

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Friday, April 14 Running & Winning – Anyone interested in volunteering contact Debbie

Mondays, April 25 or May 8 Possible dates for Rye Neck School Board Candidates Forum

Thursday, May 1 Port Chester School Board Candidates Forum.

Tuesday, May 6 Blind Brook School Board Candidates Forum

Thursday, May 8, 7:00 pm Rye City School Board Candidates Forum (if there is a contested election).

Friday, June 20, 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 Spring Luncheon

The thought-provoking guest speaker, columnist Phil Reisman, was the highlight of our annual luncheon on Friday, April 4th, at Orienta Beach Club. It was a chore-free way to chat and catch up with friends in our league and members from the New Rochelle and Larchmont/Mamaroneck Chapters.



Phil Reisman

## "Tools for Change" Letter to the Editor:

As we celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. just a few short weeks ago, I am reminded that he once remarked that "all men are caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality." It is not often that in our separate, but inescapably linked, communities there is a program that has been bringing together high school students from three local high schools, Blind Brook, Port Chester, and Rye Neck for the past five years and now would like to include students from Rye City High School. That program is Tools ForChange(<http://www.tools4changeseminar.com/>). The League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester has been a program sponsor from its beginning, and I am writing

this letter as a member of the League's Board of Directors.

The program focuses teenagers from diverse backgrounds to conduct research, analyze and solve community problems. Dr. William Tobin from Duke University teaches the seminar. As Dr. Tobin has written, "tools grows young people who not only possess disciplined analytical and interpretive skills, as well as empathy and wisdom, but can bring these traits to bear on local challenges that have national and global dimensions. The focus of Tools is not to transmit knowledge, but instead to teach a style for engaging the world so that new and existing knowledge and data can be productively organized, analyzed and used." The program is multi-faceted and has been bringing together students and teachers, parents, and school board members from Port Chester, Rye Neck, and Blind Brook. Dr. Tobin is anxious to have students from Rye City to join the seminar that is beginning this month. (Interested students, parents and/or community members can contact him at [tobin@soc.duke.edu](mailto:tobin@soc.duke.edu))

Funding for the program is through a public-private partnership. Public donors have included the Town of Rye, Building Community Bridges/One World and, this year, the County of Westchester. Funding is always difficult and the public's help is encouraged and needed if this worthwhile program is to continue. An on-line fund raising campaign through the crowd sourcing website: IncitED has recently been completed, but donations can still be made through the League of Women Voters Educational Foundation, a tax deductible 501(c)3

organization. Donating through the League can be easily accomplished at <http://lwvrrbpc.org/> by clicking the DONATE button, or by mail to P.O. Box 194, Rye, NY 10580.

Volunteers are also needed, as chaperones and in other capacities. This worthwhile program is a "two way street," benefiting not only the students but the adults who are so much a part of it. Those who wish to give of their time may also contact the League through the website or by mail.  
--Gary Zuckerman, Rye Brook

## ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be hosted by Board Member Gary Zuckerman at his home: 23 Hillandale Rd., Rye Brook. The date will be Friday, June 20, at 7:00 pm.



## LOCAL STUDENT CHOSEN TO ATTEND "STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY" PROGRAM

Macguire (Mac) Killian, a 9th grader from Rye High School, has been chosen to attend this year's Students Inside Albany program sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation. This thirteenth annual Students Inside Albany program will take place from May 18-21, and will bring approximately 60 students from across the state to Albany to get a first-hand education about their state government. The program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide information

about the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility.

While at the conference, students will join their peers in a hands-on learning experience about how state government works. Students will participate in a series of interactive lectures on topics such as the state budget process, the role of lobbyists in the legislative process, citizen rights to access government information, the role of media in politics, and the move to reform state government. While in Albany, the students will have an opportunity to tour the state's Capitol. The highlight for most students is the opportunity to shadow their Senator and their Assembly member for afternoon attending sessions on the Chamber floor.

In his application essay, Mac commented, "If I understand the legislative process, I would be better able to contribute to helping my community and state in dealing with these issues. I would like to meet other kids around New York to share ideas and opinions and what they think the issues facing our state are."

