran (R MS), John McCain (R AZ), Gordon Smith (R OR), and John Warner (R VA). **YOU** can let your senators know that you are disappointed they could not get the support this past year and that you feel it’s time to enact this act.

**Health Care:** The State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) needs to be continued or 6 million low income children not eligible for Medicaid will be left without health coverage. Health care reform is one of the top issues for presidential candidates to address this year. In the National Voter, authors Rowland and Shartzer point out ways health care can be improved in the U.S. by using existing programs as building blocks for coverage of the uninsured. **YOU** can continue to monitor SCHIP and be prepared to act when necessary.

**Campaign Finance Reform:** LWV supports the Presidential Funding Act of 2007 which “would increase the overall spending limits and the amount of public funds available for candidates who opt into the presidential system” as well as ending state-by-state spending limits and providing additional public funds to create an opportunity for candidates to
compete financially with candidates who chose not to use this system. YOU can urge your Senators and Representatives to cosponsor this legislation.

Global Climate Change: LWV urges us to tell our legislators to enact legislation on renewable electricity standards and efforts to fight global warming. December saw passage of an energy bill that raises fuel efficiency standards to 35 mpg. YOU can call your legislators and let them know of your vital interest in this area.

So what else can we do to help? Many of us came in with a “boom” and we can continue to “boom” as we become part of the Volunteering Baby Boomer Generation as noted by our National Office. Many newly retiring baby boomers are volunteering today as we create a new definition of “retirement” that fits the voices we’ve kept “booming” for the last 50 – 60 years. The interesting thing to watch in League work is that this brand of retirement is already being modeled by our own senior members, who have shown us the way to activism. All of us can be activists as we continue to keep up with current events politically, watch for League Action Alerts, volunteer with voter service (voterservice@seattlelwv.org), work at the CIS desk to handle incoming questions from voters, join the Observer Corps and watch our local governments at work, and, most importantly, VOTE!

LOBBY DAY
By Harriett Morton

On Friday, February 1, League members from around the state gathered in Olympia for Lobby Day. Senate Minority Leader Mike Hewitt (R), 16th District, began the morning with a summary of what the legislature must deal with in its short 60 day session. He pointed out that 2300 bills in the House and 1800 in the Senate have already been introduced for consideration. Despite the $1.9 billion surplus forecast when the biennium began in 2007, he said, legislators are not sure now that there will be additional money to spend after the legislature puts $1 billion of the surplus into the Rainy Day Fund, as it currently plans to do. Already, new programming has been proposed that would cost $186 million, to come out of the anticipated surplus. Senator Hewitt and our lobbyist Lonnie Johns-Brown both anticipate a shortfall. This will make it more challenging to pass laws requiring state funding.

Senator Tim Sheldon (D), 35th District, addressed the group as well, advising us about effective communication with our legislators. He suggests we write individual letters rather than pass on form letters, as legislators are more likely to read personal letters. A number of our volunteer lobbyists provided details on several bills that we support, giving us talking points for those letters or other contacts with legislators.

The state League’s top priority, requiring no state funds, is the passage of the public financing of local campaigns with the approval of the local electorate. As of Lobby Day, House Bill 1551 had passed the House and gone to the Senate, where it rested in the Rules Committee as Engrossed House Bill 1551. Senate Bill 5278 was in line for floor debate and a vote. League members met with senators or left them letters, urging support for this bill.

Success with the other high priority of funding for the civics education classroom-based assessments seemed more precarious, as it would add new spending to the budget. As of Lobby Day, no funding was included in the House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Education K-12 budget for civics education, but our members still asked their legislators to support this $300,000 addition to the budget.

Keep track of the continuing action! Email lwvwa@lwvwa.org to get your email on the Legislative Newsletter distribution list.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
By Kitty Mahon, Membership Chair

$2.50 CLUB
Thanks are in order to the many members who contribute beyond their dues to support the increase in the per member payment to the National League that has covered the national immigration study. Recent donors are Nadine Baker, Gabrielle Metzger and Shirley Gerstenberger.

50 YEAR MEMBER
Please join us in congratulating and acknowledging Naila Harper as a 50 year member of the League of Women Voters. Naila first joined the League of Women Voters in Boston. She and her husband spent 35 years in Madison, Wisconsin, where Nailla was very active in the local League. In addition, she was recruited as a County Council candidate for Dane County, which includes Madison, and she successfully ran for and served on the Council. When she first came to Seattle, she lived in the North End, but since 1997, she has lived on Mercer Island, where she participates in the lively discussions that take place in the Mercer Island Unit. Thank you, Naila, for your time and energy and commitment to the League of Women Voters.

