



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF EVANSTON

# THE INTERCOM

MARCH – APRIL 2015

## LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING & ANNUAL PHON-A-THON

– by Jennifer O’Neil

It’s that time of year again! Each local League annually defines its own program, based on issues its members choose. It’s a time to brainstorm about focus and develop for the year ahead. The result of our planning process might include conducting research, presenting educational programs, sending letters to elected officials, working with governmental bodies, organizing or joining rallies, initiating e-mail campaigns, undertaking in-depth studies, and/or other forms of learning, teaching, and advocating. We will vote at the Annual Meeting in May on the Local Program Plan for the 2015-2016 LWVE year.

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, we voted to focus on the following issues in the 2014-2015 year:

- Actively participate in LWVIL study on Charter Schools.
- Support Evanston’s “Climate Action Campaign” to reduce Evanston’s greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2016.
- Create a fact-finding task force to review the City of Evanston’s efforts in the area of economic development.
- Support, to the degree possible, passage of two referenda slated for the November 2014 ballot, should they be included: Yes! for Independent Maps, and GRIT (Graduated Rate Income Tax Amendment).



### HELP US SELECT THE 2015-2016 LOCAL PROGRAM

**Event:** All-Member Meeting  
**Date:** SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
**Location:** 9542 Harding, Evanston  
**RSVP by 3/11:** Jennifer O’Neil, 847-674-1873 or [jenoneil2@gmail.com](mailto:jenoneil2@gmail.com)

### FOLLOWED BY OUR ANNUAL LWVIL PHON-A-THON

Would you like to help the LWVE & the LWVIL financially without spending a \$\$ of your own?

- Are you comfortable with talking on the phone?
- Are you available from 3:30-5 PM on Saturday, March 14? (Immediately after Program Planning at the same location.)

If so, please join us for the annual LWVIL PHONATHON. It’s a major fund-raiser for the state League, and a percentage of all money collected will be returned to the Evanston League. We’ll call only persons who have contributed in previous years. The more callers we provide, the bigger the percentage of \$\$ to us.

If you would like to join us, please contact Karen Telser, 847-866-8466 or [kftelser@att.net](mailto:kftelser@att.net). We’ll make calls using our own cell phones.

### JOIN US FOR BOTH EVENTS!

**HOW A LOCAL PROGRAM IS SELECTED.** The entire membership is invited to attend a program planning meeting to brainstorm, discuss, and select issues on which to focus over the coming year. As part of the process, issues pending in the City of Evanston and in Springfield are summarized and positions currently held by the Evanston League, the Illinois League, and the national League are reviewed.

### THE PROGRAM-PLANNING MEETING IS ONE OF THE MOST ENERGIZING AND RELEVANT EVENTS OF THE LEAGUE YEAR.

From past experience we have learned that it is best to select no more than a few issues. The issues selected should be timely, high priority, and feasible for our membership to tackle. Any issues we choose to focus on must be in support of existing League positions. (A new position can be developed over the LWVE year, but only if a sufficient number of members are committed to undertaking a thorough study of the issue, to presenting it to the membership at large, and to leading the membership through the consensus process.) Studies do incur expenses, so funding is usually a consideration.



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Friends,

I am writing to you from New Delhi where League member and Evanston History Center archivist Lori Osborne and I have been traveling for the past two-and-a-half weeks. To say it has been an interesting trip is a vast understatement, as every observation about India requires the biggest adjectives and the most extreme superlatives. The purpose of our trip revolved around questions about women's rights and roles in India, as scholars, writers, researchers, organizers and members of organizations.



Lori Osborne with Ms. Nabaneeta and students at the Molarbund School.

We attended the 11th annual Jaipur Literature Festival. It is held in an 18th century palace converted into a hotel with extensive grounds so that five venues, each seating 500 or more, could be created on the lawns and in two indoor halls. We sat in on several sessions sponsored by UN Women—the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org). We heard women writers talking about how women's voices are heard and represented in literature today. One scholar, studying ancient Greek and Indian mythology, noted that women's lives have traditionally been valued less than men's in ancient and modern literature.

During our stay President Obama came to India as the honored, chief guest for Republic Day, celebrating the day on which India's constitution was signed. The visit attracted a huge amount of media attention and we read and saw daily coverage about the new "best friends" and the progress made on several diplomatic and policy fronts, including nuclear disarmament.

