



# Commentator

March 2017

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action. The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.

President:  
 Jolanda Jansen  
[jjjansen@verizon.net](mailto:jgjansen@verizon.net)  
 (845) 505-0324

Voter Service  
 Jean McGarry  
[VS@lwvmidhudson.org](mailto:VS@lwvmidhudson.org)  
 (845) 336-6622

Membership:  
 Shirley Kobran  
 (845) 382-6989

Commentator  
 Jim McGarry  
[Comm@lwvmidhudson.org](mailto:Comm@lwvmidhudson.org)

<b>2017</b>	Check our online <a href="http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html">calendar</a> ( <a href="http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html">http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html</a> ) for updates.	
<i>Our general meetings are open to all. Family and friends welcome!</i>		
<b>March</b>		
4	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	NYS Constitutional Convention Discussion at Kingston Public Library Community Room, 55 Franklin Street, Kingston, NY 12401. Please RSVP to Jennifer Clark at <a href="mailto:jenclark3@gmail.com">jenclark3@gmail.com</a> and let us know what you plan to bring. Helpers should arrive at 10:30 AM.
7	5:30 PM	Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study Committee at the Main Course Restaurant, 175 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561. For more information, contact Kathy OConnor at (845) 757-2247 or <a href="mailto:oconnor.kraye@gmail.com">oconnor.kraye@gmail.com</a> .
9	4:00-6:00 PM	Board Meeting at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Rd, Hurley, NY 12443.
10	11:30 AM	Naturalization Ceremony, Ulster County Court House, 285 Wall St., Kingston.
11	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	League orientation for new and prospective members at Deyo Hall, 6 Broadhead Avenue, New Paltz (located off Route 32, not on SUNY Campus). RSVP to Jean McGarry at <a href="mailto:jfmcg@hvc.rr.com">jfmcg@hvc.rr.com</a>
20	8:30-9:00 AM	Kingston Community Radio, WGHQ 920 AM LWV On Air. Go to <a href="http://www.mykcr.org">http://www.mykcr.org</a> to listen on your computer. Call 845-331-9255 to ask a question or make a comment.
21	1:45-3:30 PM	Book Club Meeting Club at Enzo's Pizzeria, Boices Lane, Lake Katrine.
28	7:15 PM	Showing of <i>Electoral Dysfunction</i> at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St, Rosendale, NY 12472. Includes post-film discussion on the Electoral College with Prof Joel Lefkowitz of SUNY New Paltz Department of Political Science & International Relations. Free event made possible by The Mid-Hudson Region League of Women Voters.
<b>May</b>		
24	5:30-9:00 PM	Annual Meeting at Deyo Hall, 6 Broadhead Avenue, New Paltz (located off Route 32, not on SUNY Campus).

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**Prez Sez**

Are you deluged by emails? By facebook announcements? By the evening news? By the all-day talk shows on the radio in your car?

Here at the LWVMHR we are trying to focus on policy. Many other people are calling their Congress Person. You may be also, but we recently voted and the results of our voting are doing their thing in Washington.

We are focusing on New York. Our voter laws which make it hard to register and hard to vote and result in some of the lowest voter turnout in the nation. And we are focusing on the New York State Constitutional Convention, the only place where some of the changes can be made to improve democracy and ethical accountability in our state.

We will be following up with the information we learn from the Ulster County and Dutchess County Board of Elections annual reports to the legislature. We will find ways to increase and improve voter registration and voter education.

We will be educating ourselves about the New York State Constitutional Convention - come on March 4th to the Kingston Library. We will be educating ourselves about the Electoral College - come to the movie on March 28th at Rosendale, there will be a 4:00 pm showing and a 7:15 pm showing.

As someone said on Facebook, the results of the recent election may have united and invigorated the body politic like never before. Let us learn how to talk to those who disagree with us. Let us learn how to effectively talk to our representatives. Let us run for office. Let us make this a country for the people by the people.

