

LWV SPRING, 2015

## NEWSLETTER

### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Issue Forum. "Common Core".  
Panel Discussion. Details to be announced

Friday, April 16, Running and Winning

Friday, April 24, 2015, Noon to 2:00 pm.  
Annual Sound Shore Leagues Luncheon. Orienta Beach Club, Mamaroneck. The featured speaker will be former candidate for governor of New York, Zephyr Teachout.

Sunday through Wednesday, May 17 to 20, 2015.  
Students-Inside-Albany Conference, Albany, NY.

June 19, 7:00 pm, Annual Meeting

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

--- Thomas Jefferson

### LWV Held a CANDIDATES FORUM for Port Chester Mayor's Race, on March 4.

The League sponsored a lively candidates' forum for the office of Mayor of Port Chester on March 4, at 7:30 pm, at the Port Chester High School. Candidates were Gene Ceccarelli, and Dennis Pilla.



### TWO LOCAL STUDENTS CHOSEN TO ATTEND STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY PROGRAM

Haley Neiman, a junior at Rye High School, and Spencer Kaplan, a sophomore at Blind Brook High School, have been selected by the League of Women Voters - Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester to attend this year's Students Inside Albany program to be held on May 17-20th.

This student conference, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc., is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in a representative government and to provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. This interactive conference brings together approximately 60 high school students from across the state to learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy making arena. As part of the program, students will tour the Capitol and observe the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislators. Students will participate in a series of interactive discussions with Albany insiders on topics such as the state budget process, the role of lobbyists in the legislative process, the rights of citizens to access government information and the role of the media in politics. Congratulations to Haley and Spencer!

### Student Civic Achievement Award

The Student Civic Achievement Award, a \$250.00 monetary award given annually to a high school junior who lives in and attends a high school in the City of Rye, Villages of Rye Brook and Port Chester, or the Rye Neck section of the Town of Rye, is a

recognition of the student's overall contributions to his or her school and community in the areas of civic engagement, advocacy, leadership or voter education.

The criteria for the Student Civic Achievement Award are:

\* Proven civic engagement, such as participation and volunteering in school and community organizations, committees and boards; and/or

\* Demonstrated advocacy for various causes, such as political, economic, education, civil, environmental or quality of life issues; and/or

\* Proven leadership roles in school and community organizations, committees and boards; and/or

\* Demonstrated interest in voter education.

Application forms have been sent by the League to the local schools in early January **and the deadline for submission of those application forms is March 31.**

## "Tools for Change"

The student participants in this year's "Tools for Change" program are researching the pros and cons of **extending the right to vote to sixteen year olds**. They will present their findings to the Rye Town Board on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 8pm. All are welcome. Location: Courtroom, Village of Port Chester, 350 North Main Street in Port Chester.

For information on youth programs, contact Joan Feinstein at: [jfeinstein@wfsnyc.com](mailto:jfeinstein@wfsnyc.com).

## Our Post-Holiday Cocktail Party



LWV Members, friends, and concerned citizens listening to our two local county legislators during the Post-Holiday Cocktail Party, held at the home of Roz and Peter Larr in Rye.



Legislators Catherine Parker of District 7 and David Gelfarb of District 6 addressed issues of safety, deer control, sustainability, water quality, Playland and how our local governments might work together more collaboratively.

On February 7, Roz and Peter Larr hosted our League of Women Voters Chinese New Year Party in their home. Our fellow League members County Legislators David Gelfarb and Catherine Parker spoke and answered questions about the County Government's actions and deliberations.

## Running and Winning

On Friday, April 16, there will be a program to encourage young women to choose careers in political office. Women who have won elections will give valuable pointers to those who would try. Facilitators welcome. Call Cheryl Feldman 238-7860

## League of Women Voters participates at the Naturalization Court



Barbara Brunner, in red, handing out civic materials to newly naturalized citizens.

On March 4, 2015, Supreme Court Judge, the Hon. Lester B. Adler, presided over Naturalization Court proceedings at the County Office Building in White Plains. A total of 118 new citizens were welcomed and awarded Certificates of Naturalization.

Additionally, they received American flags, Flag Code brochures, voting information and flag lapel pins from the Jewish American War Veterans, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the League of Women Voters.

Barbara Brunner represented our chapter at the ceremony. Following the ceremony new citizens take advantage of the opportunity to apply for a U. S. passport and to register to vote.

