



League Links

LWV AH-MP-BG Area

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Arlington Heights-Mount Prospect-Buffalo Grove Area
Including Prospect Heights, Wheeling, and Elk Grove Village, Illinois

We are online at: <http://www.lwvah.org>

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August 2015

Volume 61, Issue 1

Serving our communities since 1955

Our Mission Statement/Purpose: 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.



ACTIVITY CALENDAR



Date	Time	Event
Sun, Aug 23	1pm-3pm	Annual Picnic! Members, join us for our annual picnic. See page 3 for details.
Tue, Sep 1	6:30pm-9pm	Board Meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month. Members, you are welcome to join us at Connie's house.
Wed, Sep 16 Register by Wed, Sep 3	11:30am to 1:30pm	LWVIL – State of the State Luncheon (see page 9) Speaker: Dr. Dianne Bystrom, Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University Union League Club of Chicago 65 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 Register at: http://www.lwvil.org/state-of-the-state-registration.html
Thu, Sep 17  Constitution Day	Doors open at 6:30pm Program at 7pm	Public Program – details TBD Arlington Heights Historical Society 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Tue, Sep 22		National Voter Registration Day http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/register-to-vote
Fri, Sep 25 to Sat, Sep 26	Register by mail Send form and fee by Wed, Aug 26	LWV Lake Michigan Region 48 th Annual Conference Wyndham Glenview Suites Chicago North 1400 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025 http://www.lwvlmr.org/uploads/2/6/9/9/26992586/registration_form_2015_lwvlmr.pdf

The League of Women Voters Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect & Buffalo Grove Area welcomes new members.
Visit <http://www.lwvah.com> for more information.

Filling Big Shoes
By
Heidi Graham

As you are probably aware, Cathy Duoba, long time League member and newsletter editor has recently been sick and unable to act as chief editor of our League Links. As a fairly new member of the League (I am just beginning my 3rd year), I realize that the shoes I am attempting to fill are large indeed. My goal is to give you, the reader and League member, a synopsis of important League issues. I will also provide links where you can read more on each subject. The issues that face our League and our Nation are complex, and I do not pretend to be a political expert. My goal is to inform, and not editorialize; I do not always agree with the League but do staunchly support an organization whose goal is to encourage “informed and active participation in government.” Andrew Gaines once said, “A passive and ignorant citizenry will never create a sustainable world.”



NEWS FROM LWV AH-MP-BG

A Graduate Degree in League

Pat Linder, League member since 1958, describes her membership with The League of Women Voters as being her “graduate degree.” High praise from someone like Pat who has lived an interesting and colorful life.

Many of Pat’s family ended up in South America because her grandfather was sent to Uruguay at the turn of the century to set up a meat packing facility. Because her father spoke Spanish and Portuguese, he too was transferred to Brazil with Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, and Pat spent her formative years in South America. When she was 15, her family returned to The States and they lived in New York. Pat enjoyed school and was an excellent student. She attended Duke University and earned a degree in Sociology and planned to pursue a career in Social Welfare. While at Duke, Pat had her first brush with The League; one of her favorite Political Science professors was a League member and participated in the Raleigh, NC League activities. Though Pat did not join The League while an undergraduate, the seeds of interest were planted.

After graduation, the CIA recruited Pat because she could speak Portuguese and appointed her an editor for Latin American Affairs. It was while living in Washington, DC working for the CIA that Pat first joined The League. In DC, she also met her first husband and embarked on another adventure: wife and mother. But being a wife and mother did not mean that Pat was no longer interested in politics or social welfare. Pat sees The League as a “post-graduate” course in issues near and far. In fact, Pat has always been an active League member, through all phases of her life: early career, motherhood, single parenthood and retirement.

Pat describes herself as someone “not interested in being an agitator, but interested in being informed.” In fact, she noted that many of the issues The League studied in the earliest years of her membership, the need for townships, electing versus appointing judges, and equality in education to name a few, are still issues we face and study today. Pat encourages anyone interested in learning about issues in a non-partisan environment and meeting intelligent, enjoyable people who want to keep their minds active to join The League of Women Voters.



Our Annual LWV Picnic will be held on August 23rd from 1:00-3:00 at Gayle O'Brien's home, 1021 West Cypress in Arlington Heights 60005. An email invitation was sent, but some have said they did not receive it from www.Pingg.com (LWV Annual Picnic). Please join together for an afternoon of good friends, good conversation, and to catch up on League issues.

If you are unable to access the menu I set up to see what you might bring, please leave a message at one of my numbers 847-394-4626 or 847-212-0976. We do not need desserts but are in need of salads, drinks, fruit, and chips and dip.

