



Westport Voter

December 2006

Visit our website: www.lwwestportct.org

Holiday Luncheon Fundraiser
Thursday, December 14th 11.30 - 1.30
At the home of Jackie Cutrone
78 Cross Highway

RSVP - Jane Eyes 227 - 0782

Parking is also available at 85 and 62 Cross Highway

On street parking is available on Punch Bowl Drive

Holiday Food Drive - Please bring non-perishable items for a local food pantry.



Westport Wins Democracy Challenge Cup for Voter Turnout

For the second time in six years, Westport has won the state Democracy Challenge Cup for the highest voter turnout among towns our size. The state average was 60 percent, and Westport's turnout was 72.7 percent of registered voters. The League's get-out-the-vote effort was mentioned by Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz in her speech at the awards ceremony at Town Hall and by Town Clerk and League member Patricia Strauss in many newspaper reports.

The League was asked to speak at the awards ceremony. We described all of our efforts, starting in July with preparations for the candidates' forums and the Voters Guide and continuing through the fall with middle school and high school civics presentations, voter registration and the hanging of our banner across Main Street reminding Westporters to vote. All was capped off by our two successful sticker campaigns on election day: our community "Did You Vote Today" effort and our polling place "I Voted. Did You?" endeavor. Thanks to all who helped with each of these functions, and congratulations Westport!



Photo courtesy of Larry Untermeyer

Patty Strauss and Gordon Joseloff accepting the Democracy Challenge Cup for Westport.

League members will proudly carry the Cup in the Memorial Day Parade.



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, community-based political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It was founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the 72 year struggle to win voting rights for women.

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Greetings everyone,

It's such a cliché, we know, but is it really possible 2006 is coming to a close? Time flying is certainly amplified when we lead such busy lives. While 2006 was an industrious year for the League, rather than looking back at our accomplishments we'd like to direct your attention to the early part of 2007 and mention two very important events on the horizon.

The first is Pie and Politics, which will be an evening meeting in late January. We can't say enough about this event, which is a wonderful and unique opportunity to have a face to face discussion with our state senators and representatives in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying delicious homemade pie. Last year the League was enlightened about the potential problems with the newly enacted Campaign Finance Reform law. We brainstormed with our legislators about transportation issues and the looming fear of the Broadwater project (the liquefied natural gas storage facility proposed to be built in Long Island Sound). We even came up with a terrific idea for a multi-state effort to combat this type of storage facility. If you really want to hear what's going on (we're hoping to discuss state law 8-30g regarding affordable housing, among other state issues), please make it a point to join us, and bring your questions. This is a "not to be missed" event.

Secondly, our Budget Study Committee is coming to the end of its study on Westport's budget process and is preparing for our member-wide Consensus Meetings, scheduled for March 20, 2007 (evening), and March 21, 2007 (daytime). We will be reviewing the results of the study, in order to come to a consensus on a position to present for adoption at Annual Meeting in June. An enormous amount of time and effort went into this study and we hope we can count on all of you to help us reach an important new position. Please save the dates now and look for more information in the new year.

Finally, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who unselfishly contribute so much to making the LWV of Westport so special. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a safe and happy New Year,

Eileen and Laura

LWV WEBSITES

www.lwvwestportct.org
www.lwvct.org (Connecticut)
www.lwv.org (US)

Book Group News

The group will meet on December 18 at 1:30 PM at the home of Elaine Weinstein, 39 Whitney St. for an open book discussion. Be ready to list your five or ten all time favorite books.

Please contact Elaine to let her know you will attend the discussion, 226-4561

January 22 - *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk

Multiple copies of the group's selections are available at the Westport Public Library. If you have questions about joining the group, email or call Helene
 Crawford: 227 2572



Welcome New Members

William Harris
 107 Wilton Road
 227-1820

Sarah Menchaca
 7 Meadowview Drive, South
 Westport, CT 06880
 221-1952

Directory Updates

Jane and Julius Fraser

Action Committee: Historic District Commission

The LWV Westport submitted a statement to the Board of Finance on December 6, supporting the HDC's request for an appropriation to hire a staff person to assure compliance with the Certified Local Government program that provides funding for historic preservation. The Board of Finance approved the funding.