Jolanda G. Jansen

*Monthly Board meeting minutes and more can be found at: <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>*

**Membership News**

As a by-product (or the silver lining) of the angst caused by the platform of the new administration in Washington, D.C., there has been a surge in membership and interest in the League of Women Voters. This enthusiasm has not waned since the breakfast meeting we held after the presidential election on November 19. Along with the 12 new members who have signed up since this meeting, we have had numerous requests about our local organization. For this reason we will have a league orientation and informational meeting for all new and prospective members. This will be held on March 11 at 10am at Deyo Hall, 6 Broadhead Avenue, New Paltz. Any member is welcome to attend and bring a friend. If you've been sitting on the sidelines, there is no better time to recharge your commitment to the league and hop back in the saddle! Hope to see you. Just let me know if you'll be there.

Jean McGarry  
jfmcg@hvc.rr.com

**VOTER SERVICE****Moderating Guidelines**

*Guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events by the League are on our website at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.*

**What Voter Service has done and What We're Doing****Voter Service**

On February 4th, 22 individuals met at Deisings Restaurant in Kingston to begin work on the challenging task of changing the restrictive voter laws in New York State. Aimee Allaud, LWVNYE Elections/Government Specialist, and Kate Doran, LWVNYC Elections Specialist, enlightened us on

how to get started. Our first step is to acquaint ourselves with our local Annual Board of Elections Report. The next step is to take our questions about the report to our Board of Election Commissioners. Becoming more knowledgeable about the voting laws and statistics in our local area will arm us with the information we need to lobby our local elected officials for change. Heading up this effort in Dutchess County is Jolanda Jansen and Jennifer Clark. In Ulster County, Jacki Moriarty and Jean McGarry will lead the charge.

Jean McGarry  
jfmcg@hvc.rr.com

February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017

Contact: Georgette Mattel

## Electoral Dysfunction

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**THE ROSENDALE THEATRE TO HOST  
A FREE MOVIE AND DISCUSSION ABOUT  
OUR ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

On Tuesday, March 28th at 7:15 PM, The Rosendale Theatre will show the film “Electoral Dysfunction” with a post-film discussion on the Electoral College by Prof Joel Lefkowitz of SUNY New Paltz Department of Political Science & International Relations. This is a free event; made possible by the *League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region*, who are sponsoring the film.

After making the eye-opening discovery that the right to vote is missing from the Constitution, Emmy-winning political humorist Mo Rocca sets out on a road trip to see how voting works — and doesn't work — in America. A Correspondent for CBS News and veteran of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, Mo heads to Indiana, home to some of the nation's strictest election laws, and meets one Democrat and one Republican who take him inside their efforts to get out every vote. As he progresses on his road trip, Mo investigates the debate over Voter ID laws and voter fraud; explores the origins and present-day impact of the Electoral College; critiques ballots with renowned designer Todd Oldham; and examines the case of a former felon sentenced to ten years in prison — for the crime of voting. He also meets reformers who are working to make America's voting system fairer and more transparent.

Described as “fascinating, fun, frightening, [and] enlightening” by NPR's WBEZ Radio and by *The New York Times* as a film that “lives up to its title, exploring problems of nationwide accessibility and fairness,” ELECTORAL DYSFUNCTION has won numerous awards, including the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award, the ABA's highest honor for media projects that foster public understanding of the law. The film was produced, directed, and written by David Deschamps, Leslie D. Farrell, and Bennett Singer, whose collective credits include multiple Emmy, Peabody, and duPont-Columbia Awards.

The film had a dual premiere at the 2012 Republican and Democratic National Conventions and was broadcast nationally on PBS; its cable premiere took place in the Fall of 2016 on the Pivot Network. Four short videos adapted from the film were featured in *The New York Times* Op-Docs series; a companion book, written by Victoria Bassetti and praised for being “delightfully provocative” by *Publishers Weekly*, was published by The New Press.

The Rosendale Theatre Collective is a not-for-profit, volunteer run, center for film and all the performing arts and education, dedicated to enhancing the cultural life and economic vitality of Rosendale and Ulster County.

For more information, visit the Rosendale Theater website at <http://rosendaletheatre.org>

**Rosendale Theatre**  
**408 Main Street, Rosendale, NY**  
**www.rosendaletheatre.org**  
**Phone: 845-658-8989**

**SELECTED REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS**

“A timely look at an important issue that’s getting more hotly contested every month...”

