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GREENWICH VOTER

FEBRUARY 2017

FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The election season of 2016 was, as most everyone will agree, a memorable one. Amidst a backdrop of hyper-partisanship at the national level, the League of Women Voters of Greenwich played an important role locally by providing unbiased information about voting and voting-related issues via its *Voter's Guide*, sponsorship of candidates' debates and relevant programming. For this we can be proud.

We started out the fall season with a terrific, timely and very well-attended program "Election Matters: The State of Voting in 2016," co-sponsored by the

Greenwich Democratic and Republican Town Committees and Greenwich Library. It was open to the public and well covered in the press. A number of attendees were so impressed they are now members; Welcome!

On October 13, at a LWVG sponsored event, candidates for the 151st CT Assembly District and for the 36th CT Senate District participated in spirited debates before a standing-room-only crowd at Greenwich Library's Cole Auditorium. On October 23, the LWVG, together with other Fairfield County Leagues, co-sponsored debates

between candidates for our U.S. House of Representatives seat.

On October 16, the LWVG celebrated its 95th anniversary, surely an impressive milestone! Attendees enjoyed a retrospective of League activities and a stimulating presentation by Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

On November 17, our "Cocktails and Conversations" series focused on Driverless Cars. With transportation

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Tuesday, February 7

Movie begins promptly at 7:00pm and will be followed by a panel discussion

Greenwich High School, Performing Arts Center

Sponsored by: Greenwich Alliance for Education, Greenwich High School Student Activities, League of Women Voters, Greenwich

SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in The Digital Age is the first feature documentary to explore the impact of screen technology on kids and to offer parents proven solutions that work.

Dr. Delaney Ruston decided to make *SCREENAGERS* when she found herself constantly struggling with her two kids about screen time. Hearing repeatedly how other parents were equally overwhelmed, she realized this is one of the biggest, unexplored parenting issues of our time.

The movie depicts messy struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Interwoven into these stories are insights from thought leaders who present evidence on real changes happening in the brain.

SCREENAGERS goes far beyond exposing the risks of screen time, but reveals multiple approaches on how parents and educators can work with kids to help them achieve a healthy amount of screen time in this digital world.

www.screenagersmovie.com

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From the Steering Committee, continued...

an issue of perennial local and state interest, the talk and Q&A responses by Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development of Stamford, were well received and gave us a provocative look into the future. Please find more about the events elsewhere in these pages.

Ending up the year, we celebrated at our annual Holiday Party on December 7. Highlights included a wonderful band and comments by our local representatives Mike Bocchino, Fred Camillo, Livvy Floren and Scott Frantz, and First Selectman, Peter Tesei. Hope you were there. A good time was had by all.

Finally, as we begin 2017, the Steering Committee would like to thank all our members, new and long-standing, for their support. In addition to your enthusiasm and participation, it is your dues, donations and contributions of time and effort that make our League the great organization it is. Your support allows the LWVG to deliver on its mission to provide unbiased information about voting as well as amazing programming on issues important to the public in the Town of Greenwich and the broader community.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events. Watch your mailboxes for postcards, your email for Constant Contact, and our website lwvg.org for details.

Best wishes,

Caroline, Jara and Liz

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Rita Baker

Membership Co-Director

Rita is a Greenwich native who grew up in backcountry and now resides in Old Greenwich. She attended Greenwich Public Schools and received her B.A. from Duke University and her M.A. from Columbia. Known to her students as "Frau", Rita taught German (and some French and ESL) at Greenwich High School for 37 years before retiring in 2012. She was also a learning facilitator and instructional coach helping new teachers work towards tenure. Rita enjoyed sharing her love of world languages and cultures by presenting workshops to World Language faculty in Greenwich and around the state on curriculum development, technology integration, teaching strategies and classroom management. Rita has been an active volunteer at St. Paul's Episcopal Church serving on the Vestry and as President of the Day School Board, as well as at the Riverside Yacht Club, where she chaired the Junior Sailing and Admissions Committees and served as a Governor. She is presently a member of the Selectmen's Nominations Advisory Committee. Rita and her husband, Merl, are the proud parents of two adult children, Jessica and Charles. They all enjoy traveling and spending time at their apartment in Berlin, Germany.



