

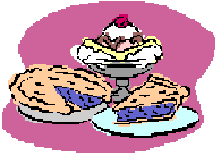


# Westport Voter

January 2010

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

CELEBRATING  YEARS IN WESTPORT



## PIE & POLITICS

Please join us for an informal discussion with our  
State Senator Toni Boucher and  
State Representatives Joe Mioli and Kim Fawcett.

**DATE:** January 25<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Greens Farms Congregational Church  
71 Hillendale Road, Westport

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear our state legislators talk about issues of interest to all members, while enjoying dessert and beverages.

Not to be missed! :



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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**LWV websites**

[www.lwvwestportct.org](http://www.lwvwestportct.org)

[www.lwvct.org](http://www.lwvct.org) (Connecticut)

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

**Welcome to our new members:**

Alan Beasley  
519 Harvest Commons  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 227-6185

Galina Babkin  
2 Wake Robin Road  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 557-3632

Correction:

Elaine Arnow  
(203) 227-8072

***From the Presidents***

January 2010

*Happy New Year to All,*

*These cold, wintry months are the perfect time to join your League friends indoors for discussions of hot topics such as health care reform and budget deficits. Our Pie & Politics Program on January 25<sup>th</sup> provides a wonderful opportunity for informal talk with our state legislators about the major issues facing Connecticut.*



*And January – February is the time to make our local league views known as part of the process of National Program Planning. The LWVUS is a grassroots organization, and once every two years, in the lead-up to National Convention in June, we have our best opportunity to impact the priorities and future direction of the National League. National Program Planning forms the basis for the LWVUS education and action efforts. Local leagues hold meetings and/or online discussions, select one program item as a priority, then recommend an update of a National Position, a new study or concurrence, or no recommendation. This can be an exciting process, with state and local leagues around the country sharing the results of their studies and lobbying for others to join them in a push for national study and action. Our own CT State League advocated at convention for attention to New Media/Internet Neutrality issues. Other leagues successfully promoted the National Popular Vote Compact Study, priority focus on Health Care Reform and Climate Change, and creation of a task force to address the outdated LWVUS Position on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.*

*How to learn more? Go [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and review the League's National Positions. Follow the online discussion at [lwv-convention@list.lwv.org](mailto:lwv-convention@list.lwv.org), as members around the country promote national issues prior to the March 1 deadline for input to the national planning process.*

*And Join Us on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> for our League's National Program Planning Meeting. Make your voice heard!*

*Alison and Doris*

**Green Tip of the Month**

Our Green Tip of the Month comes from Harvard University where they say there is a simple path to greener laundry: pick the cold water wash! Around 90% of the energy used by washing machines simply goes to heating water. Many people assume that they are getting extra cleaning power by washing in hot water, but in most cases washing clothes in cold water is just as effective as washing clothes in hot water. Hot water also wears out clothes more quickly, causing them to fade, stretch and wrinkle.

**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! RSVP to hostess. If you have questions contact Helene Crawford, 227-2572

January 25th - The Eaves of Heaven by Andrew X. Pham *Pham does an admirable job of recounting the complex cast of characters and the political machinations of the various groups vying for power over the years". Publishers Weekly.* At the home of Kitty Graves, 67 Wright Street.

February 22nd - The Comedians by Graham Greene. At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive. *"One of Greene's most chilling and prophetic novels."*

**Get the Word Out!**

**Go to [www.celebratwestport.com](http://www.celebratwestport.com)**

One goal of the Westport Environmental Summit the League co-sponsored in late 2008 was to improve the ability of local environmental organizations to publicize/coordinate their events. Now the town's events calendar **Celebratwestport.com** is available for Westport-based, non-profit organizations to post their community events for the public. Thanks to the Celebrate Westport Committee, Alicia Mozian and town staff, and all who assisted in making this resource available.



## 2009 Holiday Lunch

Over 80 members and friends of the League gathered at the lovely home of Connie & Stewart Greenfield on December 16<sup>th</sup> for our annual Holiday Lunch.