A FULL HOUSE
A special category of membership will have to be invented to describe the situation at Horizon House. In numbers that surpass the category of “household” membership, there are several League members who are residents under this one roof. These members are invited and encouraged to participate in the League by First Hill unit chairs and leaders Janet Perry, Dorothy Hopper and Mary Margaret Pruitt. All together there are 43 League members at this address!!

ERA Histories – Washington Women’s History Consortium
The Equal Rights Amendment, first proposed in 1923, is still not part of the U.S. Constitution. It was ratified by 35 of the necessary 38 states, including the State of Washington which passed it on March 22, 1973. Unlike the United States constitution, the Washington state constitution contains an Equal Rights amendment, passed in 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in all areas of public life. Voters approved the amendment to the state constitution in November 1972.

If you have been a part of the work to pass the ERA and have a story to share, the Washington Women’s History Consortium would like to hear from you. Please contact Sue Lean at lean@comcast.net, or leave a message for her at (206) 329-4848. For further information about the Washington Women’s History Consortium email Shanna Stevenson, Coordinator at sstevenson@wshs.wa.gov.

Welcome New Members
By Marguerite Kuhns

Alice E. Moss is a retired social worker who lives at Horizon House. She has a BA and a Master’s in Social Work (MSW). Alice has had an active political life: she is a former precinct representative and area supervisor for her political party, and she served on the Election Board for several years. She knew about the League because her mother was a member, and joined in order to receive unbiased information about issues and candidates. Alice likes public speaking and presentations and enjoys photography. She is interested in health care, immigration, women’s issues and various national issues. She is willing to work on voter registration, ballot issues research, mailings, membership and special events. Welcome, Alice.
Part V – The League in the 1990s

We continue with the history of the League, as written by Kay J. Maxwell, former LWVUS president.

ORGANIZATION

At the 1996 convention, bylaws changes were made to simplify the process of forming new Leagues by eliminating the provisional League category, and set the procedure for proposing adoption or amendment of an LWVUS position by concurrence on the floor of convention. The LWVUS Future Planning process was also launched at that convention.

At the 1998 convention, the bylaws were amended to provide for communication vehicles other than “snail” mail!

A nationwide brainstorming effort, the Crossroads Project, on the future of the League was set in motion at the 1992 convention, and the resulting recommendations were presented to convention 1994. A 75th Anniversary Membership Campaign was launched in 1994 and included a new member video, “75 Years of a Great Idea”.

ISSUES

Members adopted a position on gun control in 1990 and Congress passed reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, capping a ten-year legislative campaign. The League also launched “Take Back the System”, a voter campaign to reclaim government and elections and sponsored a Presidential Primary Debate in 1992. In 1993, the League adopted a position on health care and won passage of the National Voter Registration Act, better known as Motor Voter.

In the last years of the decade, the issue for emphasis, Making Democracy Work, included increasing voter turnout, campaign finance reform, civic education, diversity of representation, civic participation and voting representation for the residents of the District of Columbia. During that same period LWVEF activities included Running and Winning, a program that encouraged young women to consider careers as political leaders, as well as community dialogues on water resources, energy and health care.

Following the end of the Cold War, the League began several international programs: hosting emerging women leaders from Poland and Hungary; Strengthening Women’s Rights in the NIS; Voices for Women – Forces for Change: Women’s Leadership Workshops for Russia and Belarus; Voices for Women – Forces for Change: Building Peace in the Bosnian Community; a Bosnian Citizen Get-Out-The Vote Campaign; and Woman Power in Politics: Building Grassroots Democracy in Africa.

In 1998 the Democracy Network (DNet) was tested and then launched nationwide in January 2000. This Internet web site was a major effort to provide information regarding elections to citizens across the nation.
Throughout recorded history, individual women have reached summits, and their accomplishments have been touted as evidence that women could achieve greatness.

But it has taken considerably longer for substantial numbers of women—more than a token few—to reach the peaks. Until recently, the vast majority of women—even college graduates—occupied the valleys, not the summits. They had jobs, not careers.

The only reason we can have a meaningful discussion today about “women at the top” is because a quiet revolution took place about thirty years ago. It followed on the heels of a noisier revolution, although the quiet one had greater long-run impact. The revolution was accomplished by many who were unaware they were part of a grand transformation that would deeply affect women and their families for decades to come. They were the unwitting foot soldiers of an upheaval that transformed women’s employment and the workforce.

