

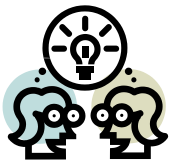


Westport Voter

May 2011

Visit our website: www.lwvwestportct.org

CELEBRATING (62) YEARS IN WESTPORT



Calling All Members to the Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 8
8:00 AM

Saugatuck Congregational Church/Hoskins Hall
245 Post Road East

*Continental Breakfast will be served.
Donations will be accepted to defray costs.*

Come hear a wrap of the year's activities, vote on next year's program, budget and slate of officers, and meet this year's scholarship recipient. We're excited, too, to present the premiere of a film highlighting the impact of the Westport LWV on our town and the amazing women involved during our first 60 years.

RSVP: Yvonne Senturia 203/226-6683.



NOT TO BE MISSED OUR 27TH ANNUAL TAG SALE & PLANT SALE

Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14
9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: 20 Saugatuck Avenue, Westport
(Site of the former Women's Fitness Edge & AAA)



This year's Tag Sale/Plant Sale promises to be our biggest ever ... in a fabulous large space and with generous parking. It's time to empty the attic and basement of all those things you've been saving for your kids and grandkids that they probably don't want. Things we'd especially like to have are housewares, dishes, lamps, objets d'art, mirrors, artwork, cameras, art supplies, hobby needs, collectibles, small furniture items, children's books*... basically, good stuff that you are no longer using that others could use! You can bring them to the site on Monday, May 9 and Tuesday, May 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For heavier items, pick up service is available by contacting Dick Lowenstein at 203/255-5379.

We still need volunteers to sort, price, place, and sell. If you haven't yet signed up, it's not too late to be part of this important fundraiser. We'd welcome your energy and creativity. Just call Tag Sale Leader Karen Curtis at 203/259-1880. This year, the ever-popular Plant Sale is being expanded to include some annuals and houseplants, along with gardening books, tools and supplies. (Remember, if you're donating plants, they should be potted up and clearly labeled.) If you would like to volunteer for plant sales, call Lisa Shufro at 203/221-1350.

** Due to government restrictions, we are no longer selling children's toys or furniture, Bean Bag chairs, halogen floor lamps, dehumidifiers, window blinds, and old appliances.*



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

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!

May 23: **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.

June 27: **Strength in What Remains** by Tracy Kidder. *“Deo was a young medical student who fled the genocidal civil war in Burundi in 1994 for the uncertainty of New York City. He arrived with little money and less English and slept in Central Park while delivering groceries for starvation wages--his own ambition and a few kind New Yorkers led him to Columbia University and, beyond that, to medical school and American citizenship.”* At the home of Andi Turner, 9 Fraser Road.



From the Co-Presidents



May 2011

Greetings to All,

A strong Principle of the League of Women Voters is “that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote.” A recent move by the U.S. Department of Justice may be challenging this right. LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara, in the April 28 Leaders Update, expressed the concern of the League about the approval of the D.O.J. to the state of Georgia, with regard to voter registration. We thought you would be interested in the LWVUS response, detailed in the following press release:

“The League of Women Voters is dismayed by the U.S. Department of Justice’s recent decision to allow the state of Georgia to implement a discriminatory requirement that new voters provide a Passport or other proof of citizenship in order to register to vote. This requirement will disenfranchise thousands of citizens who do not have or cannot afford to acquire the needed documentation to prove their citizenship due to disability, age, illness, transportation, or financial issues. The greatest impact is expected to fall on the elderly and on racial and ethnic minorities.

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) bans racial discrimination in voting practices, but the U.S. Department of Justice recently approved the Georgia law. This decision undermines effective enforcement of the VRA. The burden of the new law will be greatest for citizens for whom it is most cost prohibitive or inconvenient to take off work, get transportation, stand in line, and apply for documentation. Thus, this requirement would disenfranchise the very people who currently must work the hardest to vote. The vast majority of Americans do not have a Passport and obtaining copies of birth certificates can be difficult and costly.

The League of Women Voters strongly supports the voting rights of all citizens and is working throughout the country to block restrictive legislation.”

If you would like to know more, or express your thoughts or concerns, visit the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org, or e-mail President McNamara at EGMacNamara@lwv.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 8. Come with your ideas to share and to guide our program planning for the upcoming year. You won’t want to miss the first showing of the 60th anniversary film produced by League members John Hartwell and Lisa Shufro.

Doris & Yvonne



We would like to welcome our newest member:

Jennifer Goldstein
365 Greens Farms Road
Westport, CT 06880
(203) 319-1818

CALL TO LWVCT CONVENTION 2011

Saturday, May 21, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

New Haven Graduate Club
155 Elm Street, New Haven

8:30 ó 10:45 PLENARY SESSIONS
& 2:00 ó 4:00 President’s Report ó Cheryl Dunson, LWVCT
Presentation and Vote on Bylaw Changes
Presentation and Adoption of Budget
Public Issues Team Report
Nomination and Election of New Board
10:45 ó 11:45 LOCAL LEAGUE NETWORKING SESSION

LUNCHEON

Speaker: Nicole Gelinas of the Manhattan Institute, on Privatization. Please contact Doris Skutch at 203/227-6114 if you are interested in attending.

