



# Westport Voter

April 2011

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

## CELEBRATING (62) YEARS IN WESTPORT

**Think Spring, Think Tag Sale**  
**Our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year!**  
**Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14**  
**Location: 245 Saugatuck Ave**  
**(the former Fitness Edge site)**  
**Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Bring your treasures to 245 Saugatuck Avenue on Monday, May 9, and Tuesday, May 10 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. We need volunteers, particularly drivers, for Tuesday and Wednesday morning to move boxes from two other sites. We'd welcome your energy and creativity ... and you'll have fun by being part of the Tag Sale Team. To volunteer, call Tag Sale Leader Karen Curtis at 259-1880.

NO: Children's Toys/Furniture	YES: Collectibles
Bean Bag Chairs	Children's Books
Halogen Floor Lamps	Clean Children's
Dehumidifiers	Clothing
Window Blinds	Cookbooks
Old Appliances	Small Furniture Items

### Plant Sale News

Calling all gardeners in the League! We are planning to expand our popular plant sale at this year's tag sale by adding some annuals and houseplants, as well as gardening books, tools and supplies. **So please keep us in mind as you:**

- 1. Clean up your garden and divide or dig up volunteers.** We LOVE neatly potted, perky, labeled plants, herbaceous and woody, of all sizes.
- 2. Cull your gardening books, tools and supplies.** We will be happy to sell whatever you no longer need, especially any decorative pots you can spare.
- 3. Start your annual vegetable and flower seeds.** If you are a seed-starter, please consider throwing a couple of extra six-packs in for us to sell. Shoppers are always looking for these at our sale.

Remember, Lisa has plenty of pots and can look after any plants dug early, so you don't have to remember to water and tend them until the sale. Just give her a call 221-1350.

*Lisa Shufro, Peg Bishop and Andi Turner*



### SAVE THE DATE

It's time for the LWV Annual Meeting



**Date:** Wednesday, June 8th, 2011  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
**Place:** Saugatuck Congregational Church  
 Hoskins Hall  
 245 Post Road East  
**R.S.V.P.:** Yvonne Senturia at 226-6683

*Continental Breakfast will be served*



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**

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**Voter Editor**, Carol Stein

**From the Co-Presidents**



April 2011

Greetings to All,

This month, we want to share a Letter to the Editor we recently submitted to our local press, as Leagues around the country celebrated Sunshine Week. We believe this message is important for all members to read:

*To the Editor:*

*The father of our federal Constitution, James Madison, wrote that "consent of the governed" requires that the people be able to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." An open and accountable government is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy — and the League of Women Voters is committed to maintaining this. On the national level as well as with our local Westport League, our efforts have helped citizens gain access to information as we work to put power back in the hands of the public.*

*Openness includes protection of every resident's right of access to public records and government meetings. The Town of Westport has demonstrated commitment to openness in operations, working to provide information electronically and online relating to government records and programs.*

*Even in these more difficult financial times, we urge the Town to maintain as a high priority ensuring public access to government records and to adequate information on the deliberative processes of our local boards and commissions, whose decisions affect not only current residents, but future generations as well.*

*The League of Women Voters believes that an open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in their leadership, and in the government's ability to effectively serve its citizens.*

League of Women Voters of Westport

Many exciting things will be happening over the upcoming weeks, and we hope you will volunteer and/or join us for one or more of the projects highlighted in this issue. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Doris & Yvonne

**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!

April 25: **The Lacuna** by Barbara Kingsolver. *"Kingsolver takes us on an epic journey from the Mexico City of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR and J. Edgar Hoover."* At the home of Sheila Creatura, 45 Owenoke.

May 26: **Empires of the Indus** by Alice Albinia. *"Alice Albinia follows the river upstream, through two thousand miles of geography and back to a time five thousand years ago when a string of sophisticated cities grew on its banks."* At the home of Deborah Green, 17 Cockenoe Drive.



**Legislative Update: Death Penalty**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut, in collaboration with our League, presented an informative and timely Topic Talk, "Connecticut Death Penalty Legislative Update," on March 14 at the Westport Public Library. The session was moderated by League member Ellen McBride, currently serving as LWVCT Death Penalty Specialist, who introduced guest speaker Ben Jones, Executive Director of the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP), of which the LWVCT is a member. In his presentation, he spoke to the pending legislation, highlighting the costs, harm to victims' families due to the length of appeals and media attention, conviction of innocent people, unfair application of the death penalty, and lack of evidence that it acts as a deterrent to recidivism. Q & A followed, and the importance and the urgency of our sending e-mails and letters to our legislators in support of HB6425 and SB1035 abolishing the death penalty was stressed.

Westport League members Ellen, Jane Eyes and the late Rene Corcoran were all part of the State league study of the death penalty, that concluded in 2006 with a state position in support of the abolition of the death penalty. For information about how you can get involved, contact Ellen McBride at [erbride@optonline.net](mailto:erbride@optonline.net).



Eileen Rosen  
124 Birch Hill Road  
Weston, CT 06883  
(203) 226-1433

**Cleanup Westport Day is Saturday April 16**

LWV Westport's assigned area is the State Boat Launch - Underhill Parkway. Join us 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Questions? Contact Jo Ann Davidson 203/227-2455.