This transformation was startlingly rapid, thus the term “revolution,” not evolution. The break occurred over a relatively brief period from the late 1960s to the early 1970s, and for women born during the 1940s and later. We can see the abruptness of the transition in a number of social and economic indicators: young women’s expectations about their future work life, their college graduation rates, attainment of professional degrees, age at first marriage, and labor force participation rates all show sharp breaks and turning points during this short interval. Women’s choice of college major and occupation also exhibit evidence of a shift during these years.

Perhaps it is not surprising that these factors would change around the same time, since they are all interrelated. When young women have expectations of high labor force participation, they are likely to alter their college programs and college graduation rates. Advanced degree programs, for example, are necessary for certain occupations. Particular college majors are required for certain advanced degree programs. Career aspirations will encourage women to marry and begin their families later; in turn, a later first marriage will serve to facilitate women’s career development.

We can have a meaningful discussion today about “women at the top” only because of a quiet revolution that took place thirty years ago.

In the sections that follow, I present and discuss these factors. In the last section, I explore some of the explanations for why the quiet revolution occurred.

The revolution in expectations about labor market work

In 1968, when young women 14 to 21 years old were asked by the National Longitudinal Survey (N.L.S.) about their future labor force plans, their answers reflected the current labor market activity of their mothers, their aunts, and possibly their older sisters. Only about 30 percent said that they expected to be in the labor force at age 35. Most had mothers born between 1922 and 1929—a group with labor force participation rates at age 35 of about 30 to 35 percent. Yet the future labor force participation rates of these young women (of those ever-married born 1951 to 1954) would in fact be about 65 percent at age 35. That is, young women’s expectations were more in line with
what older women were currently doing rather than what their own futures would actually hold.

But in the late 1960s and the early 1970s, something began to change. In 1975, the fraction of young women who expected to be working at age 35 reached 65 percent, more than double the response seven years earlier and more in line with their future rates. Even comparing 21-year olds in 1968 with 21-year olds in 1975 shows an increase in expected participation of about 35 percentage points. In fact, the expectations of all cohorts increased at the same time and by about the same amount. Furthermore, this period of rapid change in expectations ended by around 1980. Responses to similar questions asked by a later version of the N.L.S., begun in 1979 with a group of young women 14 to 21 years old, reveal virtually no change either by age or by year from 1979 to 1984—a very different picture from the sharp increase in expectations of future employment by young women from 1968 to 1978.
Thus, by the mid to late 1970s young women’s plans were considerably different from a decade earlier, with the turning point in the late 1960s and early to mid-1970s. Expectations about participation in paid work no longer mimicked the experience of their mothers, but were in line with, if not somewhat higher than, the levels they would eventually achieve.

The shift in education from consumption to investment

Although not all the young women surveyed above would attend or graduate from college, the implication for professional advancement is clear. Young women (and men) who have a more accurate assessment of their future labor market involvement will invest more wisely in education and training, whether attending and graduating from college, choosing a college major, or enrolling in a professional degree program.

COLLEGE MAJORS. In 1966, almost 75 percent of women graduating from a four-year college majored in subjects in which most of the students were female. About 10 percent specialized in a subject for which most of the students were men, about the same fraction as in 1960; and about 15 percent majored in gender “mixed” fields, such as math, psychology, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, history, and arts & music.

Moreover, fully 40 percent of women college undergraduates majored in education—at a time when that major was 78 percent female. About 17 percent concentrated in English literature or foreign languages (combined 68 percent female). And 3 percent were in home economics and social service professions (92 percent female). Thus, 60 percent \((40 + 17 + 3)\) of all female undergraduates majored in one of three female-dominated concentrations (or combined concentrations).

By contrast, 50 percent of men in 1966 majored in either science (except “other life sciences”), engineering, or business & management. Most of the women’s concentrations could be classified as “job” or “consumption” oriented (e.g., education and literature), whereas those of the men as “career” and “investment” oriented (e.g., engineering, and business & management).

Another way to show the separation of the sexes is to compute a standard index of dissimilarity. The index uses the full range of the 50-plus concentrations for which we have data and measures the percent of women (or men) who would have to change concentrations for equal representation across the fields. This calculation shows that more than half of all women (or men) would have had to change concentrations to create equality by sex in all fields in 1966.

But in the early 1970s, the sex segregation of undergraduate majors fell markedly. The break is especially sharp for the fraction of women in male-intensive majors, but it is also apparent for the fraction of women in female-intensive majors and in the sex segregation index.

