

**LWV WINTER, 2014**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

#### **Issue Forum.**

Details to be announced

**Saturday, February 7, 2015**

**6:00 to 8:00 pm.**

**Chinese New Year Party at the home of Roz and Peter Larr, 6 Fieldstone Road, Rye.**

**Friday, April 24, 2015**

**Annual Sound Shore Leagues Luncheon. 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.**

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

**--- Thomas Jefferson**

### **FIRESIDE AMERICAN HISTORY CHAT**



**Historian David Auerbach (at the right of photo) with a rapt audience in an informal setting.**

Our Fireside American History Chat for 2014 was held on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Debbie Reisner. Presented by David Auerbach, our topic for the afternoon was "The Enigma of Richard M. Nixon: Prelude to Watergate".

The 25 attendees listened intently to the extremely interesting details described of Nixon's troubled presidency. These informal discussions are drawn from Mr. Auerbach's lifetime of research into a wide variety of topics from American history. Last year's Fireside Chat focused on President John F. Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis. David Auerbach is a frequent lecturer at the American History Club at the Harvard Club of New York City; enrichment lecturer, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Stockbridge,

Mass; history lecturer, the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute; and taught as an adjunct faculty member at Williams College History Department, Winter Term 2009.

### **LWV Held a CANDIDATES FORUM for state Senator, district 37:**

The League sponsored a lively candidates' forum for the office of State senator on October 15, at 7:30 pm, at the Rye Middle School. Candidates were George Latimer and Joe Dillon.



**Forum Moderator Carolyn Stevens, Republican candidate for state senator Joe Dillon, and Democrat candidate George Latimer.**

**It's Time to renew  
your membership or  
join the League for  
2015. You can use the  
Membership  
Application on page 4.**

## LWV's Opening Party, "Grapes of Autumn"



League President Debbie Reisner describes the upcoming events which we have planned for this year to our members and friends at the season's opening party.

We opened our new season of activities with a wine and cheese party, "Grapes of Autumn" Oct. 19, at the home of Roz and Joe Carvin in Rye Brook. Selected fine wines for tasting were generously donated by Daniel Posner of the wine store "Grapes". The many delicious varieties of cheese were donated by friends of Roz Larr.

## League of Women Voters' STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

This fall the Student Outreach Committee has been working to put in place the League's sponsored student outreach programs for 2015. The committee members met this fall with the liaisons at the local

schools to discuss the following youth programs and to encourage student participation. We applaud the schools for their involvement and for acknowledging that it is a team effort between the League and the schools.



The League of Women Voters of New York State will be sponsoring the 14th annual Students Inside Albany Conference to be held on May 17-20, 2015 in Albany. The conference is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and to provide information about the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. The Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester LWV Chapter will offer two scholarships for students to attend the three-day statewide conference. The primary objectives of the conference are:

To increase student understanding of public policy in New York State;

To enhance student understanding of the roles of the various forces seeking to impact New York legislation and policy development, enactment and change; and

To promote an increased understanding of the New York State legislative process thorough legislative shadowing experiences.

A student must maintain a grade point average of 80% or

equivalent in order to be eligible to attend the conference.

Application forms have been submitted to the local schools.

## "Tools for Change"

The Tools for Change Seminar kicked-off with 25 students from local high schools attended the introductory meeting. This program brings together teenagers from diverse backgrounds and school communities to conduct social science research and analyze and propose solutions to civic problems identified by the student participants. Your local LWV has participated from the beginning of this program taught by Dr. William Tobin from Duke University for the past five years. Examples of past seminar studies are: voter turnout, use of social media for community engagement, and hunger insecurity in our community. The program is multi-faceted and in past years has brought together students teachers, parents and school board members from Port Chester, Rye Neck, Rye and Blind Brook. Detailed information about this program is available at [www.tools4changeseminar.com](http://www.tools4changeseminar.com)

## Student Civic Achievement Award

Last year our chapter initiated 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, in 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 will be sent by the League to the local schools in early January and the deadline for submission is March 31.

For further information on any of the above student outreach programs, please contact Joan Feinstein at [jfeinstein@wfsnyc.com](mailto:jfeinstein@wfsnyc.com).

## Candidates' Forums

The League will be conducting candidates' forums for the Port Chester March 18 mayoral election and for local school trustee elections to the extent that there are contested elections.

## Joan Grangenois-Thomas Featured Speaker at Westchester Human Rights Day



Left to right: Kevin Plunkett, Deputy County Executive, local LWV Board member Joan Grangenois-Thomas, Michael Kaplowitz, Vice-Chair of the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the countywide Westchester International Human Rights Day Commemoration at Greenburgh Town Hall, Joan Grangenois-Thomas, president of the Port Chester/Rye Branch of the NAACP and a Board Member of the Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester League of Women Voters, was a special guest speaker at the Westchester Human Rights Day commemoration, which was sponsored by the Westchester County Human Rights Commission, Town of Greenburgh, Yonkers Human Rights Commission and the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center.

## Join Us on February 7 for Our Post-Holiday Cocktail Party




On Saturday, February 7, Roz and Peter Larr will once again host our League of Women Voters Chinese New Year Party in their home at 6 Fieldstone Road in Rye. Our fellow League members County Legislators David Gelfarb and Catherine Parker will be joining us for this informal gathering and will be filling us in on what's going on at the county. This will be an ideal opportunity to meet and converse with them. Space is limited so RSVP to Roz Larr, (914) 967-3042 as soon as possible.

## ...and the Spring Luncheon of the Sound Shore Chapters of the League of Women Voters on Friday, April 24.

On Friday, April 24, the Sound Shore Leagues of Women Voters will combine to hold their annual Spring Luncheon. Zephyr Teachout will speak.



	<b>LWV WINTER 2014 Newsletter</b>
<p>PO Box 194 Rye NY 10580 (914) 481-3234</p>	<p>The League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook &amp; Port Chester is a nonpartisan political organization that promotes political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government.</p> <p>Our mission is to foster a better understanding of policy issues that will impact our lives and our communities.</p>
<p>Email: <a href="mailto:LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com">LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.lwvrbpc.org">www.lwvrbpc.org</a></p> <p>Facebook Page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LWVRRBPC">Facebook.com/LWVRRBPC</a></p>	

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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

☐ 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.**