—*Hollywood Reporter*

“*Electoral Dysfunction* pulls off an admirable trick ... It treats Democrats and Republicans respectfully, and its humor, with the comic Mo Rocca as guide, is closer to Garrison Keillor than to Michael Moore ... This lighthearted, colorful, nonpartisan documentary ... lives up to its title, exploring problems of nationwide accessibility and fairness.”

—David DeWitt, *The New York Times*

“Eye-opening and highly entertaining ... If you have any sort of investment in this country, we recommend seeing *Electoral Dysfunction*.” —Mindy Bond, *Flavorpill*

“Engrossing and eye-opening ... the movie has a charged, electric feel to it. *Electoral Dysfunction* is utter catnip for politicians and documentary film fans, but its attractive presentation and easygoing nature also make this important and instructive movie approachable for level-headed audiences of various political stripes.” —Brent Simon, Past President of the Los Angeles Film Critics Association

“Fascinating, fun, frightening [and] enlightening” *WBEZ Radio Chicago/NPR*

“An irreverent look at voting ... funny and insightful.” —*WTSP-TV Tampa*

“*Electoral Dysfunction* has a bit of everything — comedy, tragedy, farce. It’s educational, amusing and sometimes appalling...” —*Montreal Gazette*

“A stunning investigative work leading to a disquieting statement about the disparities of the American electoral system ... a survival guide for the American getting ready to vote.”

—*Panorama-Cinema*

“Rocca wryly, yet respectfully, follows the hard-driving efforts of Jennings County Democrat Mike Marshall and Ripley County Republican Dee Dee Benkie as the engaging opponents pull out the stops to help ensure their party’s win. It’s a generally fair and balanced snapshot of Tip O’Neill’s assertion, ‘All politics is local.’ ... But it’s the shocking, follow-up news of Marshall’s 2011 grand jury indictment on 45 felony counts allegedly related to his voter registration work (he claims innocence and political witch-hunting) that hammers home America’s red-blue rancor and closes the film on a vital note of gravitas.” —Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times*

## STUDY AND ADVOCACY

### LWVMHR Materials Management Committee

The Committee met on February 4th. We welcomed three new members: Ann Kanter from Fishkill (was a member in Ithaca and a second generation League member), Elizabeth Doty (from Beacon), and Gai Galitzine (Kingston, active with the Circle of Friends for the Dying).

Committee members accepted an invitation from the New York State Association of the three “R’s” (NYSAR3), for some free legislative training in Albany. Several of us were scheduled to go February 13th, when weather conditions cancelled the event. We look forward to a reschedule.

Meanwhile, other Committee members were going to take advantage of similar legislative training put on in Poughkeepsie February 16, under the auspices of Citizen Action of the Hudson Valley.

We plan to participate in the League’s examination of the pro’s and con’s of the advisability of opening up the NYS Constitution for possible changes. This possibility arises every 20 years. Kathy

O. will lead the discussion on the subject of the environment.

Kimiko Llnk told us about the Food Recovery Challenge, where businesses/ institutions make a commitment to measure their food waste and report it once a year, with the goal of reducing it. She asked if the Committee would become an endorser of that program, whereby we would promote it three times a year. Of course we voted and agreed.

Sarah Womer let us know that there are a number of possible vacancies currently available regarding environmental activities. These include: The Dutchess County Management Committee, the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, and the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency.

Our push toward supporting legislation for NYS with regard to Paint Stewardship, continues to be a prime focus for our Committee. We're asking again, for anyone to check out New York Product Stewardship Council's website [nypsc.org/paint/](http://nypsc.org/paint/) Please send an individual letter of support, or ask your local municipality or organization to pass a resolution for Assembly Bill 1038 (same as Senate Bill 881). Sample templates are provided on that website.

A Summit on Organics Management sponsored by the NYSR3 is happening in Troy March 28th and 29th. Jolanda and Kathy O. plan to attend the first day (where our member Sarah Womer will be speaking, along with a number of other experts in the field).

Thank you all for your interest in our Materials Management Committee.

