

The Voter of ODC



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**OUR COMMUNITY,
OUR HEALTH CARE,
OUR VOTE**

The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties and the UNC School of Social Work are sponsoring the Fall 2008 Community Education Series: *Our Community, Our Health Care, Our Vote*. Funding from the League of Women Voters of North Carolina Citizen Education Fund has made this series possible. The first three sessions took place on August 28, September 18 and September 25. There will be one more session, on Thursday night, October 30, from 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM at Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Road in Chapel Hill.

Session IV. Thursday, October 30 at 7:00 PM

How Do The Candidates Match Up?

Thomas C. Ricketts, III, Ph.D., MPH, and a panel of student health policy experts will provide the results of their analysis of the health care reform positions of all the major candidates for Governor and for President. Participants will go to the polls a few days later with a greater understanding of all candidates' health care platforms.

Dr. Ricketts is a Professor of Health Policy and Administration and Social Medicine, and the Director of the Health Policy Analysis Unit in the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a member of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and serves as an advisor to national and state health policy organizations. He is Editor of the North Carolina Medical Journal.

Our final session, like the previous sessions, is free and open to the public, but registration is required. If you have not previously registered for the series, you can register by sending an email to: brinich@email.unc.edu.

Requests to attend the sessions will be filled on a first-come, first served basis. Parking is free.

Upcoming Events

**October 16
Madison, Hamilton & the
founding of our Nation**

**October 23
The NC Constitution**

**October 30
Health Care
How do the Candidates
Match Up?**

**November 4
General Election**

EARLY VOTING BEGINS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

One-stop, early voting begins on Thursday, October 16, throughout North Carolina, with five locations in Orange County, seven in Durham County, and three in Chatham County. Call the Board of Elections (919-245-2350 in Orange, 919-560-0700 in Durham, and 919-545-8500 in Chatham) for locations and hours.

Don't forget that it is still possible to register to vote or to notify the Board of Elections of a change of address at the early voting locations. It will not be possible to register on November 4.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE



Bev Hanly, Barbara Rogers, and Anne Von Amsberg
register voters at A Southern Season

LWVODC Members Anne von Amsberg and Bercedis Peterson led voter registration drives at A Southern Season and at Duke Hospitals in August and September.

At A Southern Season, a sign identifying the League voter registration table said “*Voter Information.*” As a result, not only did the League volunteers register new voters, but they also answered many questions regarding absentee voting, early voting, and other voter information.

Those who helped register voters at A Southern Season were Eva Eliel, Di-
anne Hummelbrunner, Kani Hurow, Doris Leonard, Joyce Colaiace, Evelin
Brinich, Bev Hanly, Barbara Rogers, Yvonne Schmidt, Laurie Ferris, Sue
Brewer, Jan Richmond, Erica Wilson, Ruth Shur, Barbara Nettesheim,
Marion Martini, and Barbara Hardison.

Bercedis reported that at the Duke Hospital, 68 people either registered or
submitted a change of address, and the League volunteers answered many
questions about voting procedures.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make these drives successful!



You can help the League make sure every eligible voter casts his or her
ballot! Remember, www.VOTE411.org has all your election information
— including a national polling place locator, general and state-specific
information on voter registration, absentee ballot rules, early voting op-
tions, and all the details you need about where to go and what to bring with
you on Election Day.

**League of Women Voters
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[Http://lwvdc.org](http://lwvdc.org)**

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Holiday Mix and Mingle Dessert Pot Luck

Saturday, December 6, 2008 6-8 P.M

*at Extraordinary Ventures
201 South Estes Drive, Chapel Hill*

Speaker: Bland Simpson

*"Economy is a distributive virtue, and consists not in saving, but in selection."
Edmund Burke, 1796*



Bland Simpson

We invite you to distribute your virtues at our Holiday Dessert Potluck Mix and Mingle by bringing a dessert to share. We will provide coffee, tea, an excellent speaker, and conviviality.

