



# Westport Voter

Summer 2011

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

## CELEBRATING (62) YEARS IN WESTPORT

Mark your calendar

Join us for our next membership event

**THE ANNUAL FALL BRUNCH**

Sunday, September 18, 11:30 a.m.

At the home of Pat and Sal Porio  
16 Salem Lane

Visit with friends, greet new members and meet the local candidates

\$20 per person

RSVP to Sarah Menchaca: 221-1952



### WESTPORT LWV ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



President Yvonne Senturia with Past Presidents Doris Skutch and Alison Rivard



Jackie Heneage, Martha Aasen and Julie Belaga



Lisa Shufro and John Hartwell premiered their documentary history of the Westport LWV, **“A League of Our Own: Women, Power & Politics in Westport,”** at our annual meeting

### PRESENTING...The New LWV Board of Directors



Pictured at the Old Board/New Board Luncheon, held on June 29 at the home of Jill Greenberg, from left to right are: Barbara Licker, Becky Ruthven, Marilyn Smith, Lois Green, Jane Fraser, Jackie Gordon, Joyce Netherton, Yvonne Senturia, Andrea Turner, Doris Skutch and Celestine LaCroix.

*Not in photo: Sarah Menchaca, Nancy Bloom, Elaine Weinstein, Carol Stein, Nita Cohen, and photographer 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**

**PRESIDENT**  
Yvonne Senturia, 226-6683

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Doris Skutch, 227-6114

**TREASURER**  
Joyce Netherton, 222-8903

**SECRETARY**  
Vacant

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**  
*Community Services*  
Lois Green, 227-8131  
*Celestine LaCroix, 227-5980*  
*Member Services, Administration*  
Nancy Bloom, 259-0071  
Elaine Weinstein, 226-4561  
*Member Services, Events*  
Becky Ruthven, 222-1206  
Sarah Menchaca, 221-1952  
*Program/Advocacy*  
Barbara Licker, 226-4455  
Nita Cohen, 255-5346  
*Voter Services*  
Marilyn Smith, 259-0916  
Andrea Turner, 227-5564

**DIRECTORS**  
Jane Fraser, 226-0686  
Jackie Gordon, 803-3725  
Phyllis Groner, 226-5583  
Carol Stein, 221-7474

**OFF BOARD**  
**Webmaster**, Jake Shufro  
**Voter Editor**, Carol Stein

***From the President***



Summer 2011

Summer Greetings,

The 2010-2011 year ended in June with a very well-attended Annual General Meeting at the Saugatuck Congregational Church and the Old Board/New Board meeting and lunch.

The highlight of our annual meeting on June 8th was the premiere of Lisa Shufro and John Hartwell's documentary, **A League of Our Own: Women, Power & Politics in Westport**, inspired by the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Westport League of Women Voters. The story of the amazing women who were active in the early years of our league, and their impact on the town of Westport, is told through personal interviews, interspersed with newspaper clippings and vintage photographs, with excellent narration by Christina Richardson. Kudos to John and Lisa for the excellent product of their hours and hours of work on this project! Stay tuned for information on further screenings throughout the year.

Thanks to all the LWV Westport members, their spouses and friends who have dedicated so many hours to our events, programs, educational efforts and community service projects over the past year. While you enjoy the summer, the work of the League continues. Join Voter Services as they prepare for this Fall's Candidates Debates and the Voters' Guide, attend a meeting of the Observer Corps, or add your energy to help bring My Town My Vote back to Jesup Green in October.

*Yvonne*

**LWV websites**

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

**Summer 2011 Voters' Guide Meeting**

There will be a meeting at the home of Andrea Turner (Andi), 9 Fraser Road, on Monday, July 18 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the 2011 Voters' Guide and to begin writing questions for the candidates. Please remember that if you will be a candidate for public office this year or currently serve on the Westport Democratic Town Committee or Republican Town Committee, it is not appropriate for you to help in preparation of the Voters' Guide. For more info: contact Andrea Turner at 227-5564.



**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 the hostess.

July 25th - **Dreams of Trespass**, a memoir by Fatima Mernissi. At the home of Joyce Netherton, 17 Clover Lane.

August 22nd - **The Space Between Us**, a novel by Thrity Umrigar. At the home of Ellen McBride, 645 Springer Road, Fairfield.

September 26th - **The Warmth of Other Suns**, non-fiction by Isabel Wilkerson. At the home of Nancy Bloom, 21 Maple Avenue North



**IT'S TIME TO RENEW**

If you haven't sent in your membership renewal form, please send your check a.s.a.p! You will enjoy all the benefits of an LWV Westport membership, no annoying reminder calls or letters, AND inclusion in this year's handbook which will be mailed to you in the fall.



**OBSERVER CORPS NEEDS YOU!!**



Promoting government transparency is one of the LWV's core principles and a vital part of our mission. An observer is exercising that recognized right to be present at any public meeting. Our observers meet the third Thursday morning each month with the Action Committee to report on what we have observed and discuss issues that might need LWV action. Join Us! Get a better sense of what is going on in town! It's interesting! It's fascinating! Questions? Call Rose Ann Preston at 454-3547.

