



# Commentator

MARCH 2013

CALENDAR

*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.*

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2013		
CALENDAR		
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		<b>CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</b> (See Lee Cane's extensive list of women in history at the end of this edition)
1	Fri. 8 - 2	"Mid-Hudson <b>Agriculture</b> : Growing our Economy and our Communities," a <b>conference at SUNY New Paltz</b> , Student Union. \$20 registration includes breakfast, lunch. <a href="http://www.newpaltz.edu/CRREO">www.newpaltz.edu/CRREO</a> or 845-257-2901 or <a href="mailto:crreo@newpaltz.edu">crreo@newpaltz.edu</a> for info or to register. (See separate article.)
5	Tues. 7:15	<b>LWV MHR Board Meeting</b> , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
12	Tues. 5:30 pm	<b>Solid Waste Study Committee</b> , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, <a href="mailto:packback56@yahoo.com">packback56@yahoo.com</a>
15	12:00 pm	<b>Ulster County Naturalization Ceremony</b> at the Ulster County Courthouse in Kingston. Contact Jean McGarry – 336-6622 or <a href="mailto:jfmcg@hvc.rr.com">jfmcg@hvc.rr.com</a> – if you are interested in participating.
23	10:30 am	"What's REALLY going on in Albany? What's the LWV doing about it?" with <b>Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNYS Legislative Director</b> . (See separate article.) Rhinebeck Town Hall, 76 E Market St., Rhinebeck. Coffee and tea available. Call 845-340-2003 for details.

For updates, check our Calendar on-line at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>

Prez Sez...

## Happy Women's History Month!

*(See Lee Cane's extensive list of women in history at the end of this edition)*

As New York LWV members we can especially proud of our state's role in both women's suffrage and the birth of the League. If you missed past showings of **Iron-Jawed Angels** and want to have a viewing party at your house with a few LWV (or other) friends, just let me know. I own a copy and I'm happy to share. No one leaves uninspired.

No one ever leaves a meeting with **Barb Bartoletti** uninspired either and she'll be here just for us and our friends on **March 23**. Barb has been an UNPAID advocate for LWV issues for over three decades, knows everyone, and gets great visibility for the League. Don't miss her appearance. You won't regret it!

And coming up even earlier this month is a **SUNY conference on local agriculture** that has nothing to do with women's issues (except that doesn't everything?) but will be of special interest to us as we get ready to jump into the LWVUS review of our position on agriculture (adopted 1988). Our current position isn't wrong, but so much has happened since it was adopted (e.g. genetically-modified foods), that it no longer really meets our needs. The LWVUS board didn't recommend this review, but attendees at the 2012 Convention listened to excellent speakers and decided that yes, we need it. Both of our Congressmen and one of our Senators (Gillibrand) serve on their respective Agriculture committees, so more reason for us to get informed so we can advocate for what our local farmers and all of us need.

Interested in joining the **Agriculture study committee**? Let me know at the LWV number, 340-2003, or at my own contact info.

Finally, we're trying something new with our **Annual Meeting** this year. It's a **lunch meeting on Thursday, May 23**, at the BOCES on Rt 32 in New Paltz. I'm proud to announce that our special guests will be **Liz and Jerry Benjamin**. Liz is known to those who see YNN - she's the host of the nightly show Capital Tonight. Her father, Dr. Gerald Benjamin, is the esteemed professor of political science and head of CRREO at SUNY New Paltz. SAVE THE DATE!

Dare

## VOTER SERVICE

### Moderating Guidelines

*Guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events are our website. Check it out and please refer anyone who is interested in sponsoring a debate to our website. The guidelines are at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

### We welcome these new members!

**Kathy OConnor** of Tivoli has been involved in environmental issues for a number of years, including the Red Hook 10% Challenge, the Tivoli Green Committee, and the newly formed Red Hook Recycles committee. She is delighted to glean from the wisdom of the LWV solid waste committee, and hopes to make a positive contribution. Kathy also has a strong interest in the arts, and most important, is a video enthusiast, producing and editing programs for public access television.

