

# League of Women Voters

Port Washington-Manhasset May 2011



President Jane Thomas

Patricia Maher, Editor

Ann Marie Benzinger, Circulation

*League of Women Voters  
of  
Port Washington-Manhasset*

*cordially invites members and friends to the*

*Annual Spring Fundraiser  
"Keeping Us in the News"  
honoring*

*Kate Bergen, PR Director, &  
Patricia Maher, Editor LWV  
Newsletter*

*on*

*Sunday, June 12, 2011, 5:30 p.m.*

*at the lovely home of  
Leo & Kay Ullman*

*Sea Coast Lane*

*Sands Point, New York*

*\$60 per person - RSVP by June 1, 2011*

*Directions to Ullmans:* From the Port Washington Post Office, travel north three miles on Port Washington Boulevard (name changes to Middle Neck Road), to Hoffstot Lane. (Hoffstot Lane is one block past the first stop sign after the Post Office.) Make a right on Hoffstot Lane. Follow the road .6 mile. Take left fork on to Sea Coast Lane. the Ullman home is the 3rd house on the left, number 5.

*Please make checks payable to:*

*LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset and send to Kay Ullman, 5 Sea Coast Lane, Sands Point, NY 11050, (516) 944-8517. Include your name and address and attendees.*

**League of Women Voters  
of  
Port Washington-  
Manhasset**

**invites League members and the  
public to the**

**Annual Meeting**

**on**

**Friday, June 10, 2011**

**Business meeting from 1 to 2 p.m.  
in the Hagedorn Room of the Port  
Washington Public Library.**

**The program at 2:30 in the  
Lapham Room is open to the  
public:**

**What's Happening in  
Albany?**

**featuring honored guests**

**Michelle Schimel, New York State  
Assemblywoman**

**and**

**Jack Martins, New York State  
Senator**

**Moderator: Paula Blum, past President  
of the Nassau County LWV and current  
editor of the LWV Voters' Guide**

**(You bring your questions and we will  
provide coffee and goodies)**



### Kate Bergen to be Honored by LWV

Kate has lived in Port Washington for over forty years and has been a member of the League of Women Voters for most of that time. For the past ten years, she has been in charge of the League's public relations.

Kate grew up in a small town in western Pennsylvania; she attended Pembroke College and upon graduation, she came to New York City where she worked in corporate public relations. Reflecting her interest in and study of political science, she was able to get a job with the Rockefeller for President Campaign Committee in 1964. ...."That was the most "glamorous" job I ever had!" Kate says. "I met the governor, had my picture taken with Happy, and met John Lindsey, Jackie Robinson and William Safire who all worked in the same office."

Kate married Peter Bergen a Wall Street lawyer in 1964. In 1968, they brought their family to live in Port Washington where Kate, as a stay-at-home-Mom, volunteered in several local activities including producing newsletters for PTAs and the North Shore Science Museum. For ten years (1975-1985) she devoted her time to the Port Washington Community Chest, serving in a variety of roles and culminating in her election as the first woman president of that organization. ("A real feather in my cap!" says Kate)

"The most fulfilling volunteer experience I have had in Port was being a member of the group which initiated and organized the Landmark on Main Street project. A dedicated group of citizens met regularly and persevered for ten years to obtain the funding and the public approval needed to create the Community Center and senior housing in the venerable historic school." Kate continues to serve on the Board for Landmark's Senior Housing.

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**Due to uncontested school board elections, there will be no Candidates' Nights for either Manhasset or Port Washington. Voting for budgets and school board positions will take place on Tuesday, May 17 -- 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

### Message from the President's Desk

As you can see on the front page, we have two amazing events coming up. Our Annual Meeting on Friday, June 10th is, as always, two-fold. Our business meeting, at which I would love to see many members, begins at 1:00 p.m. Please review the proposed budget and Nominating Committee's Report. Bring your concerns/questions to the meeting at which time these items will be presented for a vote.

Directly following the business meeting is our general meeting at 2:30 p.m. in the Lapham Room. We are pleased to have our state legislators, Senator Jack Martins and Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, to share "What's Happening in Albany?" We are all interested in answers to that question. We hope you bring lots of specific questions of your own. A Blue Card reminder will be arriving shortly.

Also on the front page is your "Save The Date" notice for our gala Spring Fundraiser on Sunday, June 12th . You will be receiving a formal invitation to this year's wonderful event.

The County League's convention will be held on Thursday, June 2nd. Please see your invitation and **Call to Convention** inserted into this newsletter for the details. County Legislator Wayne Wink will be speaking with Denise Ford, the County Legislator from Long Beach. Again, we all want to know "What's Happening in with Nassau County?"

Last call: On May 11th, the National Council of Jewish Women Luncheon will be honoring the work of the League of Women Voters. A number of us plan to attend. If you're interested, call me at 883-0698 and we'll find you a ride.

There is a critically important meeting on redistricting in Nassau County on **May 9th** (see back page). Peter Schmitt, Nassau County Presiding Officer, is attempting to push through new boundary voting lines **without** an oversight commission in place. May 9th is the **ONLY** public hearing scheduled on this critically important matter of fair voter representation. Gerrymandering does NOT reflect fair representation

I hope you are using your "**They Represent You**" for whatever issues you feel need addressing in this country, this state, this county, this town. Make sure you remain involved and voice your opinion. It's the League thing to do! This will be our last Newsletter until September. Enjoy your summer...

