

LWV WINTER, 2016

NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Next Tools for Change meeting for high schoolers, Saturday, January 9, 10 am to 2 pm.

Chinese New Year Party Saturday, February 6, 6 pm, 6 Fieldstone Road , Rye, NY.

Port Chester Trustees Candidates Forum, details to be announced,

Election for Port Chester Trustees, March 15, 7am to 9pm.

HELP WANTED: We are looking for a tech-savvy volunteer to be our new Webmaster.

Call or email Debbie Reisner (914)481-3234 or LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com.

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

--- Thomas Jefferson

Chinese New Year Party

Saturday, February 6, 6:00 pm, at the Home of Peter and Roz Larr, 6 Fieldstone Road, Rye, NY. For excellent Chinese food and interesting conversation with our League members, friends, and local and state political leaders, don't miss it!

LWV CANDIDATES FORUM for the March 15 Port Chester Trustee Elections

Details will be announced soon.

A Report from the Annual League Day at the United Nations on December 3, 2015

by Nancy Barr



United Nations Headquarters, New York City. (Photos by Nancy Barr.)



General Assembly Chamber, United Nations Headquarters.



Security Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters.

On an unseasonably warm and sunny December day, I joined 50 men and women from around New York state and Canada for "League Day" at the United Nations. League Day is a wonderful perk of being a LWV member because it entitles you, for a modest fee, to attend two UN briefings on current topics; these briefings are not open to the general public.

Sitting in a conference room complete with individual microphones and translation devices, we were treated to an informative discussion on "Women, Education and the UN" with La Neice Collins, UN speechwriter and communications advisor. Our second briefing entitled "Peacekeeping Operations and Counter Terrorism Efforts" was presented by Jean-Victor Nkolo, a Cameroon national who has worked

for the UN in various capacities for over 20 years. Each speaker was articulate and entertaining and left time for questions from our group.

After the briefings, most of our group stayed for lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room, followed by small group tours. Although the public is no longer allowed to sit in on actual sessions, we were able to see the rooms and hear about the Security Council, the General Assembly, and other important arms of the UN.

Throughout the day I was reminded of how relevant the United Nations is still, some 70 years after it was founded. Currently there are 193 members, almost 4 times the original number of 51. I was also proud to be a member of the League, which played an important role in the birth of the UN. President Franklin Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor supported the idea of the United Nations but many others were skeptical about joining the UN since its predecessor, the League of Nations, was considered a failure. Eleanor called on her former colleagues at LVW to do a letter writing and educational campaign to garner support for the cause, helping to shape public opinion in favor of the organization.

I strongly urge others to take advantage of this annual field trip into New York City to learn more about one of the most important institutions in the world today. It is a great reminder that the work we do to promote the democratic process in this country can be a critical spoke in the wheel of international peace and justice.

Naturalization Court:

Barbara Brunner will be going to Naturalization Court in White Plains on **March 23** to witness the swearing in of new citizens and help them register to vote. She always welcomes company if you'd like to join her.

Dr. William Tobin of Duke University Reports on the Progress of this Season's "Tools for Change" Program



Youths from local high schools at this season's first meeting of "Tools for Change".

The Tools for Change Seminar welcomed a record number of students to its first meeting on December 7, 2015. Thirty-two students came from Blind Brook, Rye Neck, and Port Chester High Schools and represented a wide range of talents and perspectives from the community.

The Tools for Change seminar is animated by the belief that active citizenship, college (not merely admissions) readiness, and career success require a similar set of mindsets and capacities. Active citizenship involves voting, but also the ability to address community problems. College success is not just mastering and moving information, it's learning to think analytically in at least one disciplinary style and then using this style to communicate and collaboratively solve the problems that matter. Community, college and career readiness require cognitive as well non-cognitive abilities, analysis and perseverance, the ability to communicate and the development of an ethical sensibility. Tools introduces students in the community to the most common mode of inquiry in American society, the evidence based research, and teaches them to use this method to solve problems they care about.