*6-7 P.M. [Bland Simpson](#), Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing, author of books such as *The Great Dismal* and *Into the Sound Country: A Carolinian's Coastal Plain*, and member of the string band, *The Red Clay Ramblers*, will be our speaker. His topic is "The Carolina Sound Country: Conservation & Civic Engagement."*

7-8 P.M. Mix and mingle over cheeses and desserts brought by members. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Cost: \$10 per person, pre-registration with check required by 11/15/2008

Reservations can be made by filling out the form below and sending it to the League P.O. Box before Tuesday, November 23.

Yes, I plan to attend the League of Women Voters Holiday Pot Luck Dessert on Saturday, December 6.
Please reserve a place for:

Name(s) _____

Number of persons _____

Please make a check out for \$10 per person payable to LWV/ODC.

Mail to LWV/ODC
P.O. Box 3397
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3397

Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, November 23, 2007.

The Voter...ODC...The Voter...ODC...The Voter

What's the Big Idea?

We the People: Democracy in America

Refresh your knowledge of the foundations of American democracy and critically examine the political mechanisms of elected government at four lectures on democracy in America by eminent UNC scholars and researchers. How has government evolved? Do we need a new political process for the twenty-first century? This is a watershed election year and a timely moment to consider these questions.

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and the Founding of our Nation

Thursday, October 16, 7–9 pm. Course #2521

James Madison and Alexander Hamilton worked closely with each other to create the federal government of the United States. Their collaboration culminated in the justly famous “Federalist Papers” that describe the political principles on which America is grounded. But once the Constitution was put into place, these former collaborators became bitter enemies. Professor John McGowan will tell the story of the founding of our nation through the lens of the relationship between these two extraordinary men, a story that highlights enduring conflicts as to the vision of what the United States of America should be.

John McGowan is the Ruel W. Tyson, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Humanities and the director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is the author of five books, the most recent of which is *American Liberalism: An Interpretation for Our Time* (UNC Press, 2007).

Constitutional Tales

Thursday, October 23, 7–9 pm. Course #2522

In the midst of extreme racism, poverty, and political turmoil, North Carolina created one of the best statements of the constitutional right to education in the country. A product of the courageous leadership of black freemen and freedmen and northern and native whites during Reconstruction, the 1868 North Carolina Constitution continues to guide our public schools and universities. Professor Ann McColl uses tales of the birth of the NC Constitution to provide participants with a better understanding of the role of state constitutions in defining important rights. By tracing the development of the NC Constitution through key political figures and events, participants will learn first-hand the connections between the history of the times and important legal principles.

Ann McColl is an attorney and visiting associate professor of public law and government at the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill and an associate professor of educational leadership at the College of Education at UNC-Charlotte.

The Constitution in Wartime: The Tragedy and the Lessons of the Japanese American Internment of World War II

Thursday, November 6, 7–9 pm. Course #2523

Sixty-five years ago the US Constitution was tested when 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were herded into barren camps because of their race—and the Constitution failed the test. Today we again find ourselves dealing with a threat to the nation’s security, and the Constitution is again being tested. In this talk, Professor Eric Muller will review the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and lead a discussion of the implications of that time in our history for today’s “War on Terror.”

Eric Muller is the Dan K. Moore Distinguished Professor in Jurisprudence and Ethics and the associate dean for faculty development in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law. He is the author of *Free to Die for Their Country: The Story of the Japanese American Draft Resisters in World War II* (University of Chicago Press, 2001) and *American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty in World War II* (UNC Press, 2007). He has published numerous articles on Japanese-American internment and on constitutional law in such journals as the *Harvard Law Review*, the *Yale Law Journal*, and the *University of Chicago Law Review*.

The League of Women Voters and the Electoral College

On November 4, Americans will go to the polls and vote, not for the President of the United States, but, as specified in the United States Constitution, for Electors chosen state by state. The result is that the person who gets the most votes may or may not be elected President. Thirty-eight years ago members of the League of Women Voters reached the following consensus on the Electoral College:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished.

In order to abolish the Electoral College, it would be necessary to amend the U.S. Constitution. Such efforts have failed in the past due to the difficulty of getting legislation passed by supermajorities in the U.S. House and Senate, and having the amendment approved by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

Some supporters of electing the President by national popular vote have proposed having the states enter into a compact agreeing that the electoral votes from each state will be cast for the person who gets the most votes nationwide, no matter who won the contest in that state. At the LWVUS convention in June, members voted to conduct a League study of the advisability of using the national popular vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President.