Westport LWV Needs You!!!!

DON'T MISS THE BUS! **RALLY FOR TRANSIT IN HARTFORD** Sponsored by the Citizens Transportation Lobby



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 8 am - 1:30 pm

**Round Trip Bus \$20 from Sherwood Island Connector Commuter Lot.
 For more information and to reserve your seat,
 contact Kitty Graves: 227 0506.**

Our rally in 2005 was a great success — over 200 people packed Room 2B in the Legislative Office Building. Our message was heard and we've made progress, but we need to keep the pressure on our legislators to expand scheduling for trains and buses, and to increase rail freight.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY!

Observer Corp/Action Committee

Starting in January the Observer Corps' monthly meetings will be held at 9:00 AM in the Seminar Room of the Library. They will continue to be held there through June, 2007. They will, as usual, be followed immediately by the Action Committee at 11:00 AM. Please mark your calendars so you don't go to the Parks and Recreation Building by mistake.

We have a new vacancy for an Observer to the Parks and Recreation Commission that we would like to fill ASAP. If anyone is interested in filling this position please get in touch with Rose Anne Preston 454-3547.

New Environment Committee

A new committee of the LWV Westport has formed to look at how we can impact decision-making and individual action in Westport and surrounding areas, based on Local, State and National League environment positions. We had our first meeting on December 7 and agreed that our initial focus should be on non-point source pollution (polluted run-off moving over and through the ground) — including fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, bacteria from septic systems and pet and wildlife waste, oil and chemicals, sediment from construction sites and salt from de-icing.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 17. Check the calendar. Don't miss the opportunity to make a difference in your community! If you are interested in participating please contact Pippa Bell Ader at 221-1555.

What's Where? League Archivists Needed

The League is forming a team to track down files and compile a list of who has what. Because we have no central office, historical documents are often preserved by prior officers and directors. Please let us know if you would like to help us make calls, research files and catalog our archives. It's a great job for friends to do together and/or for making new friends! Please call Eileen Flug 227-8474 Thank you!

Hospitality Committee Forming

During the course of the year, the League holds business functions, like Pie and Politics, that require, well, pie! We're looking for few good women and men to coordinate the hospitality portion of these business meetings by arranging for volunteers to bring yummy treats and beverages.

If you are interested, please call Eileen Flug at 227-8474 Thank you!

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Individual Dues: \$50 Household (limited to 2): \$75

Membership year: July 1 through June 30

Send check made payable to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTPORT

P.O. Box 285

Westport, CT 06881- 0285

Contributions to LWV Education Fund are tax deductible; LWV dues are not.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- DEC** 13 **Budget Study** - 10 AM
At home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 14 **Holiday Fundraiser** - 11:30 - 1:30
At home of Jackie Cutrone, 78 Cross Highway
- 18 **Book Group** - 1:30
At home of Elaine Weinstein, 39 Whitney Street
- 21 **Observer Corps** - 9 AM
Action Committee - 11 AM
Parks and Recreation Building
- JAN** 3 **Board Meeting** - 9 AM
At home of Eileen Flug, 5 Gault Avenue
- 10 **Budget Study** - 10 AM
At home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 17 **Environment Committee** - 10 AM
At home of Pippa Bell Ader, 62 Woodside
- 18 **Observer Corps** - 9 AM
Action Committee - 11 AM
Library Seminar Room
- 22 **Book Group** - 1:30 PM
- 31 **Budget Study** - 10 AM
At home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road

All League meetings are open to all members.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

Westport Voter
P.O. Box 285
Westport, CT 06881-0285

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