



# Westport Voter

April 2009

Visit our website: [www.lwwestportct.org](http://www.lwwestportct.org)



**TAG SALE**  
**PLANT SALE and BAKE SALE**  
**Friday and Saturday**  
**May 8 and 9**  
**62 Cross Highway (Winnie's house)**  
**Calling all hands**  
**For our biggest fundraiser of the year**

### For the Tag Sale

1. **WE NEED DONATIONS:** Please bring **small furniture and appliances, antiques, collectibles, musical instruments, china, decorative items, toys, games, CDs & DVDs, jewelry, cook books/gardening books/ coffee table books, bric-a-brac and vintage anything,** to Winifred Balboni's garage, 62 Cross Highway anytime after April 16. For more information, contact Ellie Lowenstein 255-5379/ [ellielowenstein@juno.com](mailto:ellielowenstein@juno.com) or Karen Curtis, 259-1880/[ctkcurtis@aol.com](mailto:ctkcurtis@aol.com)



2. **WE NEED WORKERS:** Please sign-up to work a shift setting up and pricing, selling or cleaning up. We need people for morning and afternoon shifts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. To volunteer, contact Pat Porio: 226-4194.

### For the Plant Sale



### Calling All Gardeners

The sale is a little earlier than usual this year, so you know what that means! We need you to get out there and start digging as soon as possible!

Perennials, shrub and tree seedlings, any and all plant material is welcome. I am happy to provide pots and babysitting services for any plants you have potted up but can't take care of. The perkier looking the plants, the better they sell. If you have any questions or would like to help out during the sale, please contact Lisa Shufro, 221-1350.

### For the Bake Sale



We need donations of baked goods, wrapped in clear plastic and accompanied by a list of ingredients.

This year the bake sale will take place only on Friday. Please contact Liz-Ann Koos to tell her what YOU are planning to bring, or if you can volunteer to work a shift on Friday. 227-2024.

## See You There!

## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION INSIDE



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, community-based political organization that encourages the informed and active participation 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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****PRESIDENTS**

Pippa Bell Ader, 221-1555  
Alison Rivard, 254-2079

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Katy Goldschmidt, 227-0003

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Sheila Creatura, 227-0127

**Program/Advocacy**

Jane Eyes, 227-0782  
Claudia Saunders, 292-6325

**Voter Services**

Liz -Ann Koos, 227 - 2024  
Nancy Bloom, 259-0071

**DIRECTORS**

Pamela Davis, 226-8909  
Kate Comstock Davis, 227-1525  
Doris Skutch, 227-6114  
Carol Stein, 221-7474

**OFF BOARD**

**Member Handbook**, Kitty Graves  
**Webmistress**, Marilyn Bakker  
**Membership Administrator**, Joyce Netherton  
**Voter Editor**, Lisa Shufro

**LWV websites**

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

**From the Presidents**

*Greetings,*

*Several weeks ago, while attending the Winter Warm-up, our annual event for new and prospective members, we heard about one Westport member who made a difference in the League nationally. Many of you will remember this, but the newer members may not have heard the story. Until the early 1970's The League of WOMEN Voters was open only to women. The Westport League, progressive and open-minded as always, proposed to National that men be allowed to join, which was initially met with resistance. Julie Belaga, then president of the Westport LWV, recalls arriving at a national convention in Washington with buttons which read 'Male Suffrage' to make Westport's point. She and her delegation caucused energetically and eventually won the day. As the guest speaker at that convention, Gloria Steinem even grudgingly agreed that it was time for the organization to expand to include men, but suggested that these new members be given secretarial duties to keep them in their place.*

*Over 30 years later, women still dominate the Westport League Board and committees, but over 20% of our membership is of the male persuasion. Fifty five of the 230 members are men, at last count! It is hard to imagine or to remember a League without men. But then again, neither can we imagine not having the right to vote, given to most American women a mere 90 years ago.*

*We encourage you to contemplate our progress as we recognize the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Westport. Tell us your League-related stories so that we may retain our history for the future. And come join us for our major spring events—the Tag Sale and the Annual Meeting—to renew old acquaintances and to meet newer members as we carry on the League traditions of active involvement in community and government life.*

*Pippa and Alison*



**CALLING ALL MEMBERS TO THE  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 8:00 AM**

AT CHRIST AND HOLY TRINITY CHURCH COMMUNITY ROOM  
55 Myrtle Avenue (corner of Church lane)



*Continental Breakfast will be served  
Donations will be accepted to defray costs*



**Come hear a wrap of the year's activities, meet this year's scholarship recipient, vote on next year's program, budget and slate of officers and celebrate the Westport League's 60th anniversary with friends and fellow League members.**

Park in rear of the Church or in 'blue spaces' in the Baldwin parking lot.

**RSVP to Luisa Francoeur at 227-5593**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MEMORIAL DAY IS MAY 25**

And we're marching, with  
 Winnie leading the way.  
 New t-shirts this year!  
 Stay Tuned.  
 More in this space in the May Voter.

**40<sup>th</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (SIR)**

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Connecticut Education Fund, Inc. in cooperation with the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University and the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University.

