



Westport Voter

October 2010

Visit our website: www.lwvwestportct.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 of the Republican Town Committee and Jim Ezzes 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 Annual Fall Brunch ... an unmitigated success! Over 80 members and friends mingled with state and local elected officials and candidates at the Fall Brunch. Candidates present were: Toni Boucher, DeeDee Brandt, Jacob oJanö Bryniczka, Nitzzy Cohen, Marla Cowden, Dan Debicella, Kim Fawcett, John Hartwell, Jim Himes, and Jonathan Steinberg.

A big thank you to James & Pamela Weil for generously offering their lovely historic home. It was truly a welcoming Westport afternoon. The event could not have been possible without the help and donations of over 25 volunteers who assisted with donations of food and time, and helped to make the event a rousing success. See you at the next event.

Co-Chairs Marilyn Smith, Hope Hageman and Lisa Shufro

At the Brunch
Co-Presidents
Doris Skutch and
Yvonne Senturia
with State Senate
Candidates John
Hartwell and Toni
Boucher



*A view from the loft of
the historic Weil home...*

Photos by Phyllis Groner



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

Doris Skutch, 227-6114
Yvonne Senturia, 226-6683

PAST PRESIDENT

Alison Rivard, 254-2079

TREASURER

Joyce Netherton, 222-8903

SECRETARY

Carol Burgess, 226-5593

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Community Services

Jill Greenberg, 454-3723

Lois Green, 227-8131

Member Services

Vacant

Program/Advocacy

Liz-Ann Koos, 227-2024

Voter Services

Becky Ruthven, 222-1206

DIRECTORS

Peg Bishop, 226-3026

Nancy Bloom, 259-0071

Bernadette Farrell, 454-2144

Jackie Gordon, 803-3725

Phyllis Groner, 226-5583

Claudia Saunders, 292-6325

Marilyn Smith, 259-0916

Carol Stein, 221-7474

OFF BOARD

Webmistress, Marilyn Bakker
Voter Editor, Carol Stein

From the Presidents



October 2010

Hello to All,

Our League's new season "officially" kicked off on Sunday, September 26, with a very successful Fall Brunch held at the beautiful historic home of our generous hosts, Pamela and James Weil. A very special thanks to Co-Chairs Marilyn Smith, Hope Hageman and Lisa Shufro, and to the many volunteers who contributed food, beverages, set up and clean-up.

And now we're on to a very busy election time ... be sure to mark your calendar so you won't miss three important local events you'll be reading about in this issue:

- October 13 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. LWV Candidates Debates at Westport Town Hall
- October 24 - 4:00 p.m. LWV Regional Candidates Debate at Wilton High School
- November 10 - 10:00 a.m. Post-Election Coffee at the home of Pamela Davis

While many of us are currently absorbed with the national and local political campaigns, in Westport the job of educating young people about the principles of constitutional democracy goes on year-round. Our League has offered a 7th Grade Civics and High School Voter Education program for the past twelve years. Teams of volunteers go into classrooms at this time of year to demonstrate, through discussion and activities, the value of the right to vote. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to join other members in this fun and important service to the community. Check elsewhere in this issue for details on how to get involved.

We hope to see you often this month!

Doris & Yvonne

In Gratitude for the Life of Rene Corcoran

We were very saddened by the death of our generous and extraordinary friend and League member Rene Corcoran, who died August 23rd in her beloved Ireland. Rene was a long-time member of our book group, an enthusiastic volunteer for the League's Westport-My Town, My Vote project and participant in Program/Advocacy. Her family has asked that memorial contributions be made to cystic fibrosis research at www.cff.org and Type 1 diabetes and autoimmune research at www.faustmanlab.org.



LWV websites

www.lwvwestportct.org
www.lwvct.org (Connecticut)
www.lwv.org (U.S.)



Please join us in welcoming our newest member:

Barbara K. Phillips
11 Wilton Crest
Wilton, CT 06897
(203) 762-7024 (H)/ (203) 249-9272 (C)
boophil@attglobal.net

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 October 26th. Contact Hope Hageman at hhageman1@gmail.com/227-5335 or Lisa Shufro at lisa.shufro@gmail.com/221-1350.



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!

October 25: **Brooklyn** by Colm Tobias, *"the industrious young Eilis Lacey reluctantly finds herself swept up in an unplanned adventure to America."* At the home of Hope Hageman, 116 Greens Farms Road.

