



Westport Voter

NOVEMBER 2010

Visit our website: www.lwwestportct.org

CELEBRATING (61) YEARS IN WESTPORT



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTPORT
POST ELECTION COFFEE

Date: November 10, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Place: Home of Pamela Davis

4 Tanglewood Lane, Westport

Please join us as we gather to take a collective sigh of relief and recap the election season. As always, we will give a brief overview of League activities for our new members and guests.

This year we will hear from Bob Zappi, Chair of the Republican Town Committee and Jim Ezzes, Chair of the Democratic Town Committee, who have agreed to give us the inside scoop on planning and executing local campaigns.

Don't forget, this is a perfect opportunity to bring a prospective member!



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.

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Voter Editor, Carol Stein

LWV websites

www.lwvwestportct.org

www.lwvct.org (Connecticut)

www.lwv.org (U.S.)

Book Group News

All meetings are at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The group is open to all League members. Please join us!

November 22: **The Calligrapher's Daughter** by Eugenia Kim, "*inspired by the life of the author's Korean mother, [the book] is a beautiful, deliberate and satisfying story spanning 30 years of Korean History.*" At the home of Kitty Graves, 67 Wright Street.

December 13: **Into the Beautiful North: A Novel** by Luis Alberto Urrea, "*Urrea's poetic sensibility and journalistic eye for detail in painting the Mexican landscape and sociological complexities create vivid, memorable scenes, Publishers Weekly.*" At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive.



From the Presidents



November 2010

Greetings to All:

With the elections finally over, we want to recognize the hard work of the many League members who provided voter services throughout this busy season.

A very special thanks to our Voter Services VP Becky Ruthven who skillfully masterminded the October 13 Candidates Debates. Many thanks, too, to our co-sponsor, the Y's Women, the League volunteers who served as screeners and timekeepers, and to the Staples High students, "SLOBS" (Service League of Boys) who ushered and kept the questions coming quickly from the audience. Thanks also for the wonderful cooperation from our Town Clerk Patricia Strauss, Town Hall staff and cable channel staff, who played such a vital role in the process.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the *Westport Minuteman* for once again supporting our community education efforts with the production of this year's Voters' Guide that was made available to Westport residents in its October 21 issue. A very special thanks too, to Jane Eyes, for leading a group of League members in developing questions for the Guide, contacting the candidates for their responses, and then overseeing the final proofreading. We are so fortunate to have this valuable guide, one that enables Westporters to learn about the candidates' positions and make informed decisions before they go to the polls.

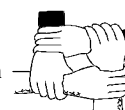
On Sunday, October 24, our League joined eleven other area Leagues at the Clune Center at Wilton High School to co-sponsor a Candidates Debate 4th Congressional District candidates for U.S. House of Representatives. Our League provided PR support and an outstanding program generously produced by Luisa Francoeur.

We hope you will join us at this year's Post-Election Coffee on Wednesday, November 10 at 10 a.m. at the home of Pam Davis. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Holiday Lunch, on Friday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Ann Sheffer. This is always a warm and wonderful opportunity to see old friends and meet new League members.

Doris & Yvonne

Member Services Committee News

As you may know, a member services committee has been formed temporarily to take on the duties of the Member Services Vice Presidents.



We would love to hear from members as we work to organize all the wonderful member events of the league year and we welcome you to join us for our next meeting on November 22nd. Contact Hope Hageman at 227-5335 or Lisa Shufro at 221-1350.



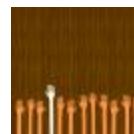
Please join us in welcoming back the following members:

Pamela Weil
90 Turkey Hill South
(203) 259-5173

Vivian Meyers
13 Blue Ribbon Drive
(203) 227-8282

Do you know someone who is interested in joining the Westport League of Women Voters?

If so, let Luisa Francoeur know. Please include name, address, phone number and e-mail if possible. She will be happy to send out information.