Michele Kinner

Development Director

Michele has been a Greenwich resident for almost 25 years. She is a graduate of Smith College, where she majored in Economics and Psychology. After completing her MBA at the University of New Hampshire, Michele began working in Manufacturers Hanover's corporate banking division. She spent 22 years there, leaving from what had, by that time, become JPMorgan Chase, to join the Royal

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New Board Members, continued...

Bank of Canada. During her 25-year banking career, she held senior positions in banking, leveraged finance, credit and private equity investment management. She was recruited in 2005 by Quilvest, a global family office, to manage their US private equity fund investing. Her investment and investor relations responsibilities have entailed significant worldwide travel, which has given her a broad-minded perspective of different cultures. One of her most interesting 2016 experiences was to be in Saudi Arabia at the time of the Presidential election, facing inquiries from residents about her views of the outcome. She says that took some diplomacy to manage. She routinely speaks at industry events and is a member of the steering committee of PE Women's Investor Network, a peer-to-peer organization for senior women in the private equity industry. Michele is married to a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer who has just stepped down from his long-time second career, teaching at Eastern Middle School in Riverside. Michele's grown sons, Christopher and Ryan, went to local schools and now both live and work in the area.



Barbara O'Shea Membership Co-Director

Barbara is a graduate of Marywood University where she studied Fine Arts. A career in fashion copywriting at Washington

D.C.'s renowned Julius Garfinkel & Co. at 14th and F Streets led to her love of the city. After raising two daughters, she began her real estate career with Merrill Lynch Realty on Long Island. A move to Greenwich in the '90s brought her first to William Pitt Real Estate and later to Sotheby's International Realty, where she continues her work as one of its Senior Global Real Estate Advisors. As a long-time resident, Barbara has taken leadership roles in the community including as a Vestry Member of Christ Church, and a Board Member of Greenwich Pen Women. She is currently a Board Member of The Greenwich Arts Council, where she has deep connections. Her serious interest in photography keeps her active in local and regional exhibitions where she has been recognized for her work. A special memory is returning to Washington D.C. to attend the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama. Her daughters Megan and Melissa live and work in the area. Grandchildren Conrad and Georgina light up her days.

FALL ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Debates

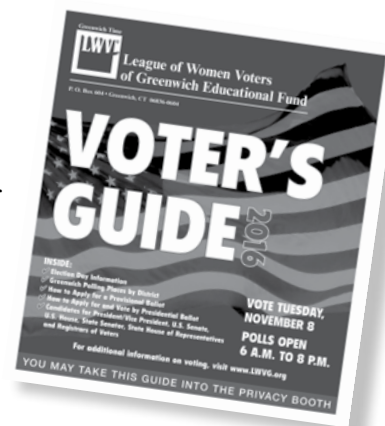
There were two contested elections for the Connecticut General Assembly this November: the 36th Senate seat and the 151st House seat. As usual, the Greenwich League sponsored debates between the candidates.

The debates were held on October 13 at the Town Hall Meeting room, kicking off with the debate between Fred Camillo, Republican incumbent, and Democratic challenger, Dita Bhargava, for the 151st Assembly District. This debate was followed immediately by the second debate for candidates for the 36th Senate seat: Republican incumbent Scott Frantz and the Democratic challenger John Blankley. Jean Rabinow from the Bridgeport Area League moderated both events. Claudette Rothman and GHS senior Lizzie Burnett were timers and Adele Teitell and Barbara Cioffari served as ushers.

The Greenwich League also co-sponsored a Fairfield County League debate for the 4th Congressional district. It was held on October 23 at the Clune Center at the Wilton High School from 5 to 6:30. All twelve Fairfield County Leagues sent workers. Kay Maxwell of Stamford moderated a lively discussion between Democratic incumbent Jim Himes and the Republican challenger John Shaban. A last minute voter registration opportunity was offered by the Wilton Registrars. The event was well-attended and well-covered. Gail Janensch of Bridgeport Area League coordinated the publicity and the Wilton League members were responsible for on-site organization.