(submitted by Kathy OConnor)

## ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

*Schedules, Audio recordings, agenda and minutes of Legislative Committee meetings can be found at <http://ulstercountyny.gov/legislature>*

### **Become A Member Of Our Observer Corps**

Get to know your local government in a personal way! Strengthen local democracy by adding "sunlight" to the legislative process and publishing what you observe in our Commentator! You may observe your town or city board meetings you prefer. *You do not need to be an expert.* Call Margaret Sellers at 339-3180 with your questions.

Vic Melville has served on the Observer Corp for several years, and he is honored by the reporting of his observations of Ulster County Legislature committees. At this time, he is inclined to be more an activist and advocate on national, state and local issues in several national, state and local organizations. He may occasionally report his views and opinions. So he has decided to step down from the Observer Corp to avoid a concern of a conflict of interest.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization. We take positions on policy, not politics. We take those positions, voting after a study of the policy issues that surround the issue. We have policy positions that have already been determined, and we can use them.

We have been observing the Ulster County Legislature for a number of years. We strongly supported the adoption of a charter form of government and Tom Kadgen continues to make observations on its implementation and any proposed changes. Vic Melville and Lee Cane have reported regularly on several committees. Cindy Bell is willing to attend the Laws and Rules committee. With Vic changing his focus, and Lee needing some time off, we really need help in this area.

Can you attend one or more meetings a month, mostly at the Ulster County Office Building in Kingston, usually between 5pm and 7pm Monday-Thursday? Then write it up for the Commentator? We will help you get started.

Call Margaret Sellers or Vic Melville for more details at 845-339-3180 or [mcsellers@aol.com](mailto:mcsellers@aol.com) or [vjmelville@aol.com](mailto:vjmelville@aol.com). We also welcome interest in Duchess County.



The articles for Women's History month have most frequently dealt with people outside of the local area. However, there are women who have contributed to the local community and should be acknowledged.

**Cheryl Bowers:** chief operating officer of Rondout Savings Bank-Kingston: named Honary Irish Person of the Year (March, 2016 by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual Peter B. Mathews St. Patrick's Day breakfast. She has had a long career in banking and has been associated with the Rondout Savings Bank since 2001.

**Erika Hinchey:** former mayor of the Village of Saugerties, 1976 and 1977, the first woman to do so, died March 9, 2016. She was a member of the League of Women Voters, previously employed by the UC Sheriff's Office and the County Board of Elections. She was 73.

**Marjorie Rovereto:** Mrs. Rovereto became the Chief Lending Officer at the Rondout Savings Bank in October, 2016. Prior to that she was the president and chief executive officer at Hometown Bank of the Hudson Valley 2012-2016. Prior to that she was the president and chief executive officer of Ulster Savings Bank 2006-2011, being the first woman in that bank's history to hold that position.

**Darlene Pfeiffer:** owner of the Kentucky Fried Chicken business located on Ulster Avenue. She has owned this operation for 50 years and personally knew Colonel Harland Sanders, the founder of KFC in the United States. She is very interested in education, supporting 7 scholarships for students attending UCCC and launched the Darlene L. Pfeiffer Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at UCCC, providing the funding and hiring the executive director.

Throughout the years there have been women who have been first to accomplish a variety of things.

There have also been events that have occurred that have been associated with women that are also important.

During the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jeanne Baret (1766-75 (or so) became the first woman to circumnavigate the world by sea after disguising herself as a male assistant to the botanist Philibert Commerson.

Elizabeth Seton 1774-1821, US nun; established parochial school education in US; first native born American to become a saint.

Elizabeth Peabody 1804-94, US education pioneer; founded first kindergarten in 1860.

Ethel L. Payne 1911-91, African-American civil rights reporter.

American Girl Guides founded March 12, 1912, name changed in 1913 to Girl Scouts.

Augusta and Adeline Van Buren, two sisters from Brooklyn, NY, made a 4,000 mile cross country trip in July, 1916 from New York City to San Francisco, each riding her own Indian Power plus motorcycle. Their purpose in doing this was to prove that women could be military motorcycle couriers, able to endure long distances and harsh conditions as well as men. They completed their 2 month arduous ride, but were turned down by the Army because of their gender.