(article by Steve Meyers)



**Judie Gorenstein, Director of Youth Programs for the LWVNY, led the recent Vote18 Workshop to train those who will present the program to the youth.**

Vote 18 is a fun, fast-paced interactive game taught at high

schools during one class period. It teaches students the history of voting, makes it relevant in their lives, and engages them in the world of politics. The goal of Vote 18 is to motivate students to register to vote when they turn eighteen, show them the value of their vote, and motivate them to stay politically engaged over the long term. We believe that students who are inspired to take part in politics will become lifelong voters.

The most recent Vote 18 Workshop was held on January 12, 2014. Here is what Julie Famularo, one participant had to say. "Thank you for hosting the Vote 18 Event this past Sunday. I loved it, and I look forward to introducing it into our local high school. I also wanted to mention how much I admire the work by your chapter of LWV. I am continually impressed by the programs and events you offer in furtherance of voter engagement and participation. It is such important work—I am glad you persist! Thank you again for hosting this valuable event..."

More information is available about Vote18 on its dedicated page of our website.

(article by Chris Nicholson)

## LWV of Florida Sponsors a trip to Cuba

Visit Cuba with the LWV of Florida on a special people-to-people license. Costs start at \$2,800 per person including airfare from Miami, hotel accommodations for 6 nights in Cuba, some meals, all ground transportation, tours, and gratuities. To learn more about the Florida League's "Sisters Across the Straits" Program, please visit

<http://www.thefloridavoter.org/event/sisters-across-the-straits> .

## Chinese New Year Party

At the home of Roz and Peter Larr in Rye, The League of Women Voters Chinese New Year party raised money for our Student Outreach Program. Congressman Elliot Engle spoke and answered questions. As in previous years, the Larr home was packed with LWV members, political figures, and politically involved area residents.



**United States Congressman Elliot Engle speaks to the LWV Chinese New Year gathering.**

## Student Civic Achievement Award

The League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester has recently established a Student Civic Achievement Award to be given annually to one high school junior who lives in and attends a high school in the City of Rye, Villages of Rye Brook and Port Chester, or Rye Neck, 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 three person 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 \$250.00 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 March 31, 2014. 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 2014 and will be presented with the Award at the June LWV Annual Meeting.

(article by Joan Feinstein)

## Vigorous Discussion at Our Community Forum on December 5th: "Detroit is Bankrupt, Could It Happen Here?"

Our forum on Current NY State and Municipal Financial Conditions was held in the Multi-purpose room of the Rye Middle School.

### Featured as panelists:

**Elizabeth Lynam**—Vice-President & Director of State Studies, Citizens Budget Commission.

**E. J. McMahon**—Senior Fellow of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research and the Empire Center for New York State Policy.

**James A. Parrott**—Deputy Director and Chief Economist of the Fiscal Policy Institute.

**Richard Ravitch**—Former Lt. Governor of New York. Co-Chair State Budget Crisis Task Force.

**Our panelists, with their diverse viewpoints, focused on the key aspects of NY State and municipal fiscal management and policy in the context of business, union, taxpayer, political and legal constraints and priorities.**

**Despite icy weather and concurrent events it was one of our most successful community forums to date.**

**The event was broadcast on local cable and is still available on demand through our website.**

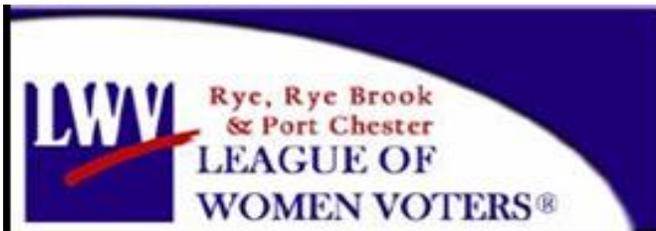


**League President Debbie Reisner, James A. Parrott, E. J. McMahon, Elizabeth Lynam, Richard Ravitch, and Forum Moderator Fred Cummings at the Community Forum on Municipal Finance.**

## LWV Gives Useful Materials to New Citizens



**The League distributes pamphlets to all new citizens during Naturalization Ceremonies at the Westchester County Courthouse. (photo by Barbara Brunner)**



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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.

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

\_\_\_ 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.**