We will have a forum on January 24 to hear from a supporter and an opponent of the National Popular Vote Compact. Paul Luebke, State Representative from Durham, will speak in favor of the NPVC, and Mike Munger, Chair of the Political Science Department at Duke University, will oppose it. We will also receive study materials from the LWVUS, and on March 28 we will take consensus to see whether or not we believe the League of Women Voters should support the National Popular Vote Compact.

In the meantime, pay close attention to the results of the November 4 election and see how the popular vote compares to the electoral vote.

We the People: Democracy in America

The Constitution, Politics, and a New Democracy

Thursday, November 13, 7–9 pm. Course #2524

This concluding, post-election presentation will take a critical look at constitutional issues as they relate to our current government, the political landscape, and where we might go from here. What are the most pressing challenges for a new administration? Are we a democracy that applies the rule of law as intended and interpreted by the founders of our nation? This lecture and discussion will examine what a US democracy means in the twenty-first century.

Gene Nichol was dean of the UNC-CH School of Law from 1999–2006 and returned as professor of law in the fall of 2008. He served as president of The College of William and Mary from 2005–2008. Professor Nichol was dean of the University of Colorado Law School from 1988–1995. He teaches constitutional law, federal jurisdiction, civil rights, and election law.

RegistrationThe fee is \$10 per lecture, or \$30 for all four lectures. Due to space limitations, advance registration is required and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

You can download a register form online at: <http://www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/>
Or Call 919-962-2643.

Location

Courses are held at the Friday Center, which offers ample free parking. The Friday Center is located approximately three miles east of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, just off Highway 54 East (Raleigh Road), across from Meadowmont.



**HONORING OUR HONORARY MEMBER
AND FIRST MALE MEMBERS**

**Mary Ann Gross – 1958 - present
Ed Gross – 1974 - present**

By Evelin Brinich



When I called Mary Ann to set up an interview to celebrate her 50 years of service to the League, she quickly pointed out that her husband, Ed, was one of the first men to seek membership when the LWVUS invited male members to join at the 1974 national convention in San Francisco. She added that Ed has “proudly” continued his membership since that date. So, while we are honoring Mary Ann's 50 years of service in this *Voter* issue, we are also honoring Ed's constant support of the League from the first opportunity he was given 34 years ago.

Mary Ann went to her first League meeting in the spring of 1954 during the height of the McCarthy era. The California University regents wanted to affirm their anti-communist policies and asked all faculty members to sign a loyalty oath. Students and faculty debated the issue fervently and the Berkeley League studied the loyalty oath controversy. Mary Ann recalled she would have joined the League at that meeting except she could not afford the dues (\$2.00/yr). Mary Ann earned a degree in Childhood Development and Ed obtained a Ph.D. in Physics. By 1958 Mary Ann and Ed had three children and were living in Oak Ridge, TN where Ed worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Mary Ann joined the LWV in Oak Ridge in January 1958 because the League had a “special” that year, \$3.00 for 15 months. She served on the Local board from 1959 - 1966 and then joined the LWVTN state board until the family left to spend one year in Denmark where Ed was at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen.

When the family returned to TN, Mary Ann's League activities continued with the local league presidency followed by the state league presidency from 1979 - 1982. She recalled that Al Gore spoke to the TN League convention in 1979. The Tennessee years were filled with work on changing the state tax system, Planned Parenthood, and improving the juvenile court system. When she and Ed spent two years in Maryland, Mary Ann took the opportunity to volunteer at the LWVUS national office in the membership/development division. She served on the National Nominating Committee in 1988.

Mary Ann and Ed moved to Chapel Hill in 1991. She was president of the Chapel Hill LWV from 1995-1996 and was part of a management team from 1998-1999. League members fondly recall Mary Ann's clear perspectives, forthright manner, and excellent organizational skills (Vicki Boyer).

These days Mary Ann is frequently called upon as a consultant for various local League issues. Her knowledge of members and League policy has been greatly appreciated on the nominating committee. In her “free” time she and others organize a regular education series at Carol Woods Retirement Center. She and Ed also teach courses through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Duke on subjects such as Women’s Discussion Group (M.A.) and physics, and math (Ed).

