



# BULLETIN

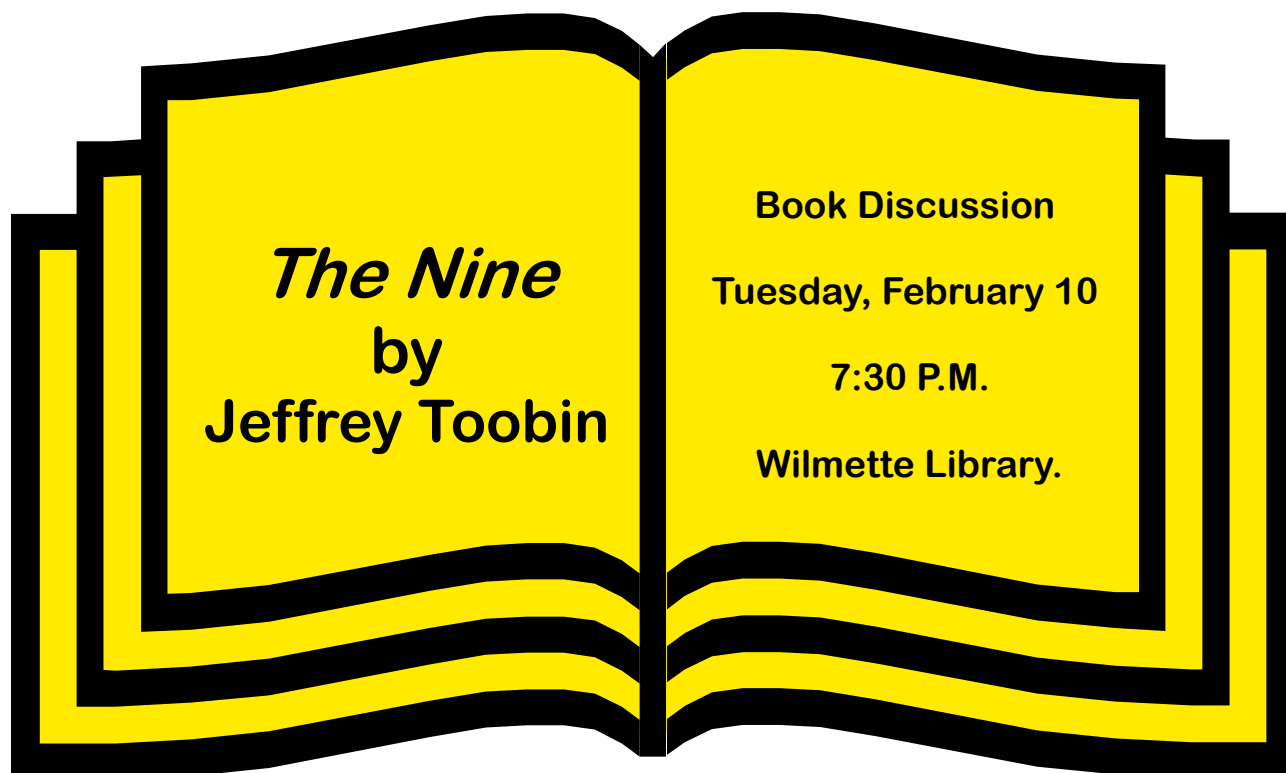
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE

[www.lwwwilmette.org](http://www.lwwwilmette.org)

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The Wilmette League of Women Voters and the Wilmette Public Library are sponsoring a book discussion of *The Nine* by Jeffrey Toobin on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:30 P.M. at the Wilmette Library.

The discussion will be sparked by Toobin's description of the twenty-year, conservative struggle to gain dominance of the Court and his descriptions of the nine justices, including their actions during Bush vs. Gore in 2000. The likelihood of several new appointments to the Court during the Obama administration makes this topic even more timely and intriguing. As such, our very own league member, Susan Bandes, Distinguished Research Professor at DePaul University College of Law, will guide a discussion thread about likely appointments and what effect they would have on some of the issues of the day.

So, please join us on Feb. 10 at 7:30 P.M. for coffee, cookies, and a rousing discussion of *The Nine*!