The proximate reasons for this change can be found in the enrollments in two large concentrations: education and business & management. The relative decrease in women’s enrollment in education depressed the fraction of women in female-intensive majors, while their relative increase in business & management boosted the fraction in male-intensive majors. By 1980, only about 20 percent of women were majoring in education; by 1998 the figure had dropped to 12 percent. Because of the increase in women’s college participation rates, the number of women majoring in education continued to rise from 1966 to 1973. But it has declined steadily since 1973, despite the continued increase in the fraction of young women attending and graduating from college.

The reverse trend can be found in business & management. Only 2 percent of all women college graduates majored in these fields in 1966; the figure rose to 22 percent in 1988, the height of its relative popularity among all undergraduates. Because women also increased their numbers as undergraduates relative to men throughout the period, the ratio of women to men majoring in business and management majors increased at an even greater rate, climbing spectacularly from 0.12 in 1973 to 0.84 by 1986.

Therefore, beginning in the early 1970s, female undergraduates radically changed their concentrations. They moved out of majors that led to traditionally female occupations. They moved into those that were career-oriented and often led to advanced degrees. And their majors shifted to subjects that were more similar to those of their male counterparts. Differences in the college majors of men and women still exist but are considerably less significant than they once were. In 1998, about 27 percent of women (or men) would have to change majors for equality across the fields, about half the rate in 1966.

COLLEGE DEGREES. The fraction of women graduating from four-year institutions of higher education increased greatly for women born from 1941
to 1951. This coincided with an increase for men due, at least in part, to Vietnam War draft deferments. But enrollments for men decreased substantially for those born from 1946 to the early 1950s, while enrollments for women continued to rise. Thus the ratio of women to men graduating from college soared for those born from 1946 to 1956, rising from 0.65 to more than 0.95.

This ratio began to rise for precisely the same women that underwent the change in college majors described above—women born in the 1940s, and graduating college from the late 1960s to the early 1970s. Such a change was not unprecedented—the ratio of female to male college graduates increased from a low point for those born in 1924 to those born in the 1940s. But that increase mainly made up for the large decrease caused by men returning from World War II and taking advantage of the GI Bill to attend college. The rise in this period was due to something else, and it echoes the breaks for college majors and labor force expectations.

PROFESSIONAL DEGREES. Women's enrollment in professional degree programs also reveals obvious turning points in the early 1970s. Women's share of first-year students in medical school, business school, and dentistry turned up around 1970; the share in law school increased sharply a year or two earlier. Similar trends can be observed in the number of women entering professional degree programs expressed as a fraction of all female four-year college and university graduates in that year. This fraction began to increase in about the same year as did the ratio of women to men among first-year professional students. However almost all the growth in the fraction of female B.A.s continuing on to professional school occurs from 1970 to 1980, whereas the ratio of women to men in graduate programs increases throughout the period considered. Both these data series exhibit among the clearest and sharpest breaks of any shown in this paper.

The shift to careers and delayed marriage

Changes in women's choices about career and family closely mirrored the changes in their labor market expectations and in their educational investments.

OCCUPATIONS AND LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION. The shift in the occupations of college graduate women, 30 to 34 years old, closely follows that for college majors. Traditional female occupations (e.g., doctors, lawyers, managers, college professors) show essentially the opposite trend. The largest increase in the fraction of women in nontraditional occupations occurred in the 1980s, a bit after the change in college majors, probably because advanced degrees are needed to enter these professions.

As more women majored in career-oriented subjects and entered professional and advanced degree programs, they also increased their labor force participation during their late twenties and early thirties. Participation rates among young women (under 35 years) with college degrees or more show the greatest increase for women born during the 1940s. Whereas rates for young college-educated women born in the 1930s were around 50 percent, participation rose to 80 percent for women born in 1950. That is, the greatest change in labor force participation occurred in the 1970s.

As noted above, these women college graduates were the first group to correctly anticipate that their future labor force participation would be considerably higher than that of their mothers. Furthermore, their expectations changed when they were young enough to alter their educational investments. It is likely, therefore, that their actual labor force participation was high precisely because their educational investments made their employment more lucrative and desirable.

AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE. A host of demographic changes also occurred for this group of women. One of the most important was the trend toward delaying the age at which they married.