Dr. William Tobin from Duke University directs the program. The seminar is modeled on two Duke programs he has co-directed: the Honors program in the Sociology Department and DukeEngage, Dublin--an undergraduate research and civic engagement program. Tools for Change is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and has received generous support from private and public--most recently, the Town of Rye and Westchester County--sources as well as community organizations such as the NAACP and Building Community Bridges.

During the December 7 meeting students focused on developing their own perspectives so they could begin to get leverage on community challenges. In later classes students will engage and try on the perspectives of their classmates as they identify and address a community question. The next meeting of the seminar is [an all-day retreat](#) scheduled for Saturday, January 9. If you are or know a high school student who would like to join the seminar or just want more information, contact Dr. Tobin at 919-323-5196 or via email at tobin@soc.duke.edu

\$\$ Student Civic Achievement Award \$\$

Attention, high school juniors (and their parents)! The League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester will once again be awarding a Student Civic Achievement Award to a 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.

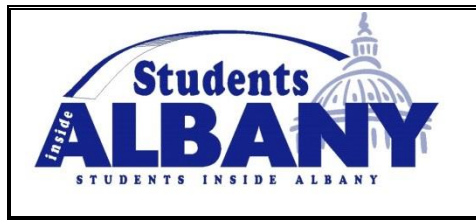
The criteria for the Student Civic Achievement Award are:

- * 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.

Students eligible for the award will participate at a high level in numerous activities. In doing so, they will have proven to be exemplary leaders and excellent role models for their peers.

The recipient of the Student Civic Leadership Award will be selected by a subcommittee of the LWV Board members based on the content of the application and by an interview, if deemed necessary by the subcommittee members. The recipient will receive a **\$500.00** monetary award.

The LWV has distributed to each local high school an application form to be completed by a student who wishes to apply for the Student Civic Achievement Award. The deadline for submission of the application is April 15, 2016. Each student must submit a reference and the guidance counselor or a school administrator must sign off on the application. The award recipient will be notified in May 2016 and will be presented with the Award at the June LWV Annual Meeting. For further information, please contact Joan Feinstein at jfeinstein@wfsnyc.com.



STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The League of Women Voters - Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester (LWVRRBPC) is once again sponsoring two local high school students to attend the annual Students Inside Albany (SIA) Conference to be held on May 22-25, 2016 in Albany. The State LWV and our local chapter, LWVRRBPC, will underwrite all of the costs of attending the conference.

SIA is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. and 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.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, January 22, 2016 and winners will be announced by Friday, February 5, 2016.

A Fireside Afternoon of History

"Franklin Delano Roosevelt: The Invisible Core of Greatness"

The discussion with lecturer and historian David L. Auerbach was held November 22, at the home of Debbie and Hunter Reisner, in Rye, NY. All money collected benefited the League of Women Voters, Rye, Rye Brook, & Port Chester Educational Foundation Fund, a 501(c)(3). It will help pay for our extensive youth programs.

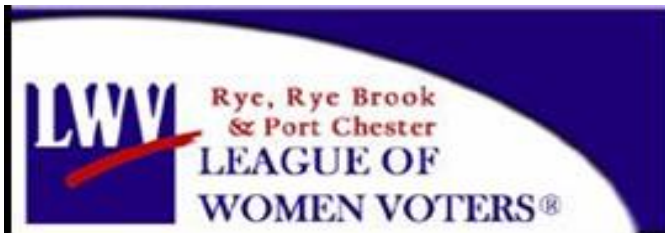


David L. Auerbach discusses the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt with a rapt audience.

Reminder: January is Membership Renewal Month. See the tear-off membership form on the last page.

If you want to help to continue the progress which the League of Women Voters has made toward educating the public on the issues affecting our communities and encouraging a larger voter turnout, then please renew (or begin) your membership by filling out the form below and mailing it with a check to:

LWV-Rye-RB-PC
P. O. Box 194
Rye, NY 10580-0194



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PO Box 194
Rye NY 10580
(914) 481-3234

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.

Email:
LWV.Rye.RyeBrook.PortChester@gmail.com

Website:
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 \$67 ___ Family \$90 ___ 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 \$67 Individual and \$90 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.