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.



Letter to the LWV from Stanley Nayer, Chair, Westport Commission of Senior Services ...

Of major importance this Fall is to help move along the process to approve the Senior Living Proposal on the Baron's South Property proposed by First Selectman Gordon Joseloff and Second Selectman Shelly Kassen. It is extremely important that as many Westporters as possible attend a presentation to be held before the Planning & Zoning Commission on Thursday, October 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Westport Town Hall.

We urge you to show your support of the plan, the first step in the legal process to develop and approve a plan for senior facilities on the Baron's South Property. For further information, contact Shelly Kassen (SKassen@westportct.gov, or Barbara Butler (bbutler@westportct.gov).



Candidates Debates LWV of Westport



Co-sponsored by the Y's Women

Wednesday, October 13th
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Westport Town Hall Auditorium

Toni Boucher (R) & John Hartwell (D)
Candidates for State Senate from District 26

DeeDee Brandt (R) & Kim Fawcett (D)
Candidates for State Representative from District 133

Nitzy Cohen (R) & Jonathan Steinberg (D)
Candidates for State Representative from District 136

The debates will be shown on Channel 79 and rebroadcast on additional dates as well as being streamed on www.westportct.gov.

An exciting new first will be the opportunity for viewers to submit questions electronically via lwvdebates@gmail.com

For more information contact Becky Ruthven at bruthven@optonline.net.

Please Join Us
for the 4th Congressional District
Candidates' Debate

Sunday, October 24, 2010
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wilton High School Clune Center
395 Danbury Rd. (Route 7)
Wilton, CT

Jim Himes (D) & Dan Debicella (R)



CO-SPONSORED BY:

The Leagues of Women Voters of Bridgeport Area, Darien, Fairfield, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton

For information, contact Jara Burnett,
League of Women Voters of Greenwich
(203) 637-9244

Join LWV In the Schools...

The 7th grade civics lessons will be conducted on Thursday, October 28 at Coleytown Middle School and on Friday, October 29 at Bedford Middle School. Seeking those with experience and those eager to try something new. Call or e-mail Jill Greenberg, VP Community Services, at 454-3723 or jsgreenb@optonline.net if interested.



It's time again for the fall high school civics presentations known as The Power of One. We'll be at Staples this year on October 22, 25, 27, and 28. If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact Lisa Shufro at 221-1350 or lisa.shufro@gmail.com



Laughter is good for you!

*SAVE THE DATE
FOR A VERY SPECIAL
EVENING WITH
GINA BARRECA*

Humorist and Bestselling Author

Presented by

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut

November 17, 2010
7:00 p.m.

at the Westport Woman's Club
44 Imperial Avenue, Westport

For more info, contact
lwvct@lwvct.org or 288-7996.

How the League makes a difference...

Have you noticed that some town commissions no longer take detailed minutes of their meetings? Fortunately, if you can't attend a meeting of interest to you, it may be televised and available to view for a period of time on the town's website: www.westportct.org (see online services).

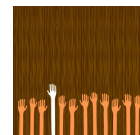
While the Board of Education provides live televised meetings, it does not provide online viewing of meetings or detailed minutes of meetings. **As a result of a request from the League of Women Voters to the BOE, DVDs of each televised meeting are now available to the public at the library. They can be found behind the reference desk and may be taken out for a week.** The League thanks the Board for responding so promptly to our request.



Pippa Bell Ader

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

If so, let Luisa Francoeur know at nutmeg5@optonline.net. Please include name, address, phone number and e-mail if possible. She will be happy to send out information.





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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Oct**
- 6 **Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m. At the home of Bernadette Farrell, 95 Calvary Road
 - 13 **Candidates Debates** - 7:00p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Westport Town Hall
 - 21 **Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m. At the home of Ann Gill, 53 Highpoint Road
 - 24 **LWV Regional 4th Congressional District Candidates Debate** - 4:00 p.m., Wilton High School
 - 25 **Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Hope Hageman, 116 Greens Farm Road
 - 26 **Member Services Committee Meeting** - 9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
- Nov**
- 3 **Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m. At the home of Jill Greenberg, 7 Strathmore Lane
 - 8 **Topic Talk** - TBD
 - 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 **Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Kitty Graves, 67 Wright Street

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.

All League meetings are open to all members.