The age at first marriage for college graduate women began to increase for those women born around 1950. Women born in 1949 had a median age at first marriage of 23 years, about the same as for the previous two decades. But women born in 1957 had a median age at first marriage of 25.5. Because so many college graduate women born in the two decades prior to 1950 married directly out of college, college had functioned, in large part, as a marriage market.

By the time the women born in 1957 married for the first time, their median age had increased by 2.5 years, a large increase in only seven years, and the median age at first marriage continued to climb, although more slowly, rising to 26.5 years for women born in 1965. The age at first marriage also increased for other education groups, but the increase was somewhat smaller than for college women.
What caused the revolution?

The transformations in women's work roles—from jobs to careers, from "consumption" majors to "investment" majors, and from early to later marriages—took place in an astonishingly short period of time. Labor market expectations of young women were altered beginning in the late 1960s, and by the late 1970s the transformation was complete. Undergraduate fields of concentration began to change around 1972, and the conversion was mostly finished by the mid-1980s. Similarly, enrollment in professional schools shifted up markedly around 1970 with the largest relative gains occurring by 1980. Changes in occupations and in labor force participation echoed changes in college majors and enrollment in professional schools. The mean age at first marriage began its upward climb with women born in the early 1950s and was complete with women born in the mid-1960s. The only reason that we are able, today, to speak about a significant group of women who are "leaders" and who are "at the top" (or who should be "at the top") is because of these changes allowed women to begin their climb from the valley to the summit.

What can explain why the changes occurred?

Any set of social changes as wide-ranging as those just mentioned is not likely to be explained by a single factor, so it would not be surprising to find several contributing circumstances.

The first important clue is that the process described above was episodic rather than continuous. This suggests seeking explanations in factors that also changed discontinuously. Among the likely contenders are: (1) Government mandates such as Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964 that prohibited discrimination in employment practices such as in hiring and promotion, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that required equal treatment of the sexes in educational programs, including colleges and universities; (2) Social change spurred by the resurgence of feminism that followed the Civil Rights movement and reinforced by the anti-war movement; and (3) The contraceptive innovation, known as the Pill, which gave young women the ability to delay marriage and child-bearing and plan for a career. Other candidates include abortion reform, which was decided in some states before Roe v. Wade; the Baby Boom which, by producing a surplus of women (relative to men) of marriageable age (since women marry younger than men), may have forced some women to postpone or forgo marriage; and the declining economy of the mid-1970s, which may have produced the same effect.

I focus on the Pill, not because government mandates and larger social change made no contribution, but because their importance has been hard to assess. To statistically prove the impact of social change, one must find a factor that is related to the resurgence of feminism and unrelated to the choice of college major, college graduation, and enrollment in professional programs—a difficult, if not impossible, task. As for government mandates, various research papers have not yet uncovered a meaningful effect of anti-discrimination laws on women's employment and
earnings, although they do point to a strong impact with regard to race. (Editor’s note: For a discussion of this evidence, see Blau and Winkler, page 38.)

The Pill, by contrast, has proven amenable to empirical exploration and appears to have made an important contribution in changing women’s careers and the age at first marriage. How did the Pill affect the expectations of young women or their desire to pursue college, maledominated majors, and professional degrees? It lowered the costs to young, unmarried women of pursuing careers, particularly careers involving substantial, upfront investments of time.

A young college woman in the mid-1960s who was considering whether to enter a professional degree program or make other substantial career investments had to consider the impact on her personal life. Sex was highly risky in a world without effective, female-controlled, and easy-to-use contraception—and pregnancy could derail a career. The Pill was more reliable than other methods of contraception and its use was controlled by women. Thus it might have had a direct effect in fostering women’s careers by reducing the risk and cost of having sex.

The Pill also could have had an indirect effect by increasing the age at first marriage, which may in turn have influenced other decisions advancing women’s careers. The Pill virtually eliminated one potent reason for early marriage and for many of the social trappings (e.g., going steady, engagements) that led to early marriage. With more men and women delaying marriage for many years after college graduation, the decision of any one woman to delay marriage meant that she would reenter a marriage market that would not be as depleted of eligible men. Thus the Pill could have influenced women’s careers, college majors, professional degrees, and the age at first marriage.

What are the facts? The FDA approved the Pill for contraceptive use in 1960. Married women began to use it immediately, and their use peaked within about five years. But young, single women did not gain full access until the late 1960s or early 1970s, as most were minors and needed parental consent to obtain non-life threatening medical care. Eventually age of majority laws and mature minor cases at the state level lowered the age at which a woman could legally receive family planning services by a doctor without her parent’s consent. These changes were driven in large part by agitation during the Vietnam War to lower the voting age (“Old enough to die, old enough to vote,” was the slogan at the time.).