Pat Lind
Mary Mason, 847 956-3290
Susan Fuller, 847 398-2281

New Member Gathering
by Heidi Graham



Please save the date!

When: Friday, October 2nd 7pm—??

Where: 1219 East Woodford Place (Heidi Graham's) in Arlington Heights

Who: All League Members, prospective members and elected leaders of local government offices.

Why: New member drive!

What: Heidi Graham will provide all of the drinks (wine, beer and non-alcoholic). All attending League members will be asked to bring an appetizer or dessert AND two (2) friends who are NOT currently members!

How: A formal invitation will be sent out to local elected officials, via FaceBook, e-vite and a printed invitation will also be made available for distribution.

NEWS FROM LWV Cook County



The annual meeting for the League of Women Voters for Cook County on May 11, 2015, found the League in healthy position financially. According to the report given for Voter Services dating back to July of last year, League was promoting extensive voter registration and worked with the Cook County Clerk's Office to promote help with the elections. The plans going forward for the next election will be made in June with recommendations for poll watching by League.

According to Advocacy Report, social media is being used to highlight various interest committees of League. League is planning to spend money on Facebook advertising. Through Facebook, citizens' engagement sponsored by League can be enhanced in the political process. During the election, there was an increase in people looking at the League website and the League website is a resource to people at election time.

Karen Hribar was talking about the Cook County budget and improved transparency at Cook County Board meetings.

Jan Goldberg spoke from Criminal Justice Group and stated that there is too much mental illness at Cook County Jail. Many could be served in a diversion program from the many that appear in bond court.

The STAR Study Group which stands for Set Targets, Achieve Results is promoting 1) fiscal responsibility, 2) innovative leadership, 3) transparency and accountability and 4) improved services through continual observance of the Cook County Board through the Budget and Structure Committee. The performance and wages of officials is not going to happen right away with the STAR program.

Wheaton League is getting fired up for State Convention in Naperville.

Finally, after lunch, President Toni Preckwinkle spoke from Cook County Board. The systematic changes needed at the Cook County Jail which were eluding us, are now slowly but surely happening. 90% of the inmates are awaiting trial and 70% are awaiting trial for non-violent crimes. Intervention is needed to reduce jail population. Justice Ann Burke is largely responsible for changes the jail. 50% of delinquent juveniles are sent to adult court by prosecutors and not the judge. Toni Preckwinkle feels all juveniles should be entitled to a hearing in juvenile court before being sent to adult court.

Toni Preckwinkle was saying camping is coming back to Cook County forest preserves for the first time in half a century.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Budin

NEWS FROM LWV Lake Michigan Region



As of May 27, 2015 The Clean Water Rule (CWR) was enacted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), thus supporting The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 which The League helped to pass. In 2001 and 2006 the Supreme Court supported decisions that muddied the waters, so to speak, on which bodies of water were covered by the CWA. The CLR provides clarity and will allow for cleaner water Lake Michigan, all of the Great Lakes, and waters across the country. LWVLMR will be monitoring the implementation of the CWR to judge its effectiveness.

The LWVLMR posted a letter on their website regarding the Farm Bill. The letter was signed by over 100 organizations, and LWV was one of them. The letter urges Congress to protect the Farm Bill currently being undermined by the proposed 2016 budget presented by the President. These cuts would restrict

“common sense conservation practices... (which) often involve water conservation and pollution prevention.” The League wants Congress to oppose budget cuts that would affect the Farm Bill.

For more on the CWR visit <http://www.lwvlmr.org/clean-water-act-rule.html>

The full letter regarding the Farm Bill can be found at <http://lwv.org/content/league-urges-congress-protect-farm-bill-conservation-program>



NEWS FROM LWVIL

In current Illinois news, HB 4025 passed the Illinois House of Representatives easily, requiring all high school students to take a civics class prior to graduation. Illinois is only one of ten states not requiring a civics class for high school graduation. President Abraham Lincoln said, “The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow.” We have the opportunity to support a well-functioning republic by giving future voters the tools they will need with an effective civics education.

Also in Illinois, five laws supported by The League have become law:

1. Medically accurate and age appropriate sex education is an educational mandate.
2. Records of non-violent offenders are now sealed, thus making it easier for these offenders to obtain employment after release.
3. Prostitution is no longer a felony. In this same law, newly released inmates may now apply for medical coverage through Medicaid.
4. The age of juvenile offenders has been raised from 17 to 18.
5. An election bill passed allowing for Election Day registration, mailing of ballots up to Election Day and that the election process is facilitated via electronic media.