On January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a campaign "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao," (Save Daughters, Teach Daughters) to raise public awareness of the banned practice of "female foeticide," by which sonograms are used to identify and then abort female fetuses in utero, or newborn girl babies are abandoned to die. The ratio of girls to boys is as low as 837 to 1000 in some places in India with the national average being 918 girls to 1000 boys. (In the U.S. the ratio is almost exactly even.) Modi said there would be a "terrible crisis" soon if the imbalance is not corrected. The plan has numerous goals and action plans for correcting the problem.

This campaign is coupled with one where special bank regulations have been created to allow savings accounts to be opened for girl children with a minimum deposit and a guaranteed 9% interest. The girl can use the funds for education and keep the account until she turns 21.

This radical governmental approach to correcting a deeply entrenched problem was coupled with our visit to the slum resettlement school in Molarbund. This school is run almost entirely by volunteers associated with the non-profit Arpana Trust, giving instruction in all school subjects, supplementing the half-day public education. There are 350 children in the pre-school and kindergarten session and 550 girls and 450 boys who come separately, morning and afternoon, as their public school is also just half a day. Ms. Nabaneeta, who hosted us, gave a thorough description of their curriculum, their life skills courses and the success

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## League of Women Voters® of Evanston

2100 Ridge Ave Evanston, IL 60201

847-859-7883 [LWVEvanston@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEvanston@gmail.com)

Web Site: [www.lwve.org](http://www.lwve.org)

### 2014-2015 ELECTED OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Cate Whitcomb
<b>VP Membership</b>	Casey Christensen
<b>Treasurer</b>	Betty Hayford
<b>Secretary</b>	Joan Lakebrink

### 2014-2015 ELECTED DIRECTORS

#### Local Government – Observer Corps

Jessie Feldman

#### Voter Service – Registration

Mary Morris

#### Voter Service – Forums

Jennifer O'Neil

#### Development Chair

Karen Hunt

#### Members at Large

Gloria Callaci Ellen Browne

#### Nominating Committee Chair

Cheryl Wollin

### OFF-BOARD APPOINTMENTS

**Webmaster** Mary Lewis

#### Intercom Newsletter

Helen Gagel Julie Winsberg

#### Office Coordinator

Katy Compere Pendleton

### THE INTERCOM

March –April 2015

THE INTERCOM is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters® of Evanston

## MISSION STATEMENT



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.



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ON FACEBOOK**



# LAUGH ALONG WITH THE LEAGUE AT THE LWV EDUCATION FUND DINNER

## SATURDAY, APRIL 11

### UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EVANSTON

1330 Ridge Avenue | Catering by Hel's Kitchen

6:00 pm Reception | 6:45 pm Dinner & Entertainment

**JOIN US** for a departure from tradition as we visit the lighter side of politics and civic engagement with

#### ILLINOIS SENATE PRESIDENT JOHN CULLERTON

*What's so funny about state government?*

His standup routine will tell you!

#### EVANSTON'S MUDLARK THEATER COMPANY

will take a look at the lighter side of local government through the eyes of tomorrow's voters.

**Mee-OW**, Northwestern's acclaimed student improv group, will focus their satirical lens on today's political scene.

Celebrate and support the League's voter service and educational activities. This is a great opportunity to introduce friends and family to the League, or sponsor an Emerging Leader. Our incentive to do that:

Regular Ticket price LWV Members/Supporters: \$125

Guest Tickets (non-League members): \$100

All but \$20 of each ticket price is tax-deductible.

Please consider sponsoring students, service group members, and other community leaders who are eager to know more about the League. or ask us to invite them on your behalf.

Please note: Invitations to this biennial event were mailed March 5. If you didn't receive yours, please contact Helen or Patrick, ASAP, or you can purchase your tickets online at [www.lwve.org](http://www.lwve.org)

**ARE YOU A BAKER?** We need donations of desserts (finger-food only, please!) Contact Cheryl Wollin for details. 847-864-2309; [cherylwollin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cherylwollin@sbcglobal.net)

Co-chairs: **Helen Gagel** [hcgagel@comcast.net](mailto:hcgagel@comcast.net) or 847-275-0326 & **Patrick Keenan-Devlin** [keenan-devlin@gmail.com](mailto:keenan-devlin@gmail.com) or 312-401-5829

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO LAUGHING WITH YOU!**



## TONI PRECKWINKLE TO HEADLINE CCLWV ANNUAL MEETING



by Betty Hayford

**The League of Women Voters of Cook County will hold its annual meeting on Monday, May 11 at the University Center, 525 South State Street, in Chicago.** All members of the Evanston League are also members of the Cook County League, and are invited to attend the meeting and learn more about our efforts to make Cook County government more effective.

