

# VOTER IMPACT

The League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

Volume XVI, Issue 6

March, 2004

## LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Tuesday, March 16

LUNCH 12:15 PM

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

607 North Greene Street - Greensboro

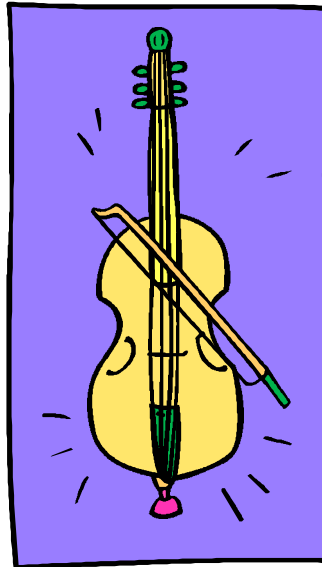
\$8.00 (Reservations 643-2131)

Mr. Thomas Philion, President and CEO of the Eastern Music Festival: The Values of the EMF to Young Persons and to the Cultural Life of Greensboro

### Arts Manager Philion

Mr. Thomas Philion has more than twenty years experience in all aspects of performing arts management. Philion grew up in the suburbs of New York City and Washington, D.C. He was interested in music from an early age and developed his musical skills as a bass player in area rock bands. He attended George Mason University and graduated with a degree in English. He began his arts management career in the public relations department of the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center.

Philion has a knack for marketing the arts to baby boomers and new audiences. He has held positions with many orchestras, including



Hartford, Cleveland, and Buffalo and with the Pennsylvania Ballet in Philadelphia.

He is known and respected as a creative problem solver and enjoys a reputation as an agent of change. He has won many awards for his advertising campaigns.

Philion continues to perform as a bass player on a regular basis. He lives in Greensboro with his wife and two young daughters.

Please come and hear a unique presentation to the League about one of Greensboro's premier musical events.

### Nation Building Forum

Mark your calendar for April 21. That is the date that the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad will co-sponsor with the Political Science Department at UNCG a forum on Nation Building. The speaker will be Dr. Andy Reynolds of UNC-CH. The program in Weatherspoon Auditorium will include other panel members from UNCG: Dr. Bill Crowther and Dr. Bob

Griffiths. The forum will start at 7 p.m. (subject to change so watch for the April Voter Impact). There will be a reception afterwards.

## February speaker report

By Rebecca Klase

The League of Women Voters was pleased to welcome Ruth Rouse as the speaker at the February Lunch with the League. Ms. Rouse is a dance therapist by profession and has a personal interest in human rights in the Middle East. The theme of her talk was "Intellectuals are important in resolving conflicts, especially those involving the Iraq and Israeli/Palestinian issues."

Ms. Rouse advocated a three-pronged role for intellectuals in conflicts of this nature: (1) monitor current events related to the conflict; (2) encourage a dialogue among all sides of the issue; and (3) inform decision makers.

Ms. Rouse then discussed historical events, especially the creation of Israel, where intellectual discourse has contributed to the discussion. She argues that solutions to such conflicts cannot be

reached if all voices and ideas are not heard. She encourages citizens to engage in dialogue among all interested sides to assist them in reaching solutions to seemingly intractable problems.

## Get Out the Vote

On February 11, 2004 the following participants met to plan for a Get Out the Vote project initiated by the League of Women Voters of NC and the State Board of Elections: *Mary Klenz* – Co-President League of Women Voters of NC, *George Gilbert* –



*Director Board of Elections of Guilford County, Leslie Hamrick* – Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, *Katie Cooper* - Director, Board of Elections of Forsyth County, *Lee Kinard* – Special Assistant to the President, Guilford County Technical College, *Ellen Olson* - Co-President LWVPT, *Jane Aycock* – Voter Service Chair

LWVPT, *David Olson* – Professor Emeritus of Political Science University of North Carolina at Greensboro, *Jay Lambeth* – Director, Greensboro Community Television.