Additionally, three bills supported by The League were passed by the General Assembly:

1. Prevention of governments from punishing people who call the police to report domestic or sexual crimes or from punishing victims of such crimes.
2. Requirement of charter schools to meet the same non-curricular health and safety standards of public schools.
3. Passage of HB 4025 (see first paragraph)

In pressing League news at the state level as outlined at the 2015 convention, it was voted to readopt all current positions as published in “Where We Stand, 2013-2015 Program” with the exception of the Charter School Position.

The Convention adopted:

1. an action focus on the Criminalization of Mental Illness
2. an action focus on Fiscal Policy with a focus on education and social needs
3. an action focus on Water with a focus on nutrient loss

The Convention readopted:

1. an action focus on Redistricting Reform
2. an action focus on Gun Violence Prevention

Additionally, at convention, it was noted that in order for The League to be strong, it needs to grow in membership both in numbers and diversity and increase both volunteer and financial resources. Increasing membership is a key issue and Bonnie Cox, chair of the Development Committee, wants local League chapters to consider a sponsorship program to help young potential members who are unable to afford the annual dues. In response to the fiscal health of the Illinois League, figuring out how to

“monetize” the League’s effort, being fiscally responsible and the possibility of a dues increase was discussed at the recent state convention.

To read more about HB4025, visit

http://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/why_civics_education_matters.pdf

For the full convention recap visit http://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/june_2015_enews.pdf

Two Excellent LWWIL Convention Workshops 2015 by Judith Royal

I attended two of the workshops at the League of Women Voters of Illinois pre-Convention workshops (57th Biennial Convention) in Lisle, IL, on Friday June 5, 2015.

The first workshop, “Young People Fighting for Justice,” featured four young women who advocated for social justice.

1. Cali Linstrom, a Glenbard West High School student, used social media to pressure the CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch to apologize for statements he made that implied “fat people” did not belong in the Abercrombie clothing line. To read more about Cali and her efforts: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20130525/news/705259915/> or http://www.huffingtonpost.com/darryl-roberts/abercrombie-and-fitch-discrimination_b_3319889.html.
2. Daisy Zamora is a founding board member of the Chicago Freedom School and Women and Girls Collective Action Network/Females United for Action (WGCAN). She took action against a local radio station for a billboard she perceived as sexist. She has created a media justice tool kit to share with others that can be viewed there: https://mediamousearchive.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/media_activist_toolkit.pdf. For more information on Daisy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dl4ulb4I3Wo>
3. Andrea Alvarez, a lawyer at Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) in Elmhurst, is responsible for organizing community groups to address self-identified issues of public concern. More information on the CAC: <http://www.citizenadvocacycenter.org>
4. Miranda Huber is currently a Jane Addams Intern for Social Justice at Elmhurst College. As a freshman at Elmhurst College she organized a union.

The speakers emphasized young adults (Millennials) are likely to get involved in issues that impact their daily lives. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) are important tools in reaching this group, but it takes persistence: (You have to tweet 8 X’s a day to develop a following) Additionally, Millennials want to be engaged but need to be approached and then supported in their effort to take action.

The second workshop, “Bringing Hungarian Pandas and Skeptical Science to Illinois,” was presented at six stations rather than as a lecture.

1. Hungarian Pandas: Attendees viewed World Wildlife’s YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULkYhiucYX8> which outlined how volunteers used very little resources to reach a wide audience and brainstormed for ideas groups like LWV could use. Visit <http://www.skepticalscience.com/> for ideas on how to respond to climate change deniers.
2. Elevate Energy: This organization’s mission is to promote smarter energy use for all. For more information: <http://www.elevateenergy.org>
3. *SCARCE-Resources for Your Community: SCARCE stands for School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education. The organization’s mission is to “inspire people through education, to preserve and care for the Earth’s natural resources, while working to build sustainable

communities.” They are currently collecting sewing machines to be used by immigrant seamstresses. Additionally, the founder and executive director, Kay McKeen, encourages composting of kitchen waste and ten years ago wrote a law for kitchen composting that has not been fully implemented in Illinois. For more information: <http://www.scarcecoed.org>. Currently, some Chicago apartment and condominium complexes and Oak Park have curbside collection of food waste. As Arlington Heights negotiates its new trash contract, should the LWV lobby for food composting?