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

As I write this message, our nation is on the verge of the peaceful and orderly transfer of power from one administration to the next. As we mark this extraordinary occasion, it behooves each of us to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable nation we call home.

We have learned that President-elect Obama hopes to use the occasion of his Inauguration to rally our nation to commit to service in our communities. As a result, we, the League of Women Voters, join in making this call to service to our members and every American across the country to reignite the nation's spirit of volunteerism and community service. This new effort, "Renew America Together," is not just about stepping up to serve for a single day, but rather a commitment to serving our communities throughout the year.

As League members, we proudly strive to serve our community. To that end, in Wilmette we are quickly approaching our local elections. Though not as exciting as the national elections we have just completed, our local office holders are of critical importance to our everyday lives. As with the national and state elections, the League will be working to help our fellow citizens become better informed and more involved in the issues surrounding these elections. We will be producing a Voter's Guide that will be made available to the community, both in hard copy and online at our website, [www.lwvwilmette.org](http://www.lwvwilmette.org). We will register voters, conduct candidate forums and strive to promote citizen participation and education in a variety of ways.

I look forward to working with you to serve our community in this New Year!

As always, I welcome YOUR feedback, ideas and/or suggestions.

*Libby Bankoff*

## **YEARBOOK/DIRECTORY**

**By now, all members should have received their 2008-09 updated Yearbook.**

**Postage has gone up and printing costs have skyrocketed so, in the future, for those with email, the Yearbook will go digital.**

**FOR THOSE WITH EMAIL: The Directory pages (with members' addresses, etc. ) will be updated and sent electronically on an annual basis. Members may then print out their own copies.**

**The rest of the Yearbook will be updated every other year and sent as above.**

**FOR THOSE WITHOUT EMAIL: Directory pages will be updated annually and mailed. The Yearbook will be updated and mailed every other year.**

*Dorothy Speidel*

## Voter Services Committee

The Voter Services Committee (and friends) is busy working on the **Voter's Guide**, an important educational tool for Wilmette residents interested in learning about candidates who are running for local governing boards. In the upcoming **April 7 election**, residents will vote for members of the Wilmette Village Board (including Village President), Library Board, Park Board, District #39 School Board, District #37 School Board, and New Trier High School Board.

The Voter's Guide will have candidates' answers to critical issues that each of these Boards will face. The Voter's Guide will be distributed in March and posted on our website. If you are interested in working on this important project, there is a **meeting on Saturday, January 31 at 9 a.m.** at the home of Voter Services Co-Chair Heidi Voorhees, 1225 Richmond Lane. If you have any questions, please call Heidi at 847-256-7299 or contact her via e-mail at [HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com](mailto:HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com).

Thank you to the following participants in this project: Libby Bankoff, Ellen Falkof, Georgia Gebhardt, Ellen Krupp, Judy Mandel, Dorothy Speidel, and Therese Steinken. Come join us!

## Candidate Forums

The Voter Services Committee will also coordinate Candidate Forums for contested elections for seats on our local governing boards. The Forums will be held in March and televised on cable television. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Voter Services Co-Chair Heidi Voorhees at 847-256-7299 or e-mail her at [HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com](mailto:HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com).

## ATTENTION!! VOTER REGISTRARS

Your Voter Registrar commission expired on November 30, 2008 and Cook County Clerk David Orr's office will soon be sending you a renewal form to sign and return to the County Clerk's office. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Voorhees at [HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com](mailto:HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com). The County Clerk will be offering deputy registrar training classes. Email notification of training dates will be sent to our members.

## **LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2009**

University Center: Conference Chicago Lake Room  
525 South State Street Chicago

**Registration, Breakfast and Networking Starts at 8:30 a.m.**

**Issue Programs 9:15 a.m. to Noon**

**The State of Illinois Government:** How can Illinois move forward to meet its fiscal challenges? What plans does new leadership in the General Assembly have for this legislative session?

**The 2010 Census:** Why is a complete count important? What are the implications for Illinois regarding redistricting and services in Illinois?

**LWV Advocacy & Front-Burner Issues:** Updates on State Fiscal Policy, Environmental Protection & Pollution Control, and other action issues.

