



# *League Lines*

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

## The Supreme Court and the Right to Privacy

On Wednesday, April 9, CSU Political Science professor, **Courtenay Daum**, will review some of the right to privacy decisions deliberated by the Supreme Court over the years and lead us in a discussion about whether or not right to privacy is constitutionally protected, and how the Supreme Court figures out whether a law goes too far in depriving a person of his or her right to privacy. The program will be at the **Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 W. Prospect, Fort Collins, from 7 to 9 p.m.**

What is a "fundamental right?" Is "right to privacy" constitutionally protected? How has the Supreme Court answered these controversial questions?

These are not abstract considerations. If we ask you about personal privacy, most of you will see it as a top priority and a fundamental right. But over the years, Supreme Court Justices, as well as the public, have argued this question. Some say the Constitution does not strictly mention privacy rights as a fundamental right, and these people believe that these rights were "invented" by the Supreme Court in the 1960s and 1970s and thus not valid.

Others quote the Ninth and the Fourteenth Amendments, which they feel protect rights which are not specifically enumerated in the Constitution but have become part of a wide-ranging public understanding and retain public support over the years.

These rights are not insignificant and include a broad range of issues: parental rights, reproductive rights, right to refuse unwanted medical treatment, right to sexual privacy, right to marry (gender, race, mentally retarded, etc.), among others.

What has been the history of Supreme Court decisions regarding right to privacy? What has been the thinking of Supreme Court Justices about right to privacy issues? Come to an informative talk by Professor Daum on April 9 and join in the discussion about this contentious civil liberties issue.

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### Join the Trek!

Some spots are still available for the April 26, 2008 tour of Hermit Park. Larimer County is offering our League members and friends a chance for a guided tour of the area right before it opens for the summer season. Call or email Carol Rush, 667-5077 or [crush@frii.com](mailto:crush@frii.com), if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

### Not a Yak Herder?

Do something good for the environment anyway by visiting our League Web Shop. Go to [www.lwv-larimercounty.org](http://www.lwv-larimercounty.org); click "Support LWV" at the bottom left; and then click "Visit Our Green Web Shop by Clicking Here."

## Great Decisions

*What factors have prevented the U.S. and Latin American countries from forging a strong relationship? What challenges confront U.S. policy in Latin America? Can the U.S. offer an alternative to the influence of left-leaning leaders like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez?*

Great Decisions will focus on Latin America on Monday, April 7. All meetings are held at Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Collins from 11:30 to 1:30, and guests always welcome. (Check for signs when you enter the building as the meeting room might be changed.)

The May meeting will be on the 5th when we will discuss "Philanthropy." *Can private donors be more effective than governments in tackling world problems?* Contact Kay Easley for further information: 282-0135; [easleykw@aol.com](mailto:easleykw@aol.com).

## How to Print the Newsletter (please read all of these instructions before proceeding)

- (1) Open the newsletter file you received as an attachment, or download the newsletter from our website at [www.lwv-larimercounty.org](http://www.lwv-larimercounty.org).
- (2) Select "File" from the menu at the top of the screen.
- (3) Selected "Print" from the dropdown menu. A window that says "Print" at the top should appear.
- (4) Find "Print Range" on that window. You can select from "All," "Current Page," or "Pages." Click on the dot next to the command you wish to give. For instance, if you only want pages 5 through 8, click on the dot next to "Pages." Then insert the page numbers you would like to print. If you want to print your newsletter in color, just click "OK" and you are done. However,
- (5) if you do not want to print the pages in color and would prefer printing them in black and white, do not click "OK" yet. Instead, go back toward the top right of the window and click "Properties." From the window that appears, select the file tab that says "Paper/Quality." Go down to "Color" and click on the dot marked "Black and White." Then click OK. It will take you back to the print screen. Click "OK" and away you go!

### Membership Corner

*Welcome to these new members.....*

After some years in Arizona, **Joyce DeVaney** recently returned to Colorado which she considers to be her home, and chose Fort Collins as an ideal place to settle after her successful career in public health. Her passion is "improving health care for the underserved". Joyce grew up in Wisconsin where she graduated from the University. (She is still a Green Bay Packers fan.) From Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Joyce has a MPH, a master's degree in public health. While living in Lakewood and Wheatridge from 1989, Joyce took a position as Regional Director for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Joyce joined the LWV because she is "impressed by the people and the mission of the League". She has joined the health care team, a natural fit, given her concern and skills.