Voter's Guide

Once again, the Greenwich League decided to produce a *Voter's Guide* for the 2016 election and publish it in the *Greenwich Time* on the Saturday preceding the election. Kathy Burgweger coordinated all the information gathering. The *Greenwich Time* publicized the *Guide* on the front page for three consecutive dates during the week preceding publication, and the *Guide* was also posted on the League and *Greenwich Time* websites. Our deepest appreciation to Marla Laney who once again produced the print layout and the electronic copy.



Regrettably, informal observation showed that very few voters seemed to bring the *Voter's Guide* to the polls. The LWVG board will discuss how best to convey the information to the public during the upcoming year. We welcome suggestions from our members!

Get Out the Vote

Signs urging citizens to vote were placed in strategic locations throughout the town by League volunteers. Joanne Stavrou coordinated this effort. Prior to the election, the LWVG sent letters to the editors of local print media describing the Absentee Ballot process and publicizing registration deadlines.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

On Thursday, November 17, 50 League members got a glimpse of the future. Mr. Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development for the City of Stamford, CT, described what our cities, towns and commutes might look like in 2030 with the implementation of autonomous vehicle technology.

Autonomous vehicles – also known as driverless cars – are already being used on several private business campuses throughout the country. The City of Stamford is an early proponent for this technology and is working to establish a pilot program to advance research and development.

Mr. Madden’s informative presentation discussed real-time use of the technology, as well as how it can influence the way citizens and public planners think of transportation, municipal parking or commuting. A next step is to meet with stakeholders and legislators to address concerns about accidents and liability.

The League thanks Mr. Madden for inspiring us to imagine the future possibilities.

HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE RIVER HOUSE



LWVG 95TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Guest speaker, Coline Jenkins



95th Anniversary Committee Members Joanne Stavrou, Mary Ann Henry, Claudia Carthaus, Liz van Caloen



Representatives Floren and Bocchino presenting a Citation from Governor Malloy to Jara Burnett



Attendees enjoying guest speaker Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Past LWVG Presidents (from left): Adele Teitell, Beth Krumeich, Naomi Schiff Myers, Cyndy Anderson, JoAnn Messina, Jara Burnett, Mary Ferry



LWVG Board members (from left): Hillary McGuire, Deirdre Kamlani, Nancy Duffy, Caroline Adkins, Joanne Stavrou, Mary Ann Henry, Barbara O'Shea, Jara Burnett, Rita Baker, Liz van Caloen, Marla Laney, Elise Hingson

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, the Greenwich League celebrated the 95th anniversary of its founding on October 24, 1921.

The event was held at the Round Hill Community House, where we shared a renewed commitment to an informed and vibrant democracy. Coline Jenkins, the great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was our guest speaker. Coline's speech was truly the highlight of the evening. Her use of the story about a ten year old girl in the beginning of the 20th century made the journey of the suffragists personal and real. Coline also allowed us to use some of her historic memorabilia in a slide show presentation of vintage postcards relating to the Suffrage Movement.

The community room was decorated with attractive and informative posters from the League of Women Voters of Connecticut's 90th Celebration display. The series, Marching

in their Footsteps, was loaned to us by Elisa McCarthy of the Hartford League. The other exhibits on the Greenwich League's history were the results of research by Caroline Adkins, Rita Baker, Liz van Caloen, Mary Ann Henry and Joanne Stavrou.

As always, we were supported by our loyal and informed members and some local politicians. State Representatives Livvy Floren and Mike Bocchino presented to Steering Committee member Jara Burnett a citation with best wishes from Governor Malloy's office – arranged by Livvy Floren.

We were also pleased to have the *Greenwich Time* publish two front page articles on Sunday, October 8 – one on our 95th Anniversary and the other on Coline Jenkins. It was an afternoon filled with celebration and camaraderie for a good cause.



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VOTER*



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, 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.

Join the LWVG! It's easy! You may download a membership form from our website, www.lwvg.org, and mail it in with your check. OR, you can join electronically using PayPal! Your membership is very important because it helps us continue our educational and advocacy work. Together, we really can make a difference!