County Board President Toni Preckwinkle makes a return visit to the annual meeting. She spoke to us four years ago, shortly after she took office. This year she will review her achievements and her plans for her second term.

The meeting begins at 9:30 am and will conclude at 1:00 pm after lunch and President Preckwinkle's talk. The business meeting will include election of officers and directors, approval of the 2015-2016 budget, and review of activities of the past year. As usual, a Silent Auction will be held.

League officers will report on their increased attention to the processes of County government. Observing County Board meetings and budget meetings has provided insights into the importance of Board rules and the need for sufficient public notice for substitute resolutions, ordinances or amendments. League representatives have testified at Board meetings on issues of

transparency and accountability, and members of the Budget and Structure Interest Group will be meeting with Commissioners to discuss their goals for the County Board and expectations for the function of Board committees.

Several LWV Interest Groups will report on their reviews of key County government functions. One group has studied the STAR performance management system instituted by President Preckwinkle in 2011 to improve the service and efficiency of County operations. The Criminal Justice Issues Group will outline the results of its interviews with officials in the Criminal Justice system and independent organizations and experts. Initial investigations into ways to reduce the number of inmates in Cook County Jail have revealed complex connections among operations of the Bond Courts, alternatives to traditional bail, diversion programs, electronic monitoring, training of judges and tools for risk assessment.

The range of activities and Observer Reports of the Cook County League can be viewed on the League website at [cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](http://cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org). The CCLWV Board has instituted a new communications policy and launched Facebook and Twitter accounts. These social media venues create visibility and opportunities for a broader public to keep abreast of county government issues.

The University Center is accessible on the CTA and has lots of nearby parking. Please consider coming to the meeting and getting more involved in the Cook County League. Betty Hayford [ehayford@gmail.com](mailto:ehayford@gmail.com) or Karen Hunt [khunt@firstbt.com](mailto:khunt@firstbt.com) would be glad to provide more information.

# LUNCHEON SPEAKERS ADDRESS POLITICAL & COMMUNITY THEATER

– by Betty Hayford

## POLITICAL THEATER: LOOKING AHEAD TO 2016

On January 19, Jim Kenney, Executive Director of Common Ground, gave League members wide-ranging analyses and projections for the political environment in 2015, and made predictions for key factors in the 2016 election.

Before looking into the future, Jim explained that although the Republicans made significant gains in Congress and in state elections in November 2014, he would not call it a “wave” election. Republican additions in the House and the Senate will not change the stalemate in Washington while President Obama maintains veto power. He suggested that the media have given excessive coverage to Republican gains in Congress and have not paid sufficient attention to the increasing Republican strength in governorships and state legislatures.

The characteristically low turnout for mid-term elections was a primary cause of Democratic losses. This was exacerbated by the president’s low favorability ratings, which inhibited his ability to effectively help local candidates. Republican victories were further facilitated by the party’s ability to keep weak or extremist candidates off the ballot.

In spite of 2014 Republican victories, Kenney believes the Democrats have a good chance of retaining the presidency in 2016. The Republicans are weak nationally because they have been unable to expand their base beyond the core white, male, older, rural, conservative voter. The party appears to be hardening its anti-immigrant positions which make it unappealing to the growing number of Latino voters.

Kenney pointed out that President Obama’s favorable ratings have increased significantly in recent months, and will probably continue to rise as the economy strengthens and he becomes more active in laying out proposals to reduce economic inequality. Even if Obama has no success in implementing tax or employment reforms, his ideas will be an attractive platform for the 2016 Democratic nominee. Kenney believes the successes of the Affordable Care Act will be more widely recognized, and Republican efforts to repeal it will fade and be replaced with small steps to limit its impact.

For 2016, Kenney predicts that Elizabeth Warren will campaign for a strong progressive platform but will conclude that she can be more effective in the Senate and will not run for President. Hillary Clinton continues to be the most viable candidate. On the Republican side he anticipates a wide-open primary campaign with multiple candidates from Congress, governor’s offices and elsewhere, and an uphill battle for whoever emerges as the nominee.