**LUNCHEON: Noon to 1 p.m.**

**WORKSHOPS: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (select one)**

**Environment/Climate Change:** What is the impact of pharmaceuticals on water quality? How can League implement Natural Resources positions, educate the public and promote action?

**Judicial Evaluation Commission:** What is it? How will it help the public make decisions to help elect better judges?

## **2009 LWVIL State of the State Luncheon**

**Thursday, February 26, 2009**

**Union League Club of Chicago – 65 West Jackson, Chicago**

## **IS ILLINOIS READY FOR REFORM?**

***Keynote Address: Carol Marin***

**Political Reporter and Columnist**

Reservation Deadline: February 13, 2009  
Online Reservations: [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org)

***APPLAUSE!! THANKS FOR STEPPING UP!! APPLAUSE!!***

***MANY THANKS SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO SO MANY PEOPLE, WHO, ON AN ONGOING BASIS, HELP TO MAKE OUR LEAGUE STRONG AND VIBRANT. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS DESERVE SPECIAL THANKS FOR 'STEPPING UP' THIS PAST MONTH.***

***DOROTHY SPEIDEL – for planning and organizing our Holiday Party***

***SARAH OLIVER – for opening her home to all of us for our Holiday Party***

***ELLEN FALKOF – for transporting the many bags of donated paper goods to the New Trier Pantry***

——— Please Join Us On ———

Thursday, February 12, 2009

2 p.m.

For

State League Program Planning

What hot issues are being discussed for possible study or action in 2009-11?

Get together with your League board to talk about League issues and help determine the direction of the State League

at the home of Libby Bankoff  
2106 Elmwood Avenue

SAVE THE DATE!!!! SAVE THE DATE!!!!

LWV of Wilmette's

**BUNCO NIGHT**

Thursday, April 2, 2009

7:00 pm

Lakeview Center in Gilson Park

Don't know how to play? No problem! Everyone is guaranteed to learn in two minutes!

Let's spend an evening together just having FUN!!!!

## Women's History Month The History of Women and Jazz

This year's Women's History Month Luncheon will focus on the history of women and jazz. A wonderful program is scheduled for **Sunday, March 8** – *so save the date!*

We are delighted to have Nicole Mitchell, a talented jazz musician, as our program speaker. Ms. Mitchell is not only a creative flutist, she is also an acclaimed composer and bandleader. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Mitchell placed first as *Downbeat* magazine's "Rising Star Flutist 2005-2008"; she was awarded "Jazz Flutist of the Year 2008" by the Jazz Journalist Association; and the *Chicago Tribune* voted her "Chicagoan of the Year 2006."

Ms. Mitchell is the founder of the critically acclaimed *Black Earth Ensemble* and *Black Earth Strings*. Her compositions reach across sound worlds, integrating new ideas with moments in the legacy of jazz, gospel, pop, and African percussion to create a fascinating synthesis of "postmodern jazz." Her full biography can be found at [www.nicolemitchell.com](http://www.nicolemitchell.com).

Information regarding the venue and time for this event will be sent to members and posted on the League's website at [www.lwvwilmette.org](http://www.lwvwilmette.org).

### BACKGROUND FOR THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

**Delegates at LWVUS Convention 2008 voted to study the advisability of using the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for electing the U.S. President. Thus, within the next few months our League will hold a consensus meeting on this topic. The following provides background information for all League members.**

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts. Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site. Summaries of these papers are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at consensus meetings across the country. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue? **To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.**

## CALENDAR

**Saturday, January 31, 9 a.m.  
Voter's Guide meeting at the home  
of Heidi Voorhees**

**Saturday, January 31  
LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing  
55 South State Street, Chicago**

**Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.  
The Nine, book discussion at  
Wilmette Public Library**

**Thursday, February 12, 1 p.m.  
Board Meeting followed by  
2 p.m. State League Program  
Planning at the home of Libby Bankoff**

**Sunday, March 6  
Women's History Luncheon**

**Thursday, April 2  
Bunco Night at Lakeview Center**

**Calendar/Events can be found on our website  
[www.lwwilmette.org](http://www.lwwilmette.org)**