The League of Women Voters was founded on February 14, 1920.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified August 18, 1920 giving women the right to vote.

Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean on June 17, 1928.

Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney was the first woman to found a major art museum, The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City in 1931.

Opera singer Marian Anderson performed for an integrated crowd of 75,000 at Lincoln Memorial on April 9, 1939 after the DAR refused to let her sing in DC's Constitution Hall.

Rachel Carson's book, "Silent Spring" was published in 1962, launching the environmental movement.

On January 22, 1973 the US Supreme Court ruled in Roe v. Wade, 7-2, fetus not a person with constitutional rights and that right to privacy protected woman's decision to have abortion; states may not ban abortions during first three months of pregnancy, but may regulate, not ban, abortions during second trimester.

On June 18, 1983 Sally Ride became first American woman to travel in space aboard space shuttle "Challenger", launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

In June, 2010, Julia Gillard became Australia's first woman prime minister, defeating Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who then ousted her in June 2013 and returned to his former position.

During the end of 2016, Carmen Herrera, a Cuban born artist, who lives in New York City, had a well-received art show at the Whitney Museum of Art. She has also inspired a fashion line as to the design of the dresses, essentially lines presented in different ways. The name of the show is "Lines of Sight". What makes this so unusual is that Herrera is 101. She sold her first art when she was 89 years old. She was quoted as saying, "if you wait for the bus, it will come, the bus has come".

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For whatever reason, people decide to change the name they were given by family. What follows are the names that some entertainers have elected to adopt.

Adele Adele Laurie Blue Atkins

Julie Andrews Julia Wells

Lauren Bacall Betty Joan Perske

Cher Cherilyn Sarkisian

Joan Crawford Lucille LeSueur

Doris Day Doris Von Kappelhoff

Greta Garbo Greta Gustafsson

Kathie Lee Gifford Kathie Epstein

Diane Keaton Diane Hall

Lady Gaga Stefani Germanotta

Queen Latifah Dana Owens

Madonna Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone

Helen Mirren Ilynea Lydia Mironoff

Demi Moore Demetria Guynes

Natalie Portman Natalie Hershiag

Della Reese Dellorese Patricia Early

Jane Seymour Joyce Frankenberg

What follows are some important historical anniversaries. Women have in one way or another been involved.

100 years ago: 1917-2017

WWI continues; on March 2 the Jones-Shafroth Act was signed into law making inhabitants of Puerto Rico US citizens; on July 17 King George V changes the royal family's house name to Windsor from German Saxe-Coburg and Gotha; on November 7 the Russian government's October Revolution of Aleksandr Kerensky is overthrown by the Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin and on February 13 Mata Hari, accused of being double agent is arrested in and Paris, and executed by firing squad on October 13.

75 years ago: December 7, 1941-2016 Attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan

50 years ago: 1967-2017

On February 10 the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, clarifying presidential succession, is ratified;



On June 5-10 the Six Day war took place in Israel: Israel captures Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Golon Heights, and Jerusalem's Old City; on June 12 the US Supreme Court rules unanimously that laws banning interracial marriage are unconstitutional in *Loving v. Virginia* (Note: the movie *Loving*, released in 2016 deals with the story of the couple who were involved); on October 2 US Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall, who had been nominated June 13 as first black US Supreme Court justice, is sworn in on October 2; and Carl Stokes (D) Cleveland, Ohio and Richard G. Hatcher (D), Gary, Indiana, are elected on November 7 as the first black mayors of major US cities.

25 years: 1992-2017

On February 7 Representatives of 12 member nations sign the Maastricht Treaty to create the European Union and its common currency, the euro; in April war breaks out between Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Serbs and Croats; included "many incidents of what was euphemistically called "ethnic cleansing"; on November 3 Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton (D) is elected the 42<sup>nd</sup> US President defeating President George H.W. Bush ® and Texas businessman Ross Perot; and on December 17 the Presidents of the US, Canada and Mexico sign the North American Free Trade Agreement.