Finally, Jim suggested two web sites for more insights into the coming political battles:

**“538”** [fivethirtyeight.com](http://fivethirtyeight.com) This features Nate Silver, Mona Chalabi, and others.

## “Sabato’s Crystal Ball” [centerforpolitics.org/crystalball](http://centerforpolitics.org/crystalball)

A comprehensive website run by the University of Virginia’s Center for Politics, Sabato’s Crystal Ball features detailed and frequently updated analysis for elections across the country.

## COMMUNITY THEATER: FLEETWOOD-JOURDAIN BRINGS DRAMA TO EVANSTON



Back Row L-R: Cate Whitcomb, Gloria Callaci, Betty Hayford, Chuck Hayford. Front Row L-R: Karen Vroegh, Cheryl Wollin, Jessie Feldman, Theresa Cameron, Tim Rhoze, Gerri Sizemore, Joan Lakebrink, Elizabeth Kinney. Very front: Katy Pendleton

On a very cold Thursday in February, we learned many interesting facts about the Fleetwood-Jourdain Theater from its Artistic Director, Tim Rhoze. This professional theater, sponsored by the City of Evanston, is committed to diversity and excellence. Its performances take place at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center.

Rhoze, a long time Evanston resident, found his passion for the theater through his father who was an actor, in addition to working for the USPS. His dad had him read all the parts of the play that he was rehearsing except his own. After a while, Rhoze gave up trying to become an engineer and focused on the theater. He has had an extensive career in the theater as both an actor and as a director. Most recently, he appeared in “Airport Highway” at Steppenwolf Theater and will be going with the production to New York in the spring.

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theater was started in 1979 by a retired drama teacher. According to Rhoze, the City of Evanston and its residents have made sure the theatre has the financial support needed for its productions and programs. The staff, including the actors, actresses, stage hands, set designers, etc., are all paid. Its productions draw a diverse audience.

The 2015 season will include three main stage performances and two concerts. The plays are: **“Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis, Jr. Story”** by Tim Rhoze,; **“The Vagina Monologues”** by Eve Ensler and **“Maya’s Last Poem”** by Tim Rhoze (world premiere). The concerts are **“Old School R & B”** on August 27

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# OBSERVER CORPS: EYES AND EARS OF THE LEAGUE

by Jessie Feldman and Betty Hayford



Central to the mission of the League of Women Voters is working to create informed and engaged citizens. To that end, knowledge about how government works and what government does is key. In the Evanston League, the Observer Corps serves as eyes and ears of the membership, attending meetings of city government bodies and providing summaries of actions taken and alerts to issues that might warrant more league attention.

City Council is a primary focus for the Observer Corps. The 9-member council meets two or three times a month to consider and vote on measures that may be as routine as city maintenance and operations, or may reflect broad community concerns such as the future of the lakefront Harley Clarke mansion or plans to expand the bike paths. Council standing committees, including Administration and Public Works, Planning and Development, Human Services and Rules, may be even more important because they incorporate broader discussion, both among the aldermen and between aldermen and citizens who come to influence the debate and the decision.

The League also observes several of the more than 30 committees, boards and commissions made up of Evanston residents to provide Council with varied and expert perspectives. Interest in the Economic Development Committee, made up of aldermen, city staff and citizens, has grown in the past year as the City has revised its policies and created a program of grants and loans to attract, retain and support a vibrant Evanston economy. Another area of interest is the Mental Health Board, which allocates City funds to local social service agencies, choices that have long been concerns of the League.

LWVE Observers write reports on each meeting they attend, which are circulated to members of the Local Government group and posted on the League web site for members to review. Summaries of Observer Reports used to be included in the Intercom, but have been discontinued because there are so many other sites that provide coverage. Best are the daily reports of City News and Council and other meetings in the on-line publication *Evanston Now*. *The Evanston Roundtable* is a print publication printed every other Thursday with strong and well balanced coverage of City Council and other important meetings. *Evanston Review*, published weekly, does not have as much coverage of Evanston government, but the articles it does offer are reliable and often thorough.