Using these variations in state law and judicial rulings, Lawrence F. Katz and I were able to look at their impact on the age at first marriage and women’s careers. We find that laws allowing for greater access were strongly and positively related to the age at first marriage and strongly and positively related to the fraction of women pursuing professional careers. The availability of the Pill to young, single women does appear to have been a substantial factor in the quiet revolution.

While the Pill was an important factor; it was only one contributing factor and it functioned within a larger changing social and economic environment for young women. Labor force participation rates had already been rising for some time, although until the late 1960s young women had not built the increases into their educational investment calculus. The appearance of the Pill may have enabled young women to view early investments in time-intensive careers as less risky. The resurgence of feminism may have awakened young women to the social changes around them and also contributed to their use of the Pill. Anti-discrimination laws affecting hiring, promotion, and education may also have contributed, on the margin, to protect women workers and to encourage schools to admit them.

Other factors appear to have been less important. Abortion reform may have mattered somewhat, but in our statistical analysis abortion reform runs a distant second to the Pill in explaining the changes discussed above. Similarly, because women tend to marry men who are somewhat older than they are, the baby boom created a sex ratio bulge. But this does not explain much of the increase in the age at first marriage for the group of women analyzed here, nor can it explain the enormous increase in professional degrees for women.

Whatever the precise reasons, a great divide in college graduate women’s lives and employment occurred about 35 years ago. Before this change, women who reached the peaks made solo climbs. They became symbols and tokens demonstrating that women could achieve greatness. But real change demanded a march by the masses from the valley to the summit. That march began with women born in the late 1940s.

Claudia Goldin is the Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University and Director of the Development of the American Economy Program, National Bureau of Economic Research.
Leslie Bennetts lives in New York City with her husband and two children. She is a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* and a former reporter for the *New York Times*.

Bennetts' thesis is that women who give up careers for motherhood are giving up too much. Many of her examples are east coast, Ivy League law school graduates. In reality, most women are not in the position of earning a degree from an Ivy League college and marrying a fellow graduate who goes on to earn a seven figure annual income. Relating to women who maintain elegant suburban homes, lead an active social life, shepherd their children from expensive private schools to a full schedule of after school activities, and bake the most exquisitely decorated cupcakes for school parties poses some difficulties. These women were financially dependent and had demanding homemaking responsibilities.

However, the consequences of those roles are ones to which all dependent partners (usually women) can relate. The woman who gives all to taking care of the children and home finds that it is not a lifelong career. When you consider that women may expect to lead active lives until they are in their 80's, more or less, the years devoted to childcare are a small part of a woman's total life span. Women who are completely dependent on their husbands for financial support are very vulnerable. The husband may die unexpectedly, lose his job, or leave. Since almost 50% of marriages end in divorce, being left to fend for one's self emotionally and economically is not a remote possibility.

Bennetts' book includes one short narrative after another but she does come out with a number of conclusions which are relevant to women generally. Her opinions are based on research that she summarizes and also documents in an extensive bibliography.

She points out that having a career has many benefits for women. It builds confidence, provides many opportunities for friendships and social contacts, extends interests beyond those related to children and homemaking, increases financial security for the family, and puts less pressure on the husband. All of these factors contribute to the working woman's emotional health. In general, studies show that working women are healthier than women who stay at home, although they may have started from the same baseline.

Bennetts writes extensively about the power of money in a relationship. She sees money frequently used by males as a control factor creating situations which increase dependency, diminish the role of the woman, and destroy egalitarian relationships.

Bennetts also addresses societal issues about which she feels women should be taking more aggressive action. One such issue is prejudice in the workplace, which can take many subtle forms. Potential employers may be calculating the likelihood of a younger woman's becoming pregnant or otherwise making personal changes that affect her availability for work. On the other hand, they tend to regard a woman of forty as old, unlike her male counterpart.

Other societal issues include working hours and childcare. The 70 hour work week, typical of some professions and typically American, is not conducive to family life or egalitarian relationships. And although research indicates that being a working mother is not incompatible with being a good mother, more and better child care facilities would make things easier for many families.

Bennetts also has considerable advice for women gleaned from her narratives.