## United Nations Visit Thursday, June 2

Liz-Ann Koos, VP for Program/Advocacy, has organized an exciting and engaging day at the United Nations for members of the Westport and Fairfield Leagues. We'll be meeting on Thursday, June 2 at 9:00 a.m. in the UN Visitors Lobby, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue & 46<sup>th</sup> Street, New York.

You'll have the opportunity to learn about what the UN is doing to impact human rights, (especially women and girls' rights), climate change, and democratic governance and electoral process around the world. The program will begin with presentations by UN Observers from the national LWV and from the UN staff, followed by lunch, and then a guided tour of the UN, followed by the opportunity to observe the NGO Working Group on Girls.

Space is limited so we urge you to reserve as soon as possible by calling Liz-Ann at 203/227-2024. You'll then need to mail a check (\$16 for adults or \$11 for 60-plus), payable to the LWV of Westport, to Joyce Netherton, Treasurer, LWV of Westport, PO Box 285, Westport, CT 06881-0285. We look forward to your joining us.

## WINTER WARM UP

An enthusiastic group attended the March 13 Winter Warm Up reception for new and prospective members, where Cheryl Dunson, President of the LWV of Connecticut, spoke on the history of women's suffrage in the U.S. Many of us were surprised to learn that western states took the lead in adopting voting rights for women, with CT and other northeastern states lagging behind. Cheryl offered fascinating LWVCT archival material- interviews with CT legislators prior to the vote on the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment regarding their positions on voting rights- as well as photographs from the era. Many thanks to Yvonne Senturia for offering her home, and to Doris Skutch and Alison Rivard, event organizers.



Photo by Phyllis Groner

## STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

We have two dates scheduled to help the Town Registrars register eligible high school students. We will meet at the Staples cafeteria on Wednesday, May 4, and register students from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Greens Farms Academy registration will be held in the Board Room on Wednesday, May 18, from 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Becky Ruthven at 203/222-1206.



## NOT TO BE MISSED ...

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut Education Fund's 42<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on International Relations will be held on Wednesday, April 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at 137-141 Frontage Road, Yale West Campus, in Orange. This year's topic, "**Global Change Agents in Health, Education and Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century**" will be discussed by an impressive group of speakers from the academic, government and nonprofit sectors. For more information, call LWVCT at 203/288-7996.

## WATER QUALITY AT SAUGATUCK SCHOOL

Jo Ann Davidson, Rindy Higgins, Andi Turner, Lois Green, Liz Wong, Alison Rivard, Pippa Bell Ader, and Jill Greenberg rolled out our new Second Grade Water Quality presentation at the Saugatuck Elementary School. The presentation, designed by Pippa, Eileen Flug, and others in collaboration with second grade teacher, Kathie Moskowitz, presents information about how water is cleaned in Westport. Hands-on activities and a lively power point presentation crafted by Rindy made this interesting for the children and fun for our presenters.



Pippa Bell Ader teaching water quality



## Neighborhood Energy Workshop offered by Westport Home Energy Challenge

**Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., Town Hall Auditorium**

**Sponsored by: LWV of Westport, Westport Woman's Club, Homes with Hope, Westport Historical Society and Saugatuck Church Earthcare**

**Presented by Roger Smith, Director, New England Energy Program Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund.**

Learn about simple things you can do to decrease your energy bills and energy consumption and increase your home comfort. Plus an introduction to ice dams, their causes and how to prevent them. Get to know the energy-saving potential in your home. Learn how to get started and to prioritize home improvements. Info on current tax credits, financing options and rebates will also be presented.

## TOWN ETHICS CODE REVIEW GROUP

Pat Porio and Chris O'Sullivan have done some preliminary research on town ethics, and are forming a group to consider local action based on the current LWVCT town ethics policies. They invite all interested LWV members to an organizational meeting at Pat's home, 16 Salem Lane, on Friday, April 29, at 10:00 a.m. For further information, please contact Pat at 203/226-4194 or Chris at 203/227-3634.





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

- April**
- 16 **Westport Clean-Up** - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., State Boat Launch/ Underhill Parkway
  - 21 **Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m. . 10:30 a.m. At the home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
  - 25 **Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Sheila Creatura, 45 Owenoke
  - 25 **Neighborhood Energy Workshop/Westport Home**
  - 26 **Energy Challenge** - April 25: 7:00 p.m., April 26: 10:00 a.m., at Westport Town Hall Auditorium
- LWVCT Education Fund's 42nd Symposium on International Relations** - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Yale West Campus in Orange
- 27 **Ethics Committee Meeting** - 10:00 a.m. At the home of Pat Porio, 16 Salem Lane
- May**
- 4 **LWV Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
  - 13 **Tag Sale & Plant Sale Fundraiser** - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 245 Saugatuck Avenue (formerly the Fitness Edge)
  - 14
  - 19 **Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m. . 10:30 a.m. At the home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
  - 21 **LWVCT 2011 Convention** - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. New Haven Graduate Club, 155 Elm Street, New Haven

### 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.**