Don't Miss the UN Trip

There are still a few slots for the Thursday, June 2, trip to the United Nations that Liz-Ann Koos, VP for Program/Advocacy, has organized for members of the Westport and Fairfield Leagues. 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.



We'll be meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the UN Visitors Lobby, 1st Avenue & 46th Street, New York City. The program will begin with presentations by UN Observers from the national LWV and from the UN staff, followed by lunch. Then there will be a guided tour of the UN, followed by the opportunity to observe the NGO Working Group on Girls.

If you would like to attend, please contact Liz-Ann by **May 14** 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 for this very special day.

DEATH PENALTY UPDATE from Ellen McBride, LWVCT Death Penalty Specialist, and Christine Horrigan, LWVCT VP of Public Issues ...

Two years ago, the Connecticut General Assembly voted to repeal the death penalty only to see Governor Rell veto the bill. With Governor Malloy at the helm, we have a real opportunity to repeal the death penalty in Connecticut this year if we act now. Senate Bill 1035 *An Act Repealing the Death Penalty* has been voted favorably out of the Judiciary Committee and is now before the senate for a vote.

Please contact Senator Toni Boucher TODAY and ask her to VOTE YES ON SB 1035 to repeal the death penalty. SB 1035 replaces the death penalty with life imprisonment without the possibility of release. At the public hearing on March 7, the LWVCT submitted testimony stating, in part, that the death penalty as a deterrent is not provable, the death penalty causes additional harm to victims' families subjecting them to years of media attention, and that the death penalty costs more than life imprisonment without parole. E-mail Senator Toni Boucher at Toni.Boucher@cga.ct.gov.

The vote could happen at any time. Please take action TODAY. *Together we can make a difference!*

Join the Voter Registration for High School Students

The League will again be registering eligible high school students at Staples High and Greens Farms Academy. Volunteers are still needed for the May 18 registration at Greens Farms from 10:30 a.m. . 11:30 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for League members with limited time to volunteer and have fun doing an important voter service. If you would like to participate, just contact Becky Ruthven at 203-222-1206.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ALERT!!!



Join the League on Parade At the Annual Westport Memorial Day Parade

Date: Monday, May 30th
Time: 8:30 a.m. Assembly
(Parade begins at 9:00 a.m.)
Place: Riverside Avenue
(Designated spot to be announced)

Our traditional dress is LWV T-shirt and American Flag hat with jeans. To RSVP or for additional information, contact Yvonne Senturia at 226-6683.

CLEAN UP DAY

On April 10, a cold Westport Cleanup Day, our LWV team cleaned and bagged litter at the Boat Launch under I-95. Volunteers Peg Bishop, Alison Rivard, Lois Green, Alan Beasley and Jo Ann Davidson filled 7 black bags that were picked up by a Parks and Rec truck. Many thanks to JoAnn Davidson for organizing this service project.



Alison Rivard



Lois Green



Lisa Shufro, Jill Greenberg, Maggie Feczko, Linda Hudson, Faith Taylor, Liz-Ann Koos, JoAnn Davidson, Kitty Graves, Alison Rivard, Joyce Netherton, Marge Dunham ...

What do all these people have in common?? These League members have had or are about to have a Home Energy Solutions visit!

Sign up soon for a \$75 home energy assessment and get up to \$1,000 in energy-related products and services, including the assistance of an Energy Advisor to help you take the next steps, if that is your desire. Call (203) 292-8088 or go to www.newsmartenergy.com/westport-challenge and tell New England Smart Energy you are an LWV member. Our League will get \$25 for every completed HES visit and could win a cash prize for the most sign-ups by a Westport Home Energy Challenge non-profit! **We are well on the way to winning this honor!**

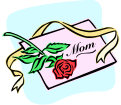
Pippa Bell Ader
Westport Home Energy Challenge Co-Chair



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



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 13 Tag Sale & Plant Sale Fundraiser** - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 20 Saugatuck Avenue (*Former Women's Fitness Edge site*)
- 19 Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 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
- 23 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Deborah Green, 17 Cockenoe Drive
- 30 Memorial Day Parade** - 9:00 a.m. Assembly begins on Riverside Avenue at 8:30 a.m.
- June 2 United Nations Trip** - 9:00 a.m. Meet at UN Visitors Lobby on 1st Avenue and 46th Street
- 8 LWV Annual Meeting** - 8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Saugatuck Congregational Church, 245 Post Road East
- 16 Observer Corps/Action Committee** - 9:00 a.m. At the home of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 27 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m. At the home of Andi Turner, 9 Fraser Road
- 29 Old Board/New Board Meeting & Luncheon** - 10:00 a.m. At the home of Jill Greenberg, 7 Strathmore Lane