Mary Klenz started the planning session by providing the background for a proposal that would include a series of public meetings across the state aimed at encouraging public knowledge about the NC elections process. The idea was that if voters were more comfortable with the process they would be more likely to vote. The meetings would be held in two phases. The first in May or June would highlight the history of voting and voter registration, and the second, held after Labor Day, would be on what voters can actually expect on Election Day.

The group discussed the types of calls which come into the Board of Elections before and during elections, the target audience for such a series, and the problems of reaching those who have never voted and feel that their vote would not make a difference in the results (fringe voters). There was a discussion on the current

problems in the textile and furniture industries and how that was causing some business owners to organize their employees to vote.

The group looked at the list of proposed topics handed out by Mary Klenz. George Gilbert talked about the necessity of educating the voter on the nuts and bolts of voting. He feels that this area is the responsibility of the Boards of Elections and that they have a short period of time to educate the voter: from the time the voter steps into the polling place to the time the voter actually votes. Topics that seem relevant were residency, early voting, safeguards in the election process, and absentee voting.

The topics were winnowed down to four major areas: The Power of One Vote, Voter Registration, Early and Absentee Voting, and What Happens on Election Day. A theme running through these topics is *Look How Easy the Boards of Election are Making it to Vote and the Myths of Voting.*

For formats the group talked about four sessions

of 15 minutes each with questions from a small  
**It is easy to vote,  
but YOU have to  
start the process.**

**Register at any  
library or at the  
Board of Elections.  
Share this message.**

audience and a panel of two or three “experts”. These sessions would be taped, perhaps all in one day, and distributed to TV



stations to air and to groups who could play them on a DVD. Short spots on the topics would be made for TV and radio use. Everyone agreed that public meetings would not reach a large audience, and would be attended by those people who were going to vote anyway. Jay Lambeth offered the studios of Greensboro

Community Television station, and said that it would not be a problem to make the tapes and then duplicate them. Lee Kinard suggested contacting the NC Association of Broadcasters.

The next steps are:

1. To talk to Greensboro Community Television and NC Association of Broadcasters
2. Identify a way to reach people through radio
3. Further refine the topics and subjects
4. Identify the “experts” and the “studio audience,” keeping in mind that these sessions must appeal to a diverse audience
5. Develop a plan for distributing the tapes
6. Develop a plan for monitoring whether or not the tapes are used.

### **Public Funding for Judicial Elections**

Come and show support for the *Check it out, Check it off* campaign for public financing of judicial elections in North Carolina.

*When:* 10:30 am March 15,  
*Where:* H&R Block, 1026 Summit Avenue.

The League, Democracy-NC and Common Cause are holding press conferences around the state for the Public Campaign Financing Fund. Several well-known NC figures who support this effort will speak: *Tom Ross*- Master of Ceremonies, *Gov. Hunt*, *Justice Exum*, *Justice Frye*.

Come and make a crowd to show support for this important endeavor.

### Meet new members

By BJ Weatherby

*Marion "Marnie" Ross* joined our League in November 2003. She has lived in Greensboro since she was a child and has been active in our community in a number of ways. For example, she was a member of Citizens for Responsible Government. She also has been a long-time participant in a book club that, alas, meets on the same Tuesday as our luncheons. Marnie is on the Program Committee this year, so she cannot get to our lunches. She does look forward to attending meetings in the future, including our evening annual meeting in May. She believes in our goals

and wants to support our efforts.

*Jennie (Mrs. James) Case* moved to Greensboro from Hickory, NC a year ago this past August. She and her husband reside at Friends Homes West. They lived in Hickory almost forty years.

Jennie first joined the LWV in 1950, when they lived in Richmond, VA. She was a member only one and a half years before they moved to South Carolina. Her membership lapsed during those ten or eleven years, because there was no LWV nearby and she was busy with four small children. While the Cases lived in Hickory, the Hickory League was formed, so Jennie was a charter member there. In a tribute to her, the Hickory League named their

"scholarship" fund for her --the fund that provided dues to those who could not otherwise afford to join. The fund is called the Jennie Case Scholarship Membership Fund.