4. The Dangers of Transporting Oil by Rail: Since 2005 the volume of crude oil shipped by rail has increased 400%, and in 2013 the dangers of this method of transportation were brought to light when a train exploded in Lac Megantic, Canada. The workshop provided general information as well as how to determine if you live in a “blast zone.” Finally, an update on rules and pending legislation was given.
5. *LWV-Lake Michigan IL Region ILO members offer explanations, choices and possibilities for local Leagues that care about climate change and want some new ideas: The problem of Coal Tar Pavement Seal Coats was addressed because it is a potent source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that get into air, soil, water sources and homes. Exposure to these coal tar sealants increases a person’s cancer risk by 38% and more than one half of that risk occurs during the first 18 years of life, and 84% of exposure comes from ingesting soil. There are alternatives to coal tar sealants; local municipalities have instituted bans as have entire states; Minnesota is one. The LWVLMR urges residents to support HB2401-EP Coal Tar Ban <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2401&GAID=13&DocTypeID=HB&SessionID=88&GA=99> (sponsored by Elaine Nekritz). The LWVAH should consider making this an issue for our League. Wilmette and Oak Park Leagues will start work in their towns.
6. Connecting and Collaborating to Face Climate Change Challenges: Several initiatives in Northwest Illinois connecting citizens to the challenges of climate change were highlighted. They included water resource management in Joe Davies County: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ul6Er5i-kU> and the proposed Upper Mississippi River Region ILO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ul6Er5i-kU>

*Indicates information that was of most interest to me.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois 2015 convention (57th biennial convention) by Lynne Kelley

The League of Women Voters of Illinois 2015 convention (57th biennial convention) took place in Lisle, Illinois June 6-7, 2015. I attended pre-convention workshops on Friday, June 5.

The first session, “We Told Them About It. Why Didn’t They Vote?” addressed the reasons why citizens of Illinois may choose not to vote. The reasons include the perception that Illinois is corrupt, since it is indeed the 3rd most corrupt state in the union; and a failure to understand the political process because Illinois, unlike most other states, does not require students to pass a civics class before graduating from public high schools. Illinois needs to address both issues in order to engage voters.

Speakers in the second session, “Lobbying Today: Are We Preaching to the Choir or Reaching Our Goals?” spoke about constituents lobbying representatives in the Illinois legislature. Among the panelists was Patricia Bellock, state representative from Hinsdale. Bellock said that direct contact (personal visits, phone calls and emails to legislators and the governor) from citizens is more helpful than petitions. Panelists recommended that voters lobby both sides of the aisle in Springfield.

In addition to these two sessions, I attended many caucus sessions and took copious notes and would be happy to share my notes with interested League members. League business was handled in plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday; all voting took place on Sunday. One of the pressing matters for the

state League is finances. LWVIL has had a deficit budget for years. LWVIL functions by drawing on its reserves, but cannot do so indefinitely; LWVIL simply must increase income to remain viable. The vote on Sunday was that PMP, which is currently \$27, would become \$30 for FY 2016. The proposed budget was adopted with adjustments for a change in ISP income.

The state convention adopted both the Recommended Program Items and the Non-Recommended Program Items. The state convention also voted for concurrence with the position of the LWV of New York State on consolidation of governmental units or sharing of governmental services as a way of making government more efficient and effective. This concurrence gives LWVIL a foundation for work on issues that are likely to arise in the coming months regarding possible consolidation of units of government in Illinois.

At the state convention Martha “Marty” Stamper of the Palatine LWV approached me and conveyed an invitation for LWVAH to join with Palatine in a constitutional amendment study. This is a national study, set up by LWVUS. I attended a workshop led by Pat Donath on amending the U.S. Constitution. This study is different from other LWV studies. It is a study of (1) the process and (2) the amendment. Materials are available on the web site

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study?page=1>

In a final note, every delegate at the convention was given a clip board and materials to use in gathering signatures to promote redistricting reform in Illinois. These were provided by an anonymous donor in Chicago to encourage local Leagues to become involved in reforming the redistricting process. Each person working on this process for a local league will need a clipboard and a set of petitions for voters to sign. Instructions for carrying out this project are printed on the sheets provided with the clip board.

The state convention featured something appealing to interests of every league member; one person could not attend them all. There were sessions on many different topics that local leagues may choose to study. There were presentations from groups studying sundry issues. There were cocktail parties and musical entertainment. There were sessions addressing concerns of local leagues. It was a full weekend with smart, informed women eager to both learn and share their knowledge.