New members **Mark and Joan Shaffer** are relative newlyweds, marrying in October 2005 and moving to Loveland later that year. Mark is a graduate of Loyola Law School in New Orleans and practiced law in Washington D.C. before moving to CO in 2000. Joan is from California, worked at Cornell University in N.Y. and also, since 1994, at CU in Boulder. She has been a non-profit administrator and is now managing Mark's office. Mark and Joan met during Howard Dean's campaign for president and are founders of Democracy for Colorado. They both have a great interest in politics, like to hike and read. Mark has been aware of the League of Women Voters for a long time and their interests in League include election reform, campaign finance reform and process, and civil liberties.

### Policies Clarified

Throughout the year, but especially this election year, many of our League members are involved in campaigning for various causes, issues, and candidates. That is just the kind of activity expected of Leaguers who are vital members of the community. If you have flyers or publicity you would like to make available to others at our general meetings, or if you have a petition you would like people to sign, please display them at the special table we will set up for this type of activity just outside the room where we are meeting or at an inside table if no spot outside is available. Our meeting room and our agenda are reserved for the League business at hand. We do not advocate or publicize for other causes or groups unless that particular issue has been formally adopted as League policy or unless we have entered into a collaborative relationship with that group.



The Administrative Team has adopted the following policy relating to news from outside groups:

Any announcements from outside groups should come through a team leader or someone who has worked closely with the League. The newsletter editor will be sure that

- ◆ the announcement is on behalf of a team and
- ◆ the announcement gives only the necessary information (i.e., that the announcement is as brief as possible).

If the newsletter editor is unsure about the suitability of an announcement, she will ask for the approval of the entire Administrative Team (meaning that it needs to be approved by a majority [5/9] of the Admin Team members) before running the announcement.

The next Growth Team meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8 at 1:00 pm at the home of Georgia Locker, 713 Duke Square. Phone is 482-4875. All are welcome.

### Civil Liberties Reading Group

The Civil Liberties Reading Group had our second meeting on March 18. We are continuing with our discussion of "The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court" by Jeffrey Toobin. The group plans to finish reading and discussing the book in May, and we are already searching for our next project.

The group meets every third Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to about 3:00. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday at April 15 at the home of Mary Jo Shafer (717 Cherokee Drive, Fort Collins). Anyone interested should contact Linda Hutchinson (667-9214; [lindahutchinson@frii.com](mailto:lindahutchinson@frii.com)).

### PBS Series "The Supreme Court"

PBS is presenting a series called "The Supreme Court." The first episode is called "One Nation Under Law." It will examine the creation of the court and follows it through the brink of the Civil War. It will be on April 3 at 8 PM.

The second episode is called "A New Kind of Justice." This episode explores the issues before the court after the Civil War, as corporations become more powerful. This one will be on April 10 at 8 PM.

The third episode is called "A Nation of Liberties." It will focus on the court's reaction to state and federal legislation on Bill of Rights freedoms, and will be on April 17 at 8 PM.

The fourth episode is called "The Rehnquist Revolution" and investigates how the court became responsible for resolving the central questions of American life. It is on April 24 at 8 PM.

The Larimer County Courts Study Team will have its first meeting on Friday, April 4, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Sidna Rachid, 1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins (377-9568). League members interested in helping to gather information about the Larimer County courts (8th Judicial District) are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Florence Field, [fnfield@comcast.net](mailto:fnfield@comcast.net)

### LWV-Larimer County Local Convention and "Treasure Tables"

The LWV of Larimer County will hold its Local Convention (Annual Meeting) on Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 9 pm at the Plymouth Congregational Church (916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins). The evening's fun will include treasure tables, an introduction to the year's new members, a presentation by Linda Mahan on her exciting year in India/Tibet, dinner, and business of course.

