

The West Bay League of Women Voters' SENTINEL
serving Cranston, Warwick, East Greenwich, North Kingstown,
Exeter, West Warwick and Coventry, RI

October 2009

President's Message

West Bay LWV's sure off and running! Please, savor and save these dates?

Remember SEPTEMBER? As of our super 60th Birthday Party, celebrated at Varnum Armory in EG on Sept. 13, we've added **8 new members**: read a bit about 'em on pages 3-4. We began 2009-10 with 31 members. OK, mathematicians: what's our percentage of growth so far? But our Birthday Party isn't over yet! LWV-SK/Narragansett's kind and energetic president Pam Ancheta taped it and is teaching us to make it a public access TV program. Our next *Sentinel* being out in December, we'll tell you by e-mail and telephone tree when and where to watch!

OCTOBER 21: We'll tape too Cranston Mayor Allan Fung's ideas on a state formula for funding education at our **Hot Topics Lunch at Twin Oaks on Wed. Oct. 21**. See all the details on page 2, mail your \$20 LWV-WB check today to treasurer Millie Plouffe (150 Knollwood Ave., EG 02818), and spread the good word! This event is open to the public: invite your friends to "Take a taste of LWV-West Bay!"

NOVEMBER 19: At 2nd Story Theatre's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, we'll meet and enjoy Leaguers statewide while supporting our State House lobbying efforts. (And wait 'til you see that quaint Warren theater's new elevator!) Just save that coupon on page 5 and some day soon send its \$30 check to LWV-RI. You can also reserve your seat at an optional, moderately priced Dutch-Treat dinner in 2nd Story's Café. This event too is open to the public: this time tell 'em to "Take a taste of LWV-RI!"

DECEMBER 3: But our **Potluck Holiday Hanukkah/Christmas Sing-Along** is a members-only (plus significant others) event because we're holding it at Jane Rankin's two-piano-ed home (192 Spencer Ave., just off Division St. on the Warwick/EG line). It's BYOB but call Jane at 884-0669 to coordinate food you'll bring. Oven space being limited, think "ready-to-serve"!

Learning as I go along (thanks for your patience), I'm so proud to be West Bay's new president. **Do come to our next Board meeting—open as ever to all members—on Monday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. in the library at Atria/Harborhill on Division St.** Help fine tune our future plans!

All the best,

<p>HELP WANTED: Call Marie at 884-3976 to get in on the fun of learning to edit (on Thursday, October 15 from 12-3 p.m., let's carpool to PEG-RI's studio in Westerly!) and to tape our own TV shows. No experience needed. Just now and then a willing hand and heart.</p>
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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The West Bay League of Women Voters proudly profiles, alphabetically, our 8 new colleagues:

Liz Anderson and Jack Kirby: 132 Shamrock Drive, Warwick 02886 732-0185 & 203-9061
lizandjack98@yahoo.com

This caring married couple share six children (with only the youngest still at home, a 17 yr. old who's headed for a nursing career and is already a CNA at Brentwood Nursing Home), and they part-own and run Kirby Brothers Construction. Jack, who ran for Mayor of Warwick in 2008, is especially interested in health care reform—their business's Blue Cross bill having just increased by 58%. Why? Liz turned 50.... An Attleboro native and former dental technician, Liz studied computer networking at Catherine Gibbs; Jack, a native Rler, has also served the Knights of Columbus as Corporation President (chief financial officer).

Janet Carroll: 47 Tallman Ave., Cranston 02910 467-5436 janetcarroll2@cox.net

Janet recently retired from heading RI's Title I anti-poverty education efforts. Still consulting with Pawtucket's schools, she's already attended a meeting of LWV-RI's study of statewide education funding. (Others interested should call that study's chair, West Bay's own Mickie Bonneau, at 946-9245.) Helen Abrams' neighbor, Janet enjoys helping others see issues like health care and housing from a low-income family's perspective.