**Friends of Barlow Cutler-Wotton** will want to know that Barlow is now a resident at the Watermark, 3030 Park in Bridgeport. She is in the 'assisted living' section which is reached via Robin Street, the first left after the Watermark entrance.

## UN Trip

On Thursday, June 2, 23 members of the Westport and Fairfield Leagues enjoyed a trip organized by Liz-Ann Koos to the United Nations. They learned 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 included presentations by UN Observers appointed by LWVUS and Gillian Sorenson, Senior Advisor & National Advocate from the UN Foundation as well as a guided tour of the UN, and the opportunity to observe the NGO Working Group on Girls. *Liz-Ann Koos*



## TAG SALE: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

This year's Tag Sale, held at the former Women's Fitness Edge, was a smashing success. Many volunteers worked tirelessly bringing goods to the site, setting up, selling, cleaning up after the sale, and delivering unsold goods to Goodwill. The companion plant sale was extremely popular and profitable. The time frame was very short from finding the site until the doors were shut and the floors swept at the end of the sale. We appreciate the cooperation of all who came out to make this Tag Sale another great success.

*Ellie Lowenstein and Karen Curtis*

## AGING IN CONNECTICUT... THE PICTURE AHEAD

The Baron's South Committee invites Westporters to attend a Community Forum:

Monday, July 11, 2011  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Westport Center for Senior Activities  
21 Imperial Avenue

Come hear Julie Robison, PH.D., an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of CT Center on Aging. The agenda will include an update from the Baron's South Committee with a question and answer period.

**MY TOWN**  
WESTPORT  
**MY VOTE**

An all-day community-wide event, engaging adults and young people in an effort to encourage greater voter turnout for local elections.

Join the energetic team planning a return to Jesup Green in October 2011 !!!!

First planning meeting on Tuesday, July 19 at 2:00 p.m.  
at 17 Blue Ribbon Drive

Contact Yvonne at 226-6683.

## Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipient, Rebecca Bobrow!

A 2011 Staples High School graduate and recipient of LWV Westport's \$2,000 scholarship through the Staples Tuition Grants Program, Rebecca was honored at our annual meeting on June 8. Rebecca will be attending Cornell University in the fall, majoring in government or international relations. At Staples, she was a member of the National Honor Society, a National Merit Commended Scholar, President of the Model UN Club, Features and Opinion Editor of *Inklings*, as well as a participant in Safe Rides and Best Buddies.



Rebecca Bobrow and Lois Green



## LWVUS: National Study on the Federal Role in Education

Leagues across the country are undertaking the national study on the Federal Role in Public Education: pre-K through grade 12, which was approved at National Convention 2010. This study is limited to the issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment in education. Background papers, produced by the LWVUS study committee, are available now online; a Leaders' Guide for the Education Study Consensus has been prepared.

Go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org); under "For Members," click on Projects and Programs.

**Join the great Westport League tradition and sign up to participate in this short-term study, which will be completed by November 2011.** Contact Alison Rivard if interested.

## Is your house cool in this hot weather?



Summer is a time when cooled air seeps out of our homes, unintentionally. Consider scheduling a CL&P sanctioned Home Energy Solutions visit with New England Smart Energy, at a cost of \$75. Not only will you receive a comprehensive assessment of your home's energy efficiency, but also the technicians will caulk air leaks, weatherize areas of your home and replace up to 25 incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. The average Connecticut homeowner sees a \$200 drop in energy bills, just with this 3-4 hour visit! Join the Westport Home Energy Challenge by contacting New England Smart Energy at (203) 292-8088, or [ne-smartenergy.com/westport-challenge](http://ne-smartenergy.com/westport-challenge).

*Pippa Bell Ader, Co-chair, Westport Home Energy Challenge*



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



**SAVE THE DATE  
FALL BRUNCH  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2011  
11:30 A.M.**

**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

- July 11 Aging in Connecticut: A Look Ahead** - 7:00 p.m., Westport Center for Senior Activities
- 18 Voters' Guide Meeting** - 1:00 p.m., At the home of Andrea Turner, 9 Fraser Road
- 19 My Town My Vote Meeting** - 2:00 p.m., At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
- 21 Observer Corps** - 9:00 a.m., At the home Of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 25 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m., At the home of Joyce Netherton, 17 Clover Lane
- Aug 18 Observer Corps** - 9:00 a.m., At the home Of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 22 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m., At the home of Ellen McBride, 645 Springer Road, Fairfield
- Sept 7 Board Meeting** - 8:30 a.m., At the home of Yvonne Senturia, 17 Blue Ribbon Drive
- 15 Observer Corps** - 9:00 a.m., At the home Of Ann Gill, 53 High Point Road
- 18 Fall Brunch** - 11:30 a.m., At the home of Pat and Sal Porio, 16 Salem Lane
- 26 Book Group** - 1:30 p.m., At the home of Nancy Bloom, 21 Maple Avenue North