



# Westport Voter

September 2010

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

CELEBRATING 61 YEARS IN WESTPORT

You are Invited to

## The Annual Fall Brunch

Sunday, September 26

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

At the home of

Pamela & John Weill

90 Turkey Hill South

Westport

*Don't miss this opportunity to meet the candidates, greet old and new friends and help us get the year off to a great start.*

\$20 per person

Please make check payable to LWV Westport

P.O. Box 285, Westport, CT 06881

RSVP by September 20th  
to Nancy Bloom at (203) 259-0071

*Donations in lieu of attendance gratefully received*



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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*From the Presidents*



September 2010

*Hello to All,*

Welcome back for what promises to be an exciting year for the League. A number of our members spent a very busy and productive summer planning a full Fall agenda.

One of the major events will be our Fall Brunch to be held on Sunday, September 26 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. This annual event, one of three fundraisers held throughout the year by our League, helps provide the money we need for local programming. It's a great opportunity to catch up with your friends, and meet the candidates, and greet new members.

You won't want to miss the Candidate Debates to be held on Monday, October 4 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Westport Town Hall Auditorium. This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer to be part of this important community event. If you are interested, you can get more information by calling Voter Services VP Becky Ruthven at 222-1206. Thanks, too, to Jane Eyes and the Voters' Guide Committee for its work in organizing this informative brochure to be ready for distribution in late October, once again through the generosity of the *Westport Minuteman*.

Liz-Ann Koos and Bernadette Farrell, Program/Advocacy VPs, have planned an exciting new series of Topic Talks, beginning on October 13. These informative sessions, launched last year, offer League members the opportunity to hear from interesting speakers on current issues of concern.

We also want to encourage those who have not yet responded to their renewal notices to send them in quickly. You won't want to miss being included in the 2010-2011 Member Handbook, now in progress for October publication. If you need a duplicate form, it's available on the League website [www.lwwestportct.org](http://www.lwwestportct.org)

We look forward to seeing you at our Fall events and activities.

*Doris and Yvonne*

**LWV websites**

[www.lwwestportct.org](http://www.lwwestportct.org)  
[www.lwvct.org](http://www.lwvct.org) (Connecticut)  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (U.S.)



Please join us in welcoming our newest member:

Joelle Schon  
326 Wilton Road  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 221-9631  
Joelle.schon@gmail.com



**Be on the Lookout**

If you have any League equipment or supplies in your home, please let Sheila Creatura know at 227-0127

**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!

September 27: **My Father's Paradise** by Ariel Sabar, *“A Son's search for his Jewish past in Kurdish Iraq.”* At the home of Sheila Creatura, 45 Owenoke.

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.



**A Special Thanks.....**

We'd like to offer a very special thanks to the *Westport News* for the outstanding front page article on July 28 about our 60th Anniversary Video Project. If you missed it, you can still catch up by visiting our website [www.lwwestportct.org](http://www.lwwestportct.org).

*Lisa Shufro & John Hartwell*

**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



State Senator District 26 & State Representatives  
(District 133)

Co-sponsored by the Y's Men, Y's Women & The Westport  
Woman's Club

**Monday, October 4**  
**7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Westport Town Hall Auditorium**

The debates will be shown on Channel 79 and rebroadcast on  
additional dates.

An exciting new first will be the opportunity for viewers to  
submit questions electronically via [lwvdebates@gmail.com](mailto:lwvdebates@gmail.com)

## VOTER SERVICES NEEDS YOU ....



### We Are Looking For Timers for the Debate.

If you can be available, please contact Jo Ann Davidson or Becky  
Ruthven.

### We Need Someone on a Laptop to Monitor Questions Being Submitted via g-mail.

If you are interested, please contact Becky Ruthven at 222-1206  
or at e-mail address above.

### Come Help Us Develop Debate Questions.

**September 15 at 10:00 a.m.**

**At the home of Becky Ruthven, 3 Panhandle Lane.**

If you are interested in participating, please let Becky know at the  
number above.

## Program/Advocacy

Like Janus looking both to the past and the future, Program/Advocacy will continue its successful "Topic Talks" initiated last year. The thrust of these programs, a forum for panel discussions with a question and answer component, is to encourage development of informed opinions about the issues of the day in an intelligent and free-flowing environment. Additionally, our goals are ambitious, with several "Reviews" on the table for the upcoming year. They are as follows:

- Affordable Housing in the Shadow of 8-30g
- An Ethics Code for Westport, Yea or Nay
- The Westport Budget: Consolidation of Services, Worthwhile or Impractical
- Preserving the Taking of Minutes, Essential or Superfluous

Whether you are a new, former, long-serving, or just-thinking-about-it League member who has an interest or expertise in, or desire to learn about any of these issues, please contact Program/Advocacy VPs Liz-Ann Koos (227-2024) or Bernadette Farrell (454-3684). We welcome your participation, as small or as large as your time and interest permits.

We will also continue our informal **ad hoc discussions** on the topics of **Immigration**, an outgrowth of the LWVUS Immigration Study, and on **Health Care Reform**, the focus of the LWVCT Fall Conference. If you would like to be notified when a discussion meeting is scheduled, just contact Jane Eyes at 227-0782.

The merged **Observer/Action Corps**, under the leadership of Rose Anne Preston, Ann Gill and Lisa Shufro, will continue its work of observing town boards and committees and identifying local issues that may warrant action by the League. The Observer/Action Corps is a terrific way to get to know the town and have a chance to affect positive changes in our community. All and any who are interested should contact Rose Anne at 454-3547.

*Liz-Ann Koos & Bernadette Farrell*

### Voters' Guide Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 29 10:00 a.m.

At the home of Jane Eyes  
4 Orchard Lane

We are very pleased that the *Minute-man* will publish the Voters' Guide again this year. We hope you will join us to help provide timely and accurate information to the voters of Westport. Please RSVP to 227-0782.

### 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 September 28th. Contact Hope Hageman at 227-5335 or Lisa Shufro at 221-1350.



### 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CIVICS CLASS

Save an hour or more during the last 2 weeks of October to help us teach our school children about voting and voter's rights. Join us for this fun and interesting annual event, as we go into every 7<sup>th</sup> grade classroom to talk to middle school students about voting. Don't be shy. Pair up with another League friend or meet a new member of the LWV Westport to co-teach a few important lessons using a prepared script. Call **Jill Greenberg at 454-3723** if you are interested in participating or learning more about the 7<sup>th</sup> grade civics lesson.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WESTPORT

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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WESTPORT, CT 06881



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sept 15 Debate Questions Committee Meeting-** 10:00 a.m.  
At the home of Becky Ruthven, 3 Panhandle Lane
- 16 Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m.  
At the home of Ann Gill, 53 Highpoint Road
- 26 LWV Fall Brunch** - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. At the home of Pamela & John Weill, 90 Turkey Hill South
- 27 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Sheila Creatura, 45 Owenoke
- 28 Member Services Meeting** - 9:45 a.m. At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
- 29 Voters' Guide Committee Meeting** - 10:00 a.m.  
At the home of Jane Eyes, 4 Orchard Lane
- Oct 4 Candidates Debates** - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Westport Town Hall Auditorium
- 6 Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m. At the home of Bernadette Farrell, 95 Calvary Road
- 13 Topic Talks-** 1:30 p.m. TBD
- 21 Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m.  
At the home of Ann Gill, 53 Highpoint Road
- 25 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Hope Hageman, 116 Greens Farm Road
- 26 Member Services Meeting - 9:45 a.m.** At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive

**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.**