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Each year, as possible, an article has been written about the accomplishments of women. An attempt has been made to include various occupations, organizations, government, etc. Recognition has been given to the most current year, as well as a section remembering those who have left us. Since March has been designated as Women's History month, we do try to have it ready for that issue of *The Commentator*. Given the various aspects of the article, a suggestion was made to include such in months leading up to March as well. This is a change. We hope that you will enjoy the offerings.

The year 2016 was an interesting year for women. It was an election year. While the Democratic Party put forth the first woman candidate to run for president: Hillary Rodman Clinton against the Republican Party candidate: Donald R. Trump, 2016 was not the year for the first woman candidate of a major political party to be elected. While she lost the Electoral College vote and therefore the election, she did win the popular vote, by almost 3 million votes.

There were other interesting developments that women were involved in. Some of them are listed below.

January

Tsai Ing-wen, first woman elected president of Taiwan. She represents the Democratic Progressive Party, January 16, 2016.

Governor Cuomo (D) appointed and the NYS Senate (Republican controlled) approved his nominee, Janet DiFiore, Westchester County District Attorney, as chief judge of the NYS Court of Appeals, January 22, 2016.

March

Hung Hsuv chu elected leader of China-friendly Nationalist Party. This party's first woman leader, March 28, 2016.

April

The US Treasury Department announced that Harriet Tubman would become the first African-American woman to appear on US currency with the redesign of the \$20 bill. Tubman will appear on the front, President Andrew Jackson would be moved to the back.

Additional changes will be that 5 women voting rights activists will be added to the back of the \$10 bill; first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and African-American opera singer, Marian Anderson, will be added to the back of the \$5 bill.

May

Dr. Claudia Thomas, class of '71-Vassar college, first black woman to become an orthopedic surgeon in the United States in 1980, delivered the key note address at Vassar College Baccalaureate Service, May 23, 2016.

July

Top-seeded Serena Williams(US) defeated 4<sup>th</sup> ranked Angelique Kerber(Ger.) 7-5, 6-3 to win the women's final of the Wimbledon Championships, July 9, 2016. This was Williams 7<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon title and 22<sup>nd</sup> Grand Slam singles title....tied with Steffi Graf for the open era record.

As a result of the Brexit referendum in June, 2016 Theresa May of the Conservative Party became prime minister of the United Kingdom, July 13, 2016. David Cameron had resigned as a result of the June 23 referendum as he said he would.

Ariya Jutanugarn (Thailand) shot 16 under 272 to win the 41<sup>st</sup> Women's British Open at Woburn Golf Club at Milton Keynes, England. July 31, 2016.

September

Mother Teresa, Nobel Peace Prize winner (1979) is canonized by Pope Francis; this was 19 years after her death, September 4, 2016.

Carla Hayden, first woman and first African-American librarian to be placed in charge of the US Library of Congress, September 19, 2016.

Renho Murata, first Japanese woman elected as leader of the centre-left Democrat party, September 15, 2016.

#### October

Bethany Lamphere (mother) veteran NY state trooper and Meagen Hartmann (daughter) uniformed NYS trooper serve in NYS Troopers at same time but in different places: mother serves in Remsen and daughter, in Oneonta. Note: NYS police were founded in 1917; accepted first women recruits in 1973.

#### November

Emma Morano, celebrated here 117 birthday, making here the oldest person in the world and the only living person who was born in the 1800s. She lives in Pallanza, an Italian town on the Piedmont shore of Lake Maggiore, November 29, 2016.

#### December

Rachel Fieier first Hasidic woman to be elected in the United States (Brooklyn) as a civil court judge earlier in the year. She is an orthodox Jew, mother of 6, sworn in December 22, 2016. Her 10 year term begins after January 1, 2017.

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Each year the world loses people whether they be members of one's family, friends, or those we have come to enjoy watching on TV or listening to on the radio, seeing in the movies, or reading books they have authored. What follows is just some of those who passed on during 2016.

Judith Kaye, 77, cancer, January 7, 2016: first woman named to the Court of Appeals, NYS highest court (1983) and the first woman to serve as the state's Chief Justice (1993-2008).