## The Spring Luncheon of the Sound Shore Chapters of the League of Women Voters

**Save the Date!**

**Annual LWV Spring Luncheon At the Orienta Beach Club, Friday, April 24th, Noon-2:00 PM**

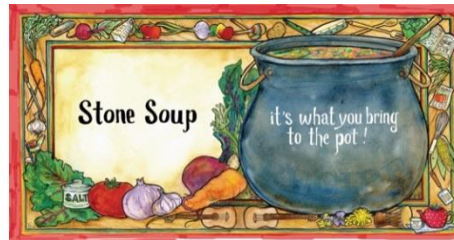
**The League of Women Voters - Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester will be co-hosting their annual Spring luncheon at the Orienta Beach Club together with the Sound Shore Leagues of Larchmont/Mamaroneck and New Rochelle.**

**Our featured speaker will be Professor Zephyr Teachout, a former candidate for New York Governor and an Associate Professor of Law at Fordham University.**



**Professor Teachout will discuss democracy and political corruption. She is a constitutional and property law expert and author of "Corruption in America: From Benjamin Franklin's Snuff Box to Citizens United". Professor Teachout holds a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University, as well as a JD and Master of Arts in Political Science from Duke University. Cost to attend the luncheon is \$60. Details on RSVP and payment will be coming in about 2-3 weeks. If you want to reserve seats or need**

**additional information, please contact Anne Dooley, dooleypjd@aol.com, (914) 381-8509. Please mark your calendar and we look forward to your joining us at the luncheon.**



**IN SERVICE TO COMMUNITY,  
GROUPS JOIN FOR DINNER  
AND DISCUSSION**

**-- League Members Participate In  
First "Stone Soup" Event --**

On Sunday March 8, members of our chapter of the League gathered with members of the Rotary Club of Port Chester & Rye Brook, Port Chester/Rye NAACP, the Latino Network and "Windows to the Future" for dinner and discussion. We were graciously hosted by One World United & Virtuous in its loft at



163 North Main Street in Port Chester.

This was the first event in what will be a series of structured programs around issues that impact community. In other words, we are bringing together people who share



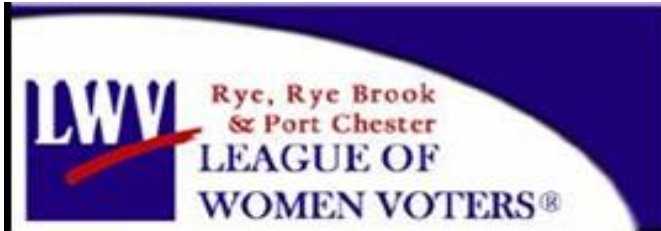
a commitment to civic engagement and yet may see things differently. What we intend to create is a safe space for learning and open dialogue. Possible topics will include: Civic Apathy, Wealth Inequality and Race Relations. After sitting down to a delicious home-cooked meal, about 30 participants got better acquainted and explored the topic: "What gets you off your couch." In other words, what each of us are passionate about. And then, led by our facilitator Jack Zacarra, we participated in a larger group discussion about what points of difference and similarity were observed. The evening was a great success. "It went very much as we envisioned," remarked Debbie Reisner. "The discussions were at once encouraging and informative. I believe the folks who attended felt it was a good use of their time. We look forward to getting together again."

The evening concluded with brief presentations about the mission and activities of each of the participating organizations.

The group will meet again on Sunday, April 26 when the topic we will "dig into" will be civic apathy. Please RSVP to

[LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com](mailto:LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com).

**HELP WANTED: Volunteers for School Trustee Candidates Forums**  
We need timers, ushers & question developers – 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks of May.  
Call or email Debbie Reisner (914)481-3234  
[LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com](mailto:LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com).



LWV SPRING 2015 Newsletter

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The League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester is a nonpartisan political organization that promotes political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government.

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Website:  
[www.lwvrbpc.org](http://www.lwvrbpc.org)  
  
Facebook Page:  
[Facebook.com/LWVRRBPC](https://www.facebook.com/LWVRRBPC)

Our mission is to foster a better understanding of policy issues that will impact our lives and our communities.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - RYE, RYE BROOK & PORT CHESTER**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Select Membership Level: Make checks payable to Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester LWV

Student \$25     Individual \$65     Family \$85     Sponsor \$125     Patron \$250\*

The LWV is a 501 (C) 4 advocacy organization, membership dues are not tax deductible.

\*Includes membership. Monies in excess of \$65 Individual and \$85 Family go to the LWV Educational Foundation, a 501(C) (3) organization, and are tax deductible.

**RETURN APPLICATION WITH CHECK TO: LWV RYE-RB-PC, PO Box 194, Rye, NY 10580.**