**BRIC: Brazil, Russia, India, and China –Giants on the Move**

Thursday, April 23 2009 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Alumni Hall, Carl Hansen Student Center  
 Quinnipiac University

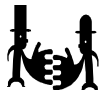
275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, CT

For carpooling information, call Alison Rivard 254-2079



**National Popular Vote Compact Consensus Meeting Report:**

The NPV Compact consensus meeting was held on March 25th at Earthplace. Twenty LWV Westport members participated in the presentation and discussion. The role of local leagues in this study was to clarify the direction that LWVUS should take in advancing the current position in favor of abolition of the Electoral College, by supporting the adoption of the NPV Compact or relying solely on continuing advocacy for a Constitutional amendment.



During the discussion of the consensus questions, some members expressed concern with the lack of precedent for using interstate compacts for "political" as opposed to commercial or regulatory matters and their preference for Constitutional amendments as the vehicle for change. However, a majority of those present felt that the NPV Compact would be a way to move more quickly toward achieving the goal of legitimizing the results of the popular vote and that the LWVUS should support the Compact because it is important to keep the pressure on Congress to adopt a Constitutional amendment. LWVUS will report on the national consensus later this spring.

**ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH**



As you may already know, the League is a co-sponsor of The GreenScape Challenge. In an attempt to reduce the amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that run off into our waterways the GreenScape Challenge is asking homeowners to eliminate the use of these products on their lawns, and to go organic. Whether you care for your lawn yourself or hire some one else to do it, here are some tips to keep in mind:

1. Mow high. This enables lawns to photosynthesize their own food, and it helps crowd out weeds.
2. Leave grass clipping on lawn to provide your lawn with a natural fertilizer.
3. Water infrequently and deeply. This promotes deep root growth.
4. Use compost, manure or organic fertilizers.

Look for us at the Earthplace Green Earth Fair (see below) to pick up a brochure and to take the GreenScape Challenge!

**Book Group News**

All meetings are at 1:30PM unless otherwise noted. The group is open to all League members. Please join us! RSVP to hostess. If you have questions contact Elaine Weinstein, 226-4561 or [emw39@optonline.net](mailto:emw39@optonline.net)

**April 27 - Mukiwa** by Peter Godwin. "With humor, portent and melancholy, Godwin recreates his 1960s youth in white Rhodesia." At Athena Bradley's house, 7 Northgate.

**May 18 - Under the Banner of Heaven** by Jon Krakauer. "While [the author] demonstrates that most non-fundamentalist Mormons are community oriented, industrious and law-abiding, he poses some striking questions about the closed-minded, closed-door policies of the religion-and many religions in general." (From the Publishers Weekly review.) At Rene

Corcoran's house, 73 Turkey Hill South.



Welcome to these new League members:

Katherine Alcorn  
 38 Edgewater Commons Lane  
 227-3524

Barrett Kritzmire  
 34 Woodside Avenue  
 222-7333

Debby Angotti  
 1 Old Hill Road  
 454-3438

**Earthplace Green Earth Fair**

**April 25, 11-4:** Come

with your family and visit the League's table, as well as the display by the new Westport Greenscapes Challenge (which the League is co-sponsoring.) Learn more about the effects of chemical fertilizer and pesticide use and water quality. One additional volunteer is still needed to staff the League table and hand out material. Contact Pippa Bell Ader for details.



**Harbor Watch/River Watch Water Quality Monitoring:**

The League will be taking responsibility for biweekly monitoring of the Aspetuck River, beginning on May 13. There

is an opportunity for our volunteers to become "leaders" of teams, and others to participate as assistants. It's fun and a great way to be part of improving water quality in our local waterways. Contact Pippa Bell Ader.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WESTPORT

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 110  
WESTPORT, CT 06881



**TAG SALE PLANT SALE BAKE SALE**  
Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9

**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**

- April** 23 **Symposium on International Relations (SIR)** - 8:30 AM. At Quinnipiac University.
- 24 **Local Election Turnout Study Meeting** - 1:30 PM. At Katy Goldschmidt's house, 27 Woods Grove Road.
- 25 **Green Earth Fair** - 11:00 PM-4:00 PM. At Earthplace, 10 Woodside Lane.
- 27 **Book Group** - 1:30 PM. At Athena Bradley's house, 7 Northgate.
- 30 **Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 AM. At the Westport Public Library, Seminar Room
- May** 6 **Board Meeting** - 8:30 AM. At Sheila Creatura's house, 45 Owenoke.
- 8&9 **TAG SALE!!! PLANT SALE!!! BAKE SALE!!!** ALL HANDS ON DECK. At Winnie Balboni's house, 62 Cross Highway.
- 18 **Book Group** - 1:30 PM. At Rene Corcoran's, 73 Turkey Hill South.
- 21 **Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 AM. At the Westport Public Library, Seminar Room
- 25 Memorial Day Parade - 8:00 AM. Details to follow
- June** 3 **Annual Meeting** - 8:30 AM. At Christ and Holy Trinity Church Community Room, 55 Myrtle Avenue..

**All League meetings are open to all members.**