The City distributes a great deal of information on its web site, including agendas, minutes and meeting packets for council and committees. On the City Manager's home page (in the Government section) a viewer can link to a City Manager's Weekly Report that summarizes activities of city departments, City Council and committees, including the number and topic of the calls or emails to the 311 number. The business section of the City home page provides an extensive array of economic development

## JAN OTWELL REMEMBRANCE



Former LWV-Illinois President Jan Otwell died on Monday, February 23. We will remember Jan's many contributions to the League and to the State of Illinois in our next issue, and at the LWVE annual meeting in May. In addition to her

League work, Jan's career in public service included 7 years as Director of the Illinois Department on Aging; Midwest Director of AARP; Task Force on the Future of Illinois, and the White House Conference on Families. After "retiring" with her husband Ralph to Presbyterian Homes, Jan joined the Evanston League's local government committee and the observer corps. Intercom readers will recall her cogent and perceptive reports on Evanston City Council meetings.

**A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 18 at 10:30 am with reception to follow at the Alice Millar Chapel on the Northwestern University campus.**

League members who wish to share their experiences working with Jan should send them to Helen Gagel [hcgagel@comcast.net](mailto:hcgagel@comcast.net) by April 15.

information, including quarterly reports of business openings and closings, City grants and loans to businesses, and the current status of past grants and loans. The City sends out regular email newsletters in several areas of interest, as well as schedules of activities and programs. Individuals can follow personal interests by subscribing through the E-News function on the City website. All Evanston League members are urged to check these websites regularly.

City Council and some committees are currently broadcast live and archived on ECTV, Channel 16. City news can also be followed on the City's YouTube and Facebook pages.

Vast amounts of information are more easily available than in the past, and Evanston has won recognition for transparency from national organizations. This transparency is partly the result of greater availability and ease of access of electronic publications, but the League deserves some of the credit because city officials and council members have noticed the presence of League observers and the concern of the League for visibility and accountability in government. **Our concern has extended to regular reminders to Aldermen to use the microphones that enable them to be heard by citizens attending their meetings!**

More eyes and ears are always needed to observe this interesting and complex community. League members who would like to join the Observer Corps and the discussions of the Local Government group are welcome. For more information, please contact Jessie Feldman [jessie23tf@gmail.com](mailto:jessie23tf@gmail.com) or Cate Whitcomb [lwvepresident@gmail.com](mailto:lwvepresident@gmail.com).



**Knowledge  
to Action**  
*The League, Media and You*

## CONVENTION 2015

Plans are underway for the 2015 League of Women Voters of Illinois convention taking place at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton Hotel. Between now and the June convention, the LWVIL Board and convention committee will be sending reminders, updates and information upon which we will be asking local leagues to take action.

**2015 AWARDS** Please take a few minutes to think of all the things your League has accomplished during the last two years: a forum, program, event or project that was noteworthy. Please consider nominating your local league in either the Spotlight on League Achievement or Community Impact category. We all know many wonderful League Leaders that should be honored. Nominate one (or some!) of them for the Carrie Chapman Catt award.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS** Article XIV of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois requires proposals for bylaw amendments to be submitted at least two months before the convention. The current Bylaws can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/log5kez>.

The State Board, as required, will e-mail all proposed amendments with recommendations to Local League Leaders in the May 2015 Leaders Update.

Please indicate which article and section of the Bylaws you wish to amend, the exact wording you propose and a one-two sentence rationale for recommending the amendment. Please underline the proposed wording and put in parentheses the wording you want dropped.

Please contact the office or Mary Schaafsma, League of Women Voters of Illinois, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 525, Chicago, Illinois 60604, or call 312.939.5935, or e-mail to [marys@lwwil.org](mailto:marys@lwwil.org) to receive the required form.



### LWVE CAN SEND 6 DELEGATES TO THE STATE CONVENTION!

If you are interested in representing our League, please contact Cate Whitcomb at [lwvepresident@gmail.com](mailto:lwvepresident@gmail.com)

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## LWVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, March 11**

**1:00 pm ~ LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING**

**3:30 pm ~ LWV PHON-A-THON**

Events hosted by Jennifer O'Neil. Details on page 1.

**Saturday, April 11 ~ 6:00 pm**

**EDUCATION FUND DINNER**

**LAUGH ALONG WITH THE LEAGUE**

Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Avenue

Details on page 3.

**Sunday, April 12 ~ 3:00-5:00 pm**

**STORM WATER FROM THE GROUND UP**

*Joint presentation of LWVIL & LWVE*

Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street, Skokie

**Thursday, April 23 ~ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**CURBING YOUTH VIOLENCE IN EVANSTON**

**Panel Discussion**

Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave, Locust Room

**Monday, May 11 ~ 9:30 am**

**LWV OF COOK COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING**

University Center, 525 South State Street, Chicago

Meeting, followed by lunch & presentation.