Dinner will be a potluck. You can either bring a salad, bread, or dessert, or pay \$6.00. If you can come please contact **Emily Krause** at 493-7095 by: **Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> with your dinner reservation.**

This edition of the newsletter is accompanied by a packet with all the information you need for the meeting. Please bring it with you. Also, if you have something (used but nice) that you would like to donate to our Treasure Tables, please bring it to the meeting at 5:30. There will be a \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10 and "As Priced" table. Household items, baked goods, plants, books, DVD's, tapes - anything you think a fellow leaguer might treasure is perfect to bring. For further information, please contact Linda Hutchinson (667-9214 or [lindahutchinson@frii.com](mailto:lindahutchinson@frii.com)).

Don't miss this great opportunity to meet friends, and influence the future direction of our League, and don't forget to bring your "treasures" and your packet.



### VOTER SERVICE

The Voter Service Team will meet on Wednesday, April 9, at 2:00 pm, at the home of Gerry Lake (939 Travis Road in Ft. Collins). The team continues to refine its procedures, so this is a great time for anyone to join! You'll never be asked to volunteer for a task without preparation and HELP. To reach Gerry's house, take Shields north out of Ft. Collins until it ends. Turn right and go to the first driveway. Gerry's phone number is 472-9771, in case you get lost and need better directions.

**Thank You** to **Mary Lou Linton** for coordinating the April 14 candidate forum for the North Larimer County Health District and to **Judy Siple Bushnell** for organizing the distribution of *Your Voice, Your Vote*.

## Convention Line-Up

May and June feature a series of local, state, and national conventions for League members. They start off with our own Annual Convention scheduled for May 12 here in Fort Collins (read more about it in a separate article), followed by the State Council in Durango on May 16 and 17, the National Convention in Portland June 13 to 17, and then the Leadership Retreat in Frisco June 20 and 21.

Our delegates to the State Council are Linda Mahan and Carol Rush, and we can take more people if any of you are interested. Our National delegates are Linda Mahan and Judy Bushnell. The Leadership Retreat affords a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how the League is organized and gain some leadership tips. Anyone who would like to take part in this is urged to call Jodie Rankin or Carol Rush to let them know of your interest.

### LWVLC Scheduled for Provider Fair

The LWVLC has been invited by Poudre School District to take part in its "Strengthening Civic Education" conference scheduled for April 22 and 23. This conference, primarily funded by the Colorado Department of Education, is designed to provide district educators with professional development related to best practices in civic education. Our small but important part will be to join other organizations during the noon hour on April 22 at a "Civic Education Provider Fair" where we will have our own booth and be able to talk to conference participants about the many ways that LWV reaches out to the community to help citizens become active and educated participants in government. If you would like to help plan for this event please contact Carol Rush at [crush@frii.com](mailto:crush@frii.com) or 667-5077.

### "Nickel and Dimed" Nets Much More

A total of 66 League members came together on March 7 to watch Joan Holden's play "Nickel and Dimed" as presented by Open Stage Theatre in Fort Collins. The play was a hard-hitting view of life for those who work for minimum wages in the United States, who work hard but are still living on the edge of financial calamity. Those who attended, as those who read the book by Barbara Ehrenreich, came away with a feeling of concern for these groups of people. The bright spot was that our League made a profit of \$528 from sales of tickets and another \$20 in donation to clear \$548 on the play. Many thanks to all of you who took part in this project.

## Administrative Team

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**Calendar of Events**

**April 2008**

Thursday, April 3 Noon-3	Admin Team meeting Mary Jo Shafer's (717 Cherokee Drive, Fort Collins)	
Friday, April 4 1:30	Larimer County Courts Study Team Sidna Rachid's (1002 Alexa Court, Fort Collins)	
Monday, April 7 11:30 to 1:30	Great Decisions: Latin America Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins	
Tuesday, April 8 1:00	Growth Team meeting Georgia Locker's (713 Duke Square, Fort Collins)	
Wednesday, April 9 2:00	Voter Service Team meeting Gerry Lake's (939 Travis Road, Fort Collins)	
Wednesday, April 9 7 to 9 pm	Professor Courtenay Daum will speak on the Supreme Court and the Right to Privacy Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins	
Saturday, April 26	Hermit Park Tour (call or email Carol Rush at 667-5077 or <a href="mailto:crush@frii.com">crush@frii.com</a> to make a reservation)	
<i>Coming in May</i>		
Monday, May 7	Great Decisions: Philanthropy	
Monday, May 12	Local Convention	
Friday/Saturday May 16/17	State Council Durango	



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

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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.