



Shop Talk

*A publication of
the League of
Women Voters of
Elmhurst.*

Vol. 64 #5
December, 2012

Visit us at lwvelmhurst.org

Jeanne Davik, Editor
shoptalk@sbcglobal.net



Holiday Party for League Members and Guests Sunday, December 2, 1 pm

Sally Hoffman will once again host our League's Holiday Party on Sunday afternoon, December 2, at 1 pm. Sally's address is 883 S. Euclid, Elmhurst. Members are encouraged to bring a sweet or savory for our "goodies" table. Contact Donna Blue (630-833-4365) or Dorothy McGuire (630-530-5359), if you need a ride.

President's Message from Susan Rose – December, 2012

The holiday season is here, but several other local and state events will also be taking place in this next month, to which we want to call your attention.



Local Elections – While the national, state, and county elections have come and gone, Elmhurst is just beginning an important election season. In early April, 2013, residents of Elmhurst will go to the polls to elect a new Mayor, City Treasurer, City Clerk, seven Council members, as well as Park Board and School Board members. Qualified persons who want to run for one of these offices should pick up a candidate packet from City Hall at 200 N. York (for municipal elections), Park District Administrative Office at 375 W. First St. (for Park Board candidates), and District 205 Offices at 162 S. York (for School Board candidates). Petitions are due no later than December 24.

Local Budgets – For many of our elected bodies, this is the season when they prepare their annual budgets and invite public input before budgets are approved. The Park Board is currently discussing their 2013 budget, and the District 205 School Board will present their proposed 2013 tax levy at their December 18 meeting. The City will also approve their tax levy in December and solicit public input. If you care about how your tax dollars are spent, start looking at these budgets *now* and make your voice heard.

State Issues – Our League will be developing program planning recommendations for the year in the next few months and we solicit your input. In addition, the LWVIL Issues Briefing meeting will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2013, 8:30 – 3:30, at the University Center in Chicago. We encourage all members to attend. Contact me if you want to go and would like to carpool.

Finally, as we remember Barbara Swords and celebrate Milly Smith, we wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season with your friends, family and community members.

In Memory of Barbara Swords (1925-2012) Elmhurst League Leader

by Phyllis Carroll



Barbara moved to Elmhurst with her husband Robert, who had a position at Elmhurst College teaching in the English department. After her two children were born, she wished to find an activity that would provide intellectual stimulation as well as positive action. In those days the Elmhurst League offered babysitting while mothers attended meetings, giving an enduring activity for Barbara.

With all her many other activities Barbara continued to give time, talents and support to the League. For many years she was the League observer to the Library Board meetings while also serving on the League board. She was Program Chairman for several years. When the Elmhurst Public Library announced a referendum for funds to build a new library, Barbara chaired a study committee that investigated whether Elmhurst needed a new library. As a result the League supported a new library and the referendum passed, helped by the League support. Barbara received a State League award for her work for the referendum. She hosted and led the Great Decisions meetings. Her vital contributions to the League over many years contributed to the League's strong presence in the community.

Barbara Swords – 60-year Elmhurst resident, 30-year Elmhurst College English professor, friend and mentor to many – died on October 23 at age 87. You can read more about Barbara in a tribute on the Elmhurst College website. <http://public.elmhurst.edu/news/archive/176313131.html>

Celebrating Milly Smith for Many Years of League Leadership and Service

by Jeanne Stuart

Milly Smith, a long-time member of the Elmhurst League of Women Voters, moved to Arizona last October to be near her daughter. She promised to move when she became 95, as she became last January!

Milly joined the League in 1955 after moving to Elmhurst. For many years she was Education Chair and observed School Board meetings. Later she was *Shop Talk* Editor and *Directory* Chair. She did it all on a manual typewriter for a mimeograph machine. More recently, Milly was Co-President and served on the Nominating Committee.



In addition to her League work, Milly was active in Children's Theater, serving as the group's president. She was also a dedicated member of the Elmhurst Genealogical Society, again serving as president. After retiring from her position as a librarian in District 205, Milly volunteered at the Elmhurst Historical Museum for over 30 years. She was recognized for this service by the Elmhurst City Council on October 1, 2012.

Wow! Needless to say, we will miss Milly, but we wish her well in her new location.

Voter Registration Recap for Fall, 2012

by Maria Hirsch



By the numbers:

- 17 registration events;
- 206 registrations completed;
- 62 volunteer registrar hours

The youngest person registered was 18, and the oldest was 96 years old.

New public locations this year included the Villa Park Public Library, Elmhurst Train Station and high schools during mock elections and the middle school Debate Night. These locations raised the visibility of the League and provided registration services in new locations. We received a request to assist Spanish speaking citizens in registering to vote from the Conrad Fischer PTA President toward the end of the registration season. With translation assistance from some Spanish speaking parents, we were able to offer and promote registration services in both English and Spanish for our last two registration events at the Elmhurst Public Library.

Special thanks to our dedicated registrars who staffed all of these events: Donna Blue, Jeanne Davik, Corrine Flemm, Myrrha Guzman, Maria Hirsch, Elaine Libovicz, Ileen Rubinstein, Marilyn Thompson, Martha Wegener, Sue Whitworth, Sue Williams and Connie Zillig.

Cool Cities' Holiday Party



Cool Cities is hosting a Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 4, from 7 to 9 pm at Mark Stenftenagel's office: Whitney Design, 700 Commerce Drive, Suite 350, Oak Brook 60523. The Elmhurst League is a member of the Cool Cities Coalition. Our members are encouraged to attend this event and find out more about the work being done. Contact Sue Williams for more info.

Final Notes, Short and Sweet:

- **Voter Registrar Recertification** will take place at our League meeting on January 10, 2013. Certification for current registrars officially ends on November 30, 2012, but December is a grace period, and registrars can continue to register voters until the beginning of 2013.
- Save the Date: **Sunday, February 24, 2013**. Plan to attend the Candidate Forum for the Consolidated Election on April 9, 2013. More details in the January edition of *Shop Talk*.
- **Visit our website, wvelmhurst.org**, regularly for all the latest info on our issues and events.