**Thursday, May 21 ~ 5:30 pm**

**LWVE ANNUAL MEETING**

King Home, 1555 Oak Avenue

**WomanLore** will present *Mother Jones, The*

*March of the Mill Children*

For more information **847-859-7883**

or [www.LWVE.org](http://www.LWVE.org) and click on link to Calendar



## BUCKING A TREND: LWVE MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING!

I want to thank everyone once again for renewing your membership. We ended the year with 171 members!

I am proud to say that our League is growing at a time when many other Leagues are struggling to increase their membership. I think this is a reflection of the dedication of our

members. We will have a membership table at our Ed Fund dinner on April 11. I do need volunteers to help me staff the table. Please contact me if you can help out! Casey Christensen 847-204-4688; [casey208@gmail.com](mailto:casey208@gmail.com)

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**CONVENTION 2015 HIGHLIGHTS**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

- Two workshop tracks
- "Dine-Around" in Naperville

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

- Convention convenes
- Plenary session
- Lunch program with Ruth Conniff, editor-in-chief of The Progressive magazine
- Dinner, awards presentations, entertainment, silent auction
- LWVIL Board hospitality room

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

- Plenary and convention business
- Look for additional details and registration form in an upcoming mailing.

**CONVENTION COSTS:**

**REGISTRATION**

Delegate	\$125.00
Alternate	\$125.00
Friday afternoon workshops (2 sessions)	\$45.00
Saturday visitor	\$45.00
Sunday visitor	\$15.00

**MEAL PACKAGES**

FULL MEAL PACKAGE (Saturday lunch & dinner; Sunday breakfast)	\$105.00
Saturday Package (lunch & dinner)	\$90.00
Saturday Lunch only	\$35.00
Saturday dinner only	\$60.00

**Luncheon** continued from page 4

and "Jazz Meets the Blues" on August 28. The season closes on August 29 with a black-tie gala, "The Voices of Black Opera." See full schedule and ticket information at: [fjtheatre.com](http://fjtheatre.com).

Fleetwood-Jourdain is also the parent company for the Evanston Children's Theater and sponsors "Prime Time Players," a theater company for older residents. Additionally, it produces "pop up" theater performances at various locations, such as the beach and the Farmers Market. In addition, it does shows for young children (ages 3, 4 & 5) at the Ecology Center and sponsors acting and writing workshops for adults. It also sponsors a summer camp theater program, after school drama groups and the Young Peoples' Theater Project. Finally, the theater sponsors special events, such as the Evanston Children's Choir's performance at the City's Martin Luther King Day of Celebration. It was exciting to hear about all of the theater's programs and activities.

**President's Letter** continued from page 2

that students experience when they are offered "tuition" (tutoring) in school subjects. They have a computer lab where Aviva, an insurance company, is funding an English language instructional program from Stanford. Learning English is key, as they study only in Hindi until the end of high school but almost all college classes are in English. Nabaneeta is most concerned and focused on educating girls. Families are learning that investing in education for girls (they pay Rs. 50, about 80 cents, a month) has financial returns because it enables their daughters to get real jobs that earn substantial incomes.

Seeing the literature festival and experiencing the realities of the lives of girls and women in India increased our appreciation for our freedoms in the U.S. There are many fronts on which equality for women still needs to be move forward and we should not lose sight of what still needs to be done here. But new views and contrasts broadened and deepened our understanding and perspective.

On behalf of the girls and women of India, let us continue to educate ourselves about the status of women world-wide, *Cate*



**Home. Community. Friendships.**  
Where we live, how we live and who we share our lives with - they are all a matter of choice. Is there any reason to give up those choices as we get older? Keep your options open with North Shore Village, a member - driven organization for older adults who want to "age in place."  
Join us at an informal coffee to learn more.   
Tommi Ferguson, Executive Director  
**847-721-1413**  
[www.NorthShore-Village.org](http://www.NorthShore-Village.org)



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**HELP EVANSTON LEAGUE CONSERVE RESOURCES**

If you would prefer to receive the **INTERCOM** only on the internet, as a link to our LWVE website, please email [LWVEPresident@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEPresident@gmail.com) or call the League office at 847-859-7883 and leave a message telling us to stop sending you a printed copy. It will help us be more eco-friendly and reduce printing and mailing costs!



# League of Women Voters® of Evanston

2100 Ridge Avenue in Evanston, IL 60201

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