- Establish a career when young.
- If you take a break for childcare, keep working in related areas to maintain your skills and to establish a reputation. Running the school book fair doesn't do it.
- Don't stay out of the workforce very long, for the rapid change in technology and its adoption in the workplace can make dated skills irrelevant.
- Be informed about your finances and your legal rights. States vary greatly in regard to the property rights of women.
- Some careers, for men and women, are much more compatible with family life than others. Many careers involve standard hours and benefits and company

*The opinions in these reviews are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.*
Marriage, a History

By Stephanie Coontz

The author of Marriage, a History is a historian and marriage expert who teaches at Evergreen State College. A marriage and family therapist with whom I play tennis was emphatic that Coontz is “really good”. I found her book full of interesting detail about the institution of marriage.

Until the late 18th century, “most societies around the world saw marriage as far too vital an economic and political institution to be left entirely to the free choice of two individuals...” Until recently, marriage “had as much to do with getting good in-laws and increasing one’s family labor force” as it did with finding a lifelong companion and raising children. If we picture farmers of only a hundred and fifty years ago, we can imagine our ancestors seeing the advantages of marrying into a family with good land and a talent for raising quality food. For millennia, most people on earth were farmers.

As culture “became more complex, marriage became a way for elites to hoard or accumulate resources.” In Europe, from the Middle Ages through the 18th century, “…the dowry a wife brought with her at marriage was often the biggest infusion of cash, goods or land a man would ever acquire. Finding a husband was usually the most important investment a woman could make in her economic future.”

Coontz reports that for centuries, marriage did much of the work that markets and governments do today. Think of a princess given away in marriage to people whose language she doesn’t speak, to cement political, economic or military alliances!

This book shows how in the last 200 years a “marriage revolution” has gradually changed our very concept of marriage, ending in “the transformation of marriage” at the end of the 20th century. Marriage itself has been by-passed for many reasons. “Never before in history have so many women been capable of supporting themselves and their children without a husband.” In addition, “marriage is no longer part of the credentialing process that people have to go through to gain adult responsibility and respectability.”

As culture “became more complex, marriage became a way for elites to hoard or accumulate resources.” In Europe, from the Middle Ages through the 18th century, “…the dowry a wife brought with her at marriage was often the biggest infusion of cash, goods or land a man would ever acquire. Finding a husband was usually the most important investment a woman could make in her economic future.”

The opinions in these reviews are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.
Reading List for Women’s Changing Roles and Economic Strategies

Recommended Articles

This is a short history of women’s roles and rights from 1920 when the 19th amendment to the Constitution guaranteed women the right to vote, to the end of the 20th C. Though complete equality is not yet fully realized, most women do earn a salary and are capable of leaving an unhappy marriage. The change in the relationship between men and women is one “of the most profound a society can undergo,” and continues to evolve in “every nation on the globe.”


This was prepared as testimony for the Comm. on Finance, US Senate 2001. Today, more jobs are lost and created, and more workers are displaced and reemployed than ever before. Women account for 45% of import sensitive displaced workers (compared to 37% of all manufacturing displaced workers.) Some industries displace high percentages of women: apparel, knitting mills, and footwear, for example. Women trade-displaced workers have a slightly better than 50% chance of being reemployed. Characteristics that limit reemployment of all displaced worker include: low educational attainment, advancing age (45+), high tenure, minority status, married status. With education costs climbing, new economic strategies are needed to help low income women in particular.


Overwork persists in America’s work force, largely because it is generally more profitable for firms to employ a small cadre of workers for long hours. Rising hours led to rising incomes which raised consumer norms (think of electronic equipment, large homes, travel, larger vehicles.) Most families could only realize higher spending norms by working longer hours and taking on debt. By 2002, many felt they were working too much. We Americans tend “to consume more rather than work less” as the leader in resource depletion, carbon dioxide emissions and environmental impact.


With millions of Boomers getting ready to retire, we can expect a labor shortage “that will make our heads spin.” “Employee perks, sabbaticals, flexible work hours, phased retirement, job sharing and others - will become more common,” as businesses look for ways to find and keep workers of all ages. Taylor recommends two books: After 50 It’s Up To Us: Developing the Skills and Agility We’ll Need, by George H. Scholfield. (Provides advice on “how to get from here to there.”) Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life by Marc Freedman. Freedman “presents a vision that is inherently optimistic, practical, productive and exciting.”

Recommended Books

A psychiatrist draws from case studies and research to show that both internal factors (e.g. fear that being too aggressive undermines feminity) and external factors (e.g. subtle pressures from parents, teachers, bosses) can undermine women’s pursuit of career goals. Ambitions are necessary, she says, because achieving mastery in some field and being recognized for that mastery are important for a woman’s sense of identity and happiness.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FROM

“The Quiet Revolution That Transformed Women’s Employment, Education, and Family”

By Claudia Goldin*


Campbell, Helen. Women wage-earners: Their past, their present, and their future. Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1893.