**Jane**



**LWVPW-M Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2011-12 or 2011-2013**

The following slate of officers and directors will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 10, 2011, at 1:00 pm at the Port Washington Public Library. Members are urged to attend.

**Officers to be elected:**

- President: Jane Thomas 2011-2012
- 1st Vice-President: Amy Bass 2011-2012
- 2nd Vice President: Judy Jacobson 2011-2013
- Secretary: Marie Bellon 2011-2012
- Treasurer: Julie Harnick 2011-2013

**Directors to be elected:**

- Voter Service: Cathy Persons 2011-2013
- Government: Phoebe Goodman 2011-2013
- Direct Mail: Joan Kent 2011-2012
- Newsletter Editor: Patricia Maher 2011-2012
- Program: Rita Tanski 2011-2013
- Membership: Mary Ellen McCollum 2011-2013
- Health Issues: Lynda Adams 2011-2012
- Special Mailings: Amanda Bechtold 2011-2012

**Directors to be appointed for one year term 2011-2012:**

- Newsletter Circulation: Ann Marie Benzinger
- Town Board Observer: Eileen Brennan/Asst Bob O'Brien
- Social Policy: Kathy McIntyre
- Action/Judicial: Edna Vincenti

**Nominating Committee to be elected for 2011-2012:**

- Chairperson: Nancy Cowles
- Members: Kate Bergen, Anne Stokvis

**Two members from the Board of Directors will be appointed to the Nominating Committee at the first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors.**

**The following Off-Board Committee Members will be appointed by the Board of Directors at the first board meeting after the annual meeting:**

- Publicity: Kate Bergen
- Web-site Coordinator: Richard Fadem
- Voters Guide: Kay Ullman
- Student Activities: Nancy Cowles
- Natural Resources: Star Anthony

**Patricia Maher to be Honored by LWV**

Since retirement in 2004 as Vice-President for Student Affairs at Queensborough Community College/CUNY, Patricia Maher has served as Editor of the Port Washington-Manhasset League of Women Voters Newsletter. Pat received excellent support and training from Chris Pines who had ably served in this position for many years.

Pat was born in a small town in western Pennsylvania and she moved to Ohio early on. Pat attended Ohio Dominican College and served as the Director of Admissions for the College for six years. She then moved to New York, enrolled in a Master's and eventually Ph.D. Program in College Counseling at NYU.

Pat and her husband, Thomas Jude, moved to Port Washington in 1975 to raise their daughter, Rachel. Though a working mother, Pat was on the board of Roslyn Trinity Co-op Nursery School and a PTA Board member at Salem and Weber schools in Port Washington. Pat also produced newsletters at the Roslyn, Salem, and Weber schools.

At Queensborough, Pat was responsible for providing student support services to the 14,000 students enrolled at the college. The greatest challenge as well as the greatest reward was working with students from more than 120 countries, speaking more than 90 languages.

Working with the League of Women Voters has given Pat an opportunity to channel her interest in politics and her commitment to register and inform voters.

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**LWV Port Washington-Manhasset welcomes new members Patricia and Donald O'Brien and Ann Marie Moore of Manhasset.**



**CALENDAR:**

**Wed, May 4th: LWV PW-M Board Meeting,**  
Manhasset Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

**May 17th: PW & Manhasset School Budget and  
Candidates Votes. Polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

**May 20-22nd: New York State League of Women  
Voters Convention. See website for LWVNYS.**

**Thurs, June 2nd: LWV Nassau County  
Convention (see enclosure)**

**Thurs, June 2nd: Sixth Annual NYIT Energy  
Conference - Beyond Carbon: Offshore Energy  
& Technologies, 8:30-4:30 p.m.** For more  
information e-mail [events@nyit.edu](mailto:events@nyit.edu).

**Friday, June 10th: LWVPW-M Annual Meeting,**  
Port Washington Public Library, 1 - 2:15 p.m.  
Public Presentation at 2:30 p.m. See page 1.

**Sunday, June 12th: LWVPW-M Annual Spring  
Fundraiser.** (see announcement on page one)

**Redistrict Nassau County *Before* 2011 Elections?**

*Newsday's* lead editorial on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> states: "Redistricting matters. When it's done in an overly political, hasty or possibly illegal manner, voters are disenfranchised." The League believes that drawing new district lines in haste ill serves the residents of Nassau County. Presiding Officer Peter Schmitt has called for redrawing Nassau County districts with **no** Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission in place as the Charter dictates.

The NYS League has argued that the methods used in NYS to draw legislative and congressional districts are undemocratic and in need of reform. The rush in Nassau County to push through new boundaries now—without an oversight commission and without full public input—is extreme partisanship. The County Legislature has scheduled **one** public hearing on **May 9th** with the one and only vote on the newly-drawn map scheduled one week later. The LWV of Nassau County will make a statement at this public hearing. If you are interested in attending, call Jane Thomas at 883-0698. This is a critical issue of fair voter representation.

The League of Women Voters of  
Port Washington-Manhasset  
Post Office Box 305, Port Washington, NY 11050  
Website: [lwvpwma.org](http://lwvpwma.org)  
E-mail: [mail@lwvpwma.org](mailto:mail@lwvpwma.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 278  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Return Service Requested

**Mission Statement:** *The League of Women Voters is a civic, non-partisan organization dedicated to building citizen participation in the democratic process and to fostering government that is responsive to its citizens. It takes positions on issues but supports no political candidates or parties.*