By the way, Jennie has known Maizie Levenson since both were in graduate school in Chapel Hill!

### MARCH for Women's Lives

April 25 on the Washington, DC mall will be the scene of a great *March for Women's Lives*. Women, men, and children are coming from all points in the nation. A plane is being chartered to bring people to the march from Miami-Dade in Florida! Locally, we will have a chartered bus. THE FARE IS \$40; DEPARTURE TIME 4:30 A.M. AND RETURN WILL BE ABOUT MIDNIGHT. Bring your own lunch and water or soft drinks. There will be a dinner stop probably in



Fredericksburg, VA. To make reservations for the bus trip to stand up for women's rights: CALL BARBARA WALKER AT 288-4687 OR E-MAIL AT [b.p.walker@att.net](mailto:b.p.walker@att.net). Going in the company of people supporting your cause is fun and exciting.

## THE DAMAGE OF VITAMIN AND MINERAL DEFICIENCIES

By David Haxton

A lack of basic vitamins and minerals is damaging the health of one-third of the world's people and holding back the economic development of virtually every country in the Southern Hemisphere. This claim was made in a report recently issued by Micronutrient Initiatives (for which I am Senior Advisor) and UNICEF (from which I retired many years ago.)

Conclusions reached by the scientists who contributed to the report commissioned in 2003 state that deficiency in vitamins and minerals is responsible for impairing intellectual development, compromising immune systems, provoking birth defects, and consigning some 2 billion people to lives below their genetic potential..

It is estimated that these countries would gain some US\$275 million in increased productivity and

some US\$200 million from enhanced earning potential 1) if more common foods were fortified; 2) if supplements were more widely available at lower cost; and 3) if primary health care were more pervasive. It calls for a public sector- private sector collaboration to

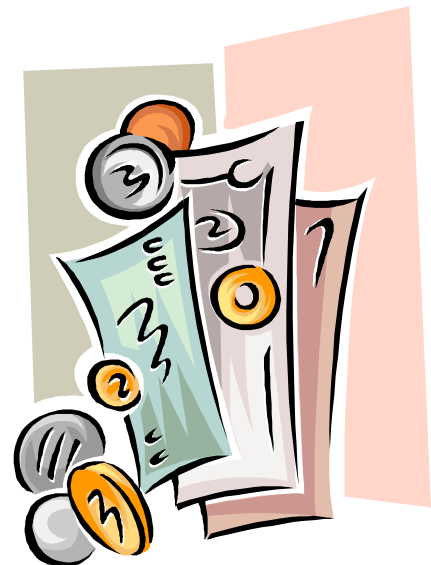


support agreed upon national goals.

Among examples of success include the dramatic increase in access to iodized salt providing a billion more people annually with the daily requirements for iodine, and thus preventing mental damage to infants. Vitamin A capsule consumption is reaching millions, as well, dramatically reducing the ravages of night blindness and reducing infant mortality. The largest malnutrition problem in the world, iron deficiency and anemia are a major

target via fortification of wheat flour and by improved management of delivery systems for iron supplements. Folic acid keeps babies out of wheel chairs and old folks out of stroke clinics. Folic acid can easily and at low cost be added to wheat flour along with iron.

The recent report is different from other global reports. First of all, it is designed as an advocacy tool, not a document for dusty bookshelves or radiator tops. Second, it is designed to be distributed electronically to each of 87 countries...and a few industrialized ones as well where problems still exist. Third, it is aimed in this manner to reach the Head of Government or State; the Cabinet Officials (since all elements of government



are essential to success); senior managers of food corporations, food processors, manufacturers and packagers; senior labor leaders and religious leaders; senior civil and civic leaders. Fourth, a special kit is prepared for the national media ...traditional, mass, cultural, political... that suggests more national investigative reporting would be helpful.