Discussion Questions

1. As a young person, what were/are your expectations for your future economic wellbeing? (career, marriage). How will things be different for your daughters, granddaughters?

2. Do you think the fact that women earn less than men is due to discrimination or other factors? (discrimination vs. human capital)

3. Given increased longevity and uncertainties in any economy (inflation, unemployment), what strategies can women use to protect themselves financially?

4. What policies (government, business) and attitudes (social) aid or hinder a woman’s pursuit of economic wellbeing?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Meetings</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, March 10, 2008</strong></td>
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<td><strong>First Hill</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Issaquah Evening</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Capitol Hill/Montlake</strong></td>
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| **Tuesday, March 11, 2008** |
| **Bellevue** | Bonnie Rimawi | BNRimawi@aol.com | 10:00 a.m. | Bellevue Library |
| | JoAnne Way | waytandj@comcast.net | | Room 6 |
| **North End Aft.** | CoraLea Doty | clnjdoty@earthlink.net | 12:30 p.m. | Maxine Asmussen |
| | | | | 13728 Meridian Ave N |
| **West Seattle Day** | Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis | terrylucy2u@comcast.net | 12:30 p.m. | Anne Bowden |
| | | | | The Kenney |
| | | | | 7125 Fauntleroy SW |
| **West Seattle Eve** | JoAnne McGaw | N/A | 7:00 p.m. | Pat Lane |
| | | | | 2414 Prescott Ave SW |

| **Wednesday, March 12, 2008** |
| **View Ridge** | Marcia Brown | marciajobebrown@hotmail.com | 12:45 p.m. | Gail Winberg |
| | Elaine Birm | mbirn@verizon.net | | 6004 NE 60th |
| **Magnolia/Queen Anne/Ballard Eve** | Elsie Simon | elsiesimon@comcast.net | 7:30 p.m. | Barbara Reid |
| | | | | 316 NE 54th St (Greenlake) |

| **Thursday, March 13, 2008** |
| **Mercer Island** | Martha Jordan | marty4lwv@yahoo.com | 9:15 a.m. | Kitty Mahon |
| | | | | 13720 SE Somerset Blvd |
| **Issaquah** | Margaret Austin | Margaret.Austin@comcast.net | 10:00 a.m. | Issaquah City Hall & Police |
| | Connie Reed | reedhtop@earthlink.net | | 130 E. Sunset Way |
| | | | | Coho Room (upstairs) |
| **Shoreline** | Juliet Beard | juliet@windermere.com | 4:30 p.m. | Richmond Beach Congregational Church |
| | | | | NW 195th St and 15th Ave NW |
| **North Central** | Jan Orlando | olanre@aol.com | 7:30 p.m. | Jan Orlando |
| | | | | 5026 36th Ave NE |

| **Monday, March 17, 2008** |
| **Kirkland/Redmond** | Patti Catalano | pattimusic@comcast.net | 7:00 p.m. | Liv Grohn |
| | | | | 338 10th Avenue, Kirkland |

| **Tuesday, March 18, 2008** |
| **Pioneer Square** | Pat Cleary | patiquah@msn.com | 5:30 p.m. | Zeitgeist Coffee |
| | | | | 174 So. Jackson St |

| **Saturday, March 22, 2007** |
| **Ballard/Queen Anne/Magnolia Day** | Judy Ostrow | 2jostrow@comcast.net | 10:00 a.m. | Ballard Library |
| | Alice Peterson | peterson-alice-jack@msn.com | | 5614 22nd Ave NW |
### Board & Committee Contacts

#### Executive Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007–2009</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Denise D. Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@seattlelwv.org">president@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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#### Directors

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007–2008</td>
<td>Voter Service</td>
<td>Victoria Bennett</td>
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#### Education Fund Board

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007–2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007–2009</td>
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#### Voter Service

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
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#### Study & Action Committees

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civics Education</td>
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* Indicates LWVS Board Representative on the Education Fund Board
March Forum: Women’s Changing Roles and Economic Survival

Thursday, March 6, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Get to Know League Dinner at 5:30

Location
St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church (see map page 8) 148th Ave SE, Bellevue

Speakers
Elaina Rose, Associate Professor in Economics specializing in labor and gender, University of Washington

All forums are free and open to the public.