Autumn Guillotte: 28 Cornell Ave., Warwick 02888 644-4826 hippies0r0kool@gmail.com

Nov. 2 is Autumn's 14th birthday; almost a woman voter, she's an inspiration! Her Mom spotted our Birthday story in the *Beacon*, so her Dad escorted her to our Suffragist Sing-along; there she and we recreated childhood stories that his mother once told her grandchild Autumn. From researching women's issues in Afghanistan and the Free Tibet movement, to making posters for monthly Student Government dances, to "peace, civility, tolerance—every day," this 8th grader at Aldrich Junior High has earned her proud nickname: "Hey, Hippie!"

Paul J. McNeil, Jr.: 155 Hilton Rd., Warwick 02887-2932 732-0294

Chairman of the Warwick Public Library, Paul has served on its Board for six years. This retired claims adjudicator for the RI Dept. of Labor and Training (who recently attended his 50th EGHS reunion) is very interested in federal issues, especially—given his personal experiences with hospitals and insurance claims—health care reform!

Alicia Seavey: 983 Division St./P.O. Box 1514, EG 02818 884-2534 seaveyg@live.com

Now there's a familiar name! This former inner city elementary school teacher who's nurtured many a first grader has—fortunately for us—renewed her membership. Alicia looks forward to being "in League" once more, especially helping with our candidate forums, our affordable housing and anti-hunger efforts, and in attracting more new and renewed members.

MORE NEW MEMBERS:

Marion Tibbetts: 33 Long St., Apt. 111, East Greenwich 02818 885-1959

A true East Greenwich 'townie,' Marion cares how policies help or hurt people; for example, an 'adopt a family' program highlighted her many years of work at EG's Main Street welfare office. She's long served on her church's Outreach Committee and EG's Ecumenical Council, and for 6 years on the West Bay Community Action Program's Board. Now on EG's Senior Advisory Board, she'll learn more about RI's global Medicaid waiver—our unique 5 year cap on federal spending—at the RI Senior Agenda Conference at the Crowne Plaza on Oct. 30 (see 'other coming events'). And Marion calls a great game of senior bingo!

Trude Wolfarth ["Troo-dee Wool-farth"]: 391 Davisville Rd., North Kingstown 02852
884-0969 memyselfandi12@verizon.net

Having returned to RI a few years ago after 42 years in Cedargrove, NJ (12 mi. from NYC) and finding so many who complain about RI politics and then only yell or shrug or sigh, Trude's attracted to LWV's non-partisan open-mindedness. "If I can drop a few grains of sand to help build a wall that keeps this state together and helps its people," she's said, "I'll have done something worthwhile in my senior years." A URI English major who moved to NJ for a flight attendant job with United Airlines but had to retire on marrying her late husband Bob (still, in 1976 UA had to offer her job back!), Trude's been a teacher, a stay-at-home-Mom, and Montclair State's Asst. Athletic Director (could she ever write a recruiting brochure!). President of NK's Women's Club, she stays in Ridgefield, CT with her 13 yr. old grandson when his widower Dad travels: "not babysitting, just being there: probably the most important thing I'll ever do."

IN MEMORIAM

Betty (Mary Elizabeth) Hellewell, long a proud and active member of the West Bay League of Women Voters, died at 89 on September 25, 2009. A requiem Eucharist was celebrated at her beloved St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 99 Peirce St. in East Greenwich, to which memorial donations may be made. We offer our condolences to Betty's son Glenn, her daughter Susan and her brother John Riley.

Allan Willoughby, husband of our long-time member Jane Willoughby, died on October 4, 2009. Friends and family will gather at 10 a.m. before a memorial service at 11 on Friday, October 23, at the Carpenter-Jenks Family Funeral Home at 659 East Greenwich Ave., West Warwick (at the corner of Rte. 2). We offer our sincere sympathy to Jane and her family.

OTHER COMING EVENTS:

Thurs. Oct. 8, 10 a.m. – 12: **LWV-RI Education Study Committee Meeting** at Joanne DeVoe's home, 67 King St., Warren: 247-3004, joanned@qis.net.

Fri. Oct. 30, 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.: **RI Senior Agenda Coalition Aging in Community Action Conference** at Crowne Plaza, Warwick: to register (\$10 for seniors), call 274-6900 or contact www.senioragendari.org. (RI SAC's Bill Flynn is our May 2010 Annual Meeting speaker.)