The fourth difference is the “Damage Assessment Report (DAR)” published for each of 90 countries using confirmed national data and information. While each of the above recipients will receive the “Global Report” comprising tables for the world, examples of successful activities; lessons learned over the past decade; and examples of how to ‘scale up’, the DAR is aimed at national leadership with national data.

Iron Deficiency has been shown to impair mental development in young children and is lowering national IQs. It also undermines adult productivity, with estimated losses of about 2 percent of GDP in the worst affected countries. Severe iron deficiency anaemia is also causing the

deaths of an estimated 50,000 women a year during childbirth while folate deficiency is causing approximately 200,000 severe birth defects every year and is associated with about 1 in 10 of adult deaths from heart disease.

Severe deficiencies in vitamin A lead to deaths of as many as 1 million youngsters a year while a lack of iodine in pregnancy is causing as many as 20 million babies a year to be born mentally impaired.

Ms Carol Bellamy, in releasing the report at the Davos Global Economic Forum, said “It is no longer acceptable to simply identify symptoms of micronutrient deficiency in individuals and then treat them. We have to



protect entire populations against the devastating consequences of vitamin and mineral deficiency (VMD), especially children. In the industrialized world we

have been doing it for years. There is no longer any excuse for not reaching every human being with these simple life saving micronutrients”

We need to deploy the known solutions on the same scale as the known problems. These include: fortifying foods commonly eaten by most people ...such as flour, salt, sugar, cooking oil and margarine; providing vitamin and mineral supplements to women and children and using better consumer and public education to inform communities about the kinds of foods that can increase the intake and absorption of needed vitamins and minerals.

I was fortunate to be a member of the small management team overseeing the production of the State of the World on VMD and the DARS. The management team depended upon four carefully selected centers of learning for the data and scientific review of the information on iron, iodine, folic acid and Vitamin A. (Other vitamins and minerals of importance were not specifically reviewed due to difficulties in obtaining

comparative and operational data). The budget was a joint effort of MI and UNICEF.

We are now planning 'releases' of the information in various parts of the world to encourage more allies in the effort among whom: wheat associations; flour associations; bakers and their associations; sugar producers and processors and their associations; salt producers; the International Parliamentary Union; Consumer groups. The UNICEF Representative in each country is responsible for the National Discussion planned to surround the release in each country.

### Voting is for Old People

Or is it? Josh Sommer of Western Guilford High School sent the LWV a letter which states in part: "As part of Greensboro Youth Leadership's Politics and the Media field study project we will be hosting a meeting promoting Freedoms Answer, a nonpartisan, nonprofit voter turnout campaign led by our nation's youth. This program is especially relevant during the election year and would be a great

benefit to Guilford County Schools." Sommer asked schools to send teacher representatives and several interested students to an organizational meeting in February. Freedoms Answer is a national program with many sponsors including the League of Women Voters, both major political parties, Kids Voting and others. You may read more about this youth effort at [www.freedomsanswer.com](http://www.freedomsanswer.com).

Urban Outfitters is selling a teeshirt that reads *Voting is for Old People!* This shirt has caused quite a stir, especially among the so-called punk voters. They say the shirt is meant



to keep young voters from registering and voting. Others say it is just a statement of fact. The designer of the shirt says it is just a statement of reality and not meant to discourage voting. One first time voter bought the shirt and changed the

wording to *Voting is for All People*. Do a **google** search to keep up with this teeshirt!

### Check it Out Check it Off

Peg Chapin called to alert us that the Check It Off box on the NC 2003 income tax returns appears differently on the electronic versions than on the paper version.

Please pay attention to this yourself and alert other people. It is important that we all elect to have \$3.00 per tax form available for a judicial candidate voters guide and for the campaigns of those electing public financing.

### Federal Tax Form

Remember there is a check off box on your federal tax form to designate funds for public campaign financing. Neither of these checkoffs on your forms change your taxes. Your refund or payment is the same.

### WANTED

Voter Impact help: put on labels, bundle, and mail. Please call the League office to volunteer.