Mary Ann concluded the interview with “I believe in the educated voter. That’s what the League was good at and that’s what it has always been about for me.”



Meet LWVODC Treasurer Rita Weimer

I was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota and hold a BA from the University of Minnesota. My first job out of college was as a computer programmer with the National Security Agency in the Washington, D.C. area working on the most powerful computer in the world. In 1966 I married Bob Weimer and we moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania. During the next 31 years I held various computer and management positions with nine Fortune 100 companies or small businesses. In the 1980's I was also an adjunct professor at several local colleges teaching computer subjects.

In 1973 we adopted a Korean infant. During his preschool years I completed an MBA at Lehigh University. My last position was at Albright College, a small liberal arts college, where I directed and taught in a PC training program for local businesses. Bob and I took early retirement in 1998 and moved to Chapel Hill.

My retirement goal was to do the volunteer work I didn't have time for during my working years. I began with the Orange County Literacy Council, where I tutored a reading student for 5 years, served on the Board of Directors and completed two terms as Board President. I have also been treasurer and membership vice president of Chapel Hill Newcomers.

My major activity in the past ten years has been with OLLI at Duke (formerly DIR). "Learning for the Love of It" with no tests or papers is my chosen way to spend my time in retirement. Each term I take three to five classes. In addition I usually teach a computer class. I have served on the OLLI Board since 2004, including two years as President.

I always knew I would join the League of Women Voters some day. My mother enjoyed League activities in the 1950's. Her League study materials were an outstanding source of evidence on both sides of the question for my high school debate topic on Foreign Aid. After Bob and I moved to Chapel Hill, friends from the Newcomers Club, including Jan Richmond, Judi Lilley and Else Bolotin, persistently invited me to join the League. Finally in 2004 I agreed to be primarily a "checkbook member." This year I agreed to be Treasurer, knowing that my OLLI duties were winding down and that my husband, who is making a retirement "career" of being treasurer for non-profits, would be willing to help.

Members Welcome at all Board Meetings

Our local League board would like to remind all LWVODC members that all are welcome to attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board. This is an opportunity for you to become acquainted with the operations of the League, to meet your fellow officers and directors and to receive an understanding of the role each Board member plays in the development of the program, events, and actions for the year. This is especially important for any new member to the organization. We welcome your attendance and we welcome your interest in the business of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties.

The Board meets regularly the 2nd Thursday of the month from 10:00 am--noon. The November meeting is on Thursday, November 13. Please call me, Joyce Colaiace, 542-1052, for directions to the meeting. See the next VOTER for information on the December meeting.

Thank you and see you at the Board meetings.

Joyce Colaiace

League of Women Voters of
 Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties
 P.O. Box 3397
 Chapel Hill NC 27515-3397
 Tel: 919-419-1650
<http://www.lwvdc.org>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization for men and women that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen over 18, male or female, may become a voting member of the League. With that membership comes the opportunity to work on local, state, regional, and national program issues.

The Voter is printed on recycled paper.

League Calendar

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| October 16 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM | Madison, Hamilton and the Founding of Our Nation | Friday Center, UNC Chapel Hill |
| October 23 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM | Constitutional Tales The North Carolina Constitution | Friday Center, UNC Chapel Hill |
| October 30 7:00 PM-8:30 PM | Health Care Education Series How do the Candidates Match Up? | Extraordinary Ventures 201 S. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill |
| November 4 | Election Day | |
| November 6 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM | The Constitution in Wartime Japanese Internment in WW II | Friday Center, UNC Chapel Hill |
| November 13 10:00 AM to Noon | LWVODC Board Meeting | |
| November 13 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM | The Constitution, Politics, and a New Democracy | Friday Center, UNC Chapel Hill |
| December 6 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM | Holiday Mix & Mingle Dessert Pot Luck Speaker: Bland Simpson | Extraordinary Ventures 201 S. Estes Drive Chapel Hill |
| January 24, 2009 10:00 AM to Noon | Forum on National Popular Vote Interstate Compact | Extraordinary Ventures |