Candidates Debates LWV of Westport



Photos by Phyllis Groner

An impressive line-up of League screeners and timekeepers



The State Representative Candidates Debate

Many thanks to all of the League and community volunteers who made the October 13 Candidates Debates such a success. Approximately 150 people were in attendance in the Westport Town Hall Auditorium. The State Representative and State Senate candidates responded to questions from the audience and from home viewers submitted online, screened and timed by League volunteers. Thanks, too, to moderator Jean Rabinow, of LWVCT and the Town Hall cable staff for the live broadcast of the debate. The debates were televised on Channel 79 and were rebroadcast until the elections on November 2.

Becky Ruthven

How the League makes a difference...

Did you know that almost 60% of Westport's homes use septic systems? And were you aware that it has been estimated that 10-20% of American septic systems may be malfunctioning due to age and inadequate maintenance? (EPA estimate). Back in 2007 the revised Town Plan of Conservation called for a septic system ordinance, with the goal to better control the town's water quality. The Westport League supported this concept and wrote to various town bodies and the first selectman to encourage such a plan. Soon thereafter the Waste Water Management Committee was formed, with League representation.



The town decided to undertake an educational campaign to help residents understand proper septic care before considering an ordinance. Those of you who live in homes with a septic system should have received an eye-catching cartoon-covered brochure in June, addressing the functioning, care and maintenance of a septic system (written in part by League member Pippa Bell Ader). The "mocumentary" titled "Pump It Up Baby," written by another League member, Helen Martin Block, was premiered at the Westport EcoFest in May, and will be aired at various events and locations in the Fall. In addition, members of the Septic Education Task Force, which includes League members Diane Cady and Jonathan Steinberg, will be giving talks throughout town in the Fall. And this was all facilitated by a letter that was written by the League!

Pippa Bell Ader

LWV In the Schools...

Thanks to the 18 League members who volunteered their time to present our civics lesson to all the 7th graders at Coleytown Middle School and Bedford Middle School. 445 students in 20 classes learned about the history of voting, the importance of knowing what candidates represent before voting, and how to be a knowledgeable voter. With lollipops for the students and some thought provoking role-plays, a good time was had by all.



Jill Greenberg

Next Topic Talk: Senior Living on Baron's South

Date: November 8th

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: McManus Room,
Westport Public Library

Please come and get informed about the new Senior Housing Proposal put forth to the Planning and Zoning Commission on October 28th by our First Selectman Gordon Joseloff and Shelly Kassen. A panel will answer your questions about the Proposal, a plan for continuum of care on town-owned land which will include independent living and assisted living, a skilled nursing facility and additional community services. The panel will also provide examples of what other communities have done in this area. Panelists will include Gordon Joseloff, First Selectman, Barbara Butler, Director of Human Services, architect Richard Rosen, AIA, a Principal in the firm Perkins Eastman and Ross Burkhardt, President of New Neighbors, Inc. who have been advisors to the town on this project.

Liz-Ann Koos, Vice President of Program/Advocacy

SAVE THE DATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTPORT HOLIDAY LUNCH FUNDRAISER



Date: December 10th

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Place: At the home of Ann Sheffer,
19 Stony Point Road

RSVP: By December 7th to Nancy Bloom at
(203) 259-0071



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WESTPORT

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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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

- Nov**
- 8 **Topic Talk** - Panel on "**Senior Living on Baron's South**", 1:30 p.m., McManus Room, Westport Public Library
 - 10 **Post Election Coffee** - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. At the home of Pamela Davis, 4 Tanglewood Lane
 - 17 **LWVCT Fundraiser** - "An Evening with Gina Barreca" 7:00 p.m., Westport Woman's Club, 44 Imperial Avenue
 - 18 **Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m. At the home of Ann Gill, 53 Highpoint Road
 - 22 **Member Services Committee Meeting** - 10:00 a.m. At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Dr.
 - 22 **Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Kitty Graves, 67 Wright Street
- Dec**
- 1 **Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m. At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
 - 10 **Holiday Lunch** - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., At the home of Ann Sheffer, 19 Stony Point Road
 - 13 **Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
 - 16 **Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m. At the home of Ann Gill, 53 Highpoint Road

All League meetings are open to all members.