Pippa Bell Ader and Pat Porio



Barlow Cutler-Wotton



Ann Gill, Pippa Bell Ader and Alison Rivard



Pat Volis, Joyce Netherton, Jo Ann Davidson, Alan Beasley

Photos courtesy of Karen Curtis

One of the highlights of the Holiday Lunch was the opportunity to recognize the contributions of two outstanding members:

### Remembering Pat Coplen

Pat was remembered with photographs and a written tribute by Karen Curtis, lauding Pat's sharp intelligence, quick wit and tireless energy to work on behalf of the League and others for the benefit of Westport. Pat's last love in her Westport efforts was the Riverwalk at the Westport Library, which she helped establish and maintain. Ann Gill, Betty Lou Cummings and the other supporters of Riverwalk would like to place a bench in Pat's name along the walk. Anyone interested in contributing to the memorial may send a check payable to Westport Remembrance Park, Inc., with a notation "Pat Coplen" on the memo line, mailed to Ann Gill, Treasurer.

### Ann Gill

What Leaguer has served as member, chair and trainer for the town Planning & Zoning Commission; a Hearing Officer for the Conservation Commission; and several other town committees, as well as an organizer of Riverwalk? It's Ann Gill, of course. Alison Rivard presented Ann with a Certificate of Appreciation, while Ellie Lowenstein, Lisa Schufro, and Alicia Mozian, Conservation Department Chairperson, spoke of Ann's impact on town government and the LWV.

### National Program Planning for Convention

On February 8th at 1:00 p.m., National Program Planning will take place in lieu of our monthly Topic Talk. Let's not forget that the LWVUS is a grassroots organization. Below are some tips on demystifying the National Program Planning process so that we may all participate in shaping issues.

- 1) League members can reference [lwv-convention@list.lwv.org](mailto:lwv-convention@list.lwv.org) to discuss and/or promote National issues prior to the March 1, 2010 deadline for turning in planning forms .
- 2) Please visit [lwvtopics@yahoo.com](http://lwvtopics@yahoo.com), it is an unofficial convention website for discussion/advice and exchange of information for LWVUS Convention.
- 3) If there is a position or study of particular interest to our League: ( for example, Fair Elections Now Acts; Climate Change Regulations; Healthcare Reforms), our League can advance advocacy priorities at the LWVUS January board meeting by e-mailing Judy Duffy, Chair of the LWVUS Advocacy Committee prior to January 15<sup>th</sup> or we can advocate priorities on the [lwv-convention@list.lwv.org](mailto:lwv-convention@list.lwv.org) by reaching out to the greater membership. Please review ideas on the list serve and bring your ideas for our planning meeting.

DATE: February 8th  
 TIME: 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
 PLACE: Claudia Saunders home, 8 Tiffany Lane  
 RSVP:

### Healthcare Update:

If you were lucky enough to join us at our Topic Talk on Healthcare last week or if you are just interested in learning more about this important topic, we recommend reading "Healing of America" by T. R. Reid also recommended is a study which estimates that 28,100 Connecticut residents lost health insurance due to unemployment, <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/one-two-punch.pdf>. For all the latest in Connecticut Healthcare information, please subscribe to Connecticut health notes at <http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/listserv/listserv.htm>.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF WESTPORT

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

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Jan 21 Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m.  
At Westport Library, Seminar Room.
- 25 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Kitty Graves,  
67 Wright Street.
- 25 Pie & Politics** - 7:00 p.m.. 9:00 p.m. At the Greens  
Farms Congregational Church, 71 Hillandale Road.
- Feb 3 Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m., At the home of Nancy  
Bloom, 21 Maple Avenue North.
- 8 National Program Planning for Convention** -  
1:00p.m. At the home of Claudia Saunders, 8 Tiffany  
Lane.
- 18 Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m.  
Location TBD.
- 22 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Yvonne  
Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive.
- Mar 3 Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m., At the home of Pat Porio,  
16 Salem Lane.
- 18 Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m.  
Location TBD.

**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.**