LWV AH-MP-BG BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2016			
<u>Position/Portfolio</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
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Director/Social Media	Heidi Graham		
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OFF-BOARD LEADERS			
Publicity	Shannon Silverman		

Looking back

Looking forward

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD:
The Impact of Women on the "State of Our State"

The League of Women Voters of Illinois
2015 State of the State Luncheon
Union League Club of Chicago

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$110 | League Member | (Please reserve _____ tickets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$130 | Citizen | (Please reserve _____ tickets) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 | Voter (acknowledgement in Program Book) | (Please reserve _____ tickets) |

I/we are sorry but we won't be able to join you this year. Here is a contribution in the amount of \$ _____

PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING (Camera-ready copy, please! Deadline August 24, 2015)

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| \$1,250 | FULL-PAGE (8.5 x 11") | \$700 | HALF-PAGE (8.5 x 5.5") |
| \$ 500 | QUARTER-PAGE (5.5 x 4.25") | \$175 | EIGHTH-PAGE (2.5 x 4.25") |

Enclosed is my/our check made payable to the League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund. Complete and mail to:
The League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 525, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Name _____	Title _____
Company _____	E-mail Address _____
Address _____	City, State, _____
	Zip Code _____

YOU MAY ALSO MAKE A RESERVATION ON-LINE ON THE LEAGUE'S WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.lwvill.org/state-of-the-state-registration.html>

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: August 24, 2015.
RESERVATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014
Please note that \$45 of each ticket purchased and used is not tax-deductible.



NEWS FROM LWVUS



One key issue that the League is currently addressing is that of campaign Finance Reform. The recent Supreme Court Decision upholding Florida's ban on direct solicitation of campaign donations by candidates for judicial office is a step in the right direction, offering voters more confidence in the impartiality of judges. League President Elisabeth McNamara called this case a "victory for the voters." A recent New York Times/CBS poll showed that Americans, regardless of party affiliation, support campaign finance reform and reject the Supreme Court's other rulings that have chipped away at limitations of campaign donations.

In other League news, thus far in 2015, not one new anti-voting law has passed. There are still threats in several states, but Illinois is not one of them. Additionally, a few states have passed pro-voter measures. The League continues to advocate for voting rights and accessibility. In addition to this good news, The Supreme Court also supported the Arizona law passed by popular vote which placed re-districting into the hands of a non-partisan independent commission rather than in the hands of the State's Legislatures. In the majority opinion, Ruth Bader Ginsburg pointed out that a key tenet of our representative democracy is voters selecting their representatives and not the other way around. The National League, as well as the Arizona and Illinois Leagues, all support independent commissions for re-districting.

The League has also been closely monitoring the status of The Affordable Care Act and The Supreme Court recently upheld access to subsidies regardless of whether or not a state offers its own exchange or is part of the federal exchange. The League sees this as an important win for women's health issues because women are more likely to opt out of health care and cite the high cost of coverage as reason.

And finally, in League history, June 4th marked the 96th anniversary of the 19th amendment which granted women the right to vote! Less than a year after this landmark legislation was passed the great political experiment that we know as The League of Women Voters was formed by Carrie Chapman Catt.

To read more about the policies supported by the LWV, visit <http://lww.org>

For more information regarding campaign Finance reform visit <http://lww.org/press-releases/supreme-court-rules-key-judicial-campaign-finance-case>.

A video by The New York Times regarding campaign finance reform:
<http://www.nytimes.com/video/us/politics/10000003716981/campaign-money-with-no-fingerprints.html?smid=tw-nytvideo>

For the full New York Times article on the poll regarding campaign finance visit http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/03/us/politics/poll-shows-americans-favor-overhaul-of-campaign-financing.html?action=click&contentCollection=Fashion%20%26%20Style&module=MostEmailed&version=Full®ion=Marginalia&src=me&pgtype=article&_r=0

For more news on voter rights visit <http://lww.org/blog/2015-state-legislative-update-pro-voter-reforms-outpace-attacks-voting-rights>

For the full article regarding the anniversary go to <http://lww.org/blog/96-years-ago-congress-passed-19th-amendment>

For additional League information on The Affordable Care Act:
<http://lww.org/press-releases/supreme-court-upholds-key-provisions-affordable-care-act>

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<p>James R. Murray Jr. Manager</p>  <p>Lauterburg & Oehler Funeral Home 2000 E. Northwest Highway Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-253-5423 Fax 847-253-9532 Cell 847-910-8230 jim.murray@sci-us.com</p>	<p>Be Inspired.</p> <p>THE MOORINGS OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS A @Presbyterian Homes Community</p> <p>Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing & Memory Care</p> <p>Call (847) 956-4304 or visit www.presbyterianhomes.org</p>

The League of Women Voters gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Horner Group in providing all the printing, postage and mailing services for our bulletins.





Connie Weissman
810 E. Cherry Lane
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

FIRST CLASS MAIL

See you at the picnic on Sunday, August 23!

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