Harper Lee, 89, died in her sleep, specific cause not shown, February 19, 2016: author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* for which she won the Pulitzer Prize (1960). The sequel to that book "*Go Set a Watchman*" was the best-selling book of 2015.

Elizabeth Garrett, 52, cancer, March 6, 2016: first woman president of Cornell University (July, 2015). Her term of office was short, 5 months.

Nancy Reagan, 94, congestive heart failure, March 6, 2016: former actress and first lady known for elegant presence during Ronald Reagan's presidency; founded the "Just Say No" drug awareness campaign.

Peggy Fortnum, 96, complications of dementia, March 28, 2016: British illustrator who first drew the Paddington Bear character, famous children's book character.

Zaha Hadid, 65, heart attack, March 31, 2016: architect of considerable stature; born in Baghdad; lived across the world; first woman to win Pritzker Prize, architecture's top honor, in 2004. Developed a sense that she be known as an architect, not a female architect.

Anne Jackson, 90, natural causes, April 12, 2016: Obie award winning stage actress who often performed with her husband, Eli Wallach.

Doris Roberts, 90, stroke, April 17, 2016: Emmy Award winning actress best known for TV show *Everybody Loves Raymond* (1991-2005).

Christina Grimmie, 22, shot and killed, June 11, 2016: while signing autographs after a performance in Orlando, she was shot and killed; singer became famous after she took third place finish in NBC's 6<sup>th</sup> season of *The Voice*.

Pat Summitt, 64, Alzheimer's, June 28, 2016: Hall of Fame coach of the University of Tennessee women's basketball team (1974-2012) holds record for most wins (1,098) in NCAA basketball history.

Phyllis Schlafly, 92, cancer, September 5, 2016: conservative activist, worked to prevent the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Agnes Nixon, 93, pneumonia resulting from Parkinson's disease, September 28, 2016, writer and creator of the soap opera "*One Life to Live*" (1968-2012) and "*All My Children*" (1970-2011, 2013 on).

Gwen Ifill, 61, cancer, November 14, 2016: African-American co-anchor of PBS News Hour with Judy Woodruff. Veteran journalist, moderated 2 vice-presidential debates (2004 and 2008); reporter for the NY Times and Washington Post, covered news for NBC, moved to PBS in 1999 as host of *Washington Week*.

China Machado, 86, cardiac arrest, December 18, 2016: "first non-Caucasian to appear in the pages of an American glossy fashion magazine and model who broke not only the race barrier but also the age barrier."

Zsa Zsa Gabor, 99, heart attack, December 18, 2016: native of Budapest, actress, appeared in more than 60 films, married at least 8 times; sister, Eva, was also well known.

Michele Morgan, 96, natural causes, December 20, 2016: French actress, won best actress award at the first Cannes

Film Festival in 1946. Began her acting career in 1936. She was a well-known movie actress in the US during WW II and later in France. Married 3 times, divorced once, widowed twice, only child died in 2005.

Vera Rubin, 88, natural causes, December 25, 2016: Pioneering astronomer, helped find powerful evidence of dark matter: "found that galaxies don't quite rotate the way they were predicted, and that lent support to the theory that some other force was at work, namely dark matter." Dark matter which hasn't been directly observed, makes up 27% of the universe. Second female astronomer to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences, which was just one of many honors bestowed on her.

Carrie Fisher, 60, heart attack, December 27, 2016: movie star, famous as Princess Leiz in the first Star Wars movie, daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher.

Debbie Reynolds, 84, stroke, December 28, 2016: famous movie actress of Hollywood's Golden Age; died of stroke a day after her daughter, Carrie Fisher died.

The articles on Women's History that have been published in The Commentator have been developed through the research that was done in the following sources:

Daily Freeman: local Kingston newspaper; The New York Times; The Wall Street Journal;

Famous First, Women's History in America; Checking the internet, AOL and Google

The World Almanac: 2015, 2016, 2017; Daily Freeman: Famous New Yorkers published quarterly during the year through the Schenectady Gazette; Forbes Magazine: various issues throughout 2016; Bloomberg Business Weekly

## **Our State President, Dare Thompson, steps back in time with Elizabeth Cady Stanton**



## **Susan B. Anthony**