**Soyal Smalls** of Poughkeepsie got interested in joining the LWV after attending some solid waste study committee meetings, a board meeting, our annual meeting, and Tea and Trash planning sessions. "I really enjoyed meeting the women and seeing how active you are in the community – it revived the energy I had as a community activist in college. I'm hoping to meet more people with a passion for what they do and find ways to use my current skills and develop new ones. I don't want

to move away, and the League provides a great opportunity to be involved with what's going on here." Soyal received a BA in sociology from New Paltz in 2009 and had an internship in Honolulu in grief facilitation the following summer.

**Mary Tsakis** moved to Rhinebeck shortly before the presidential election. Shocked at attempts to suppress voting in several states, she contacted the League of Women Voters. "I was very concerned about voting rights." As her local contribution, she joined a group that was registering voters at the Rhinebeck Farmers Market. They also collected money to help the voting rights push in Pennsylvania, one of the states attempting to make voting more difficult. Mary said that she does not see herself as a political person but that voting is paramount in our democracy and that we need to appreciate what we have.

**Bob Winrow**, husband of LWV Treasurer Dorothy Winrow, offers his support for the work of the local League. Bob grew up in Arlington, MA. After graduating from Tufts University School of Engineering, he worked for IBM Kingston for 35 years in various engineering and management positions. Following his retirement from IBM he worked as director of Field Services for The Hudson Valley Technology Development Corporation of Newburgh, NY for 15 years. In addition to that he has served as Deacon for the Catholic Church assigned to St. Joseph's in Kingston since 1976. He also served on the board of directors of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. He now is enjoying retirement and keeping track of the amazing journeys of the five married children and 13 grandchildren he shares with Dorothy.

*Watch for at least 4 more bios next month...*

## PROGRAM NEWS

### Lobby Day

Four of us Mid-Hudson LWV members headed to Albany on February 5 for Lobby Day put on by the LWV of New York State. Besides meeting other Leaguers from around the state, we heard from our LWWNYS leaders (President Sally Robinson, Executive Director Laura Ladd Bierman, and Legislative Director Barb Bartoletti) and several of our state issue specialists who talked briefly about such issues as the "women's agenda," election reform, campaign finance reform, transportation, gun control, and financing education.

After that we crowded into a deli near the Capitol to get lunch and then headed to the Capitol for a tour. The Senate wasn't in session and the Assembly ended its session just about as we got there so part of the group was able to walk through the Assembly Chamber. It has been beautifully renovated, as has the Senate Chamber, the Executive's "Second Floor" which Cuomo has re-opened to the public, the elegant War Room and the Million Dollar Staircase with its newly reopened skylights.

I left the tour early for an appointment with a new Assemblyman who represents southern Dutchess, Kieran Lalor. He was glad to get information on campaign finance. I also stopped to see an old friend from my central NY days, Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney, whose district is even more outrageous than the infamous "gerrymander" – it's a snake that starts near Utica, winds down through the Catskills and western Ulster, and ends in Orange Co. Ridiculous!

When asked their impressions of Lobby Day, Nan Fogel of Hyde Park said, "I enjoyed learning about all the special projects the League is involved in and meeting some of the people whose names I've seen in the newsletter. I loved seeing the Assembly Chamber. I'd been in the Capitol once before, many years ago. It's such a beautiful building. We had a wonderful tour. I was sorry not to meet Didi Barrett or Gipson but the whole day was a special experience."

Brand-new member, Soyal Smalls of Poughkeepsie, was really inspired by Lobby Day. "In the past I thought all lobbyists were bad people lurking in the shadows ready to attack elected officials, but when I went to the League's event, I thought, 'this is amazing, maybe I'll BECOME a lobbyist.' I realized that this is simply another way to advocate for a group or a cause that's important, and I'd

like the opportunity to do that."

And Margaret Sellers of Kingston enjoyed seeing her old work place and the renovated Capitol building. She also came away with some ideas on how the NYS League could better meet the challenges they face at the state level, including working towards a more bipartisan approach to as many issues as possible.

Seeing your government up close is always enlightening, however brief the encounter. Plan to join us next year!

Dare Thompson

**March 1, 8 AM – 2 PM, the Student Union on SUNY campus.**

Topics on the conference agenda include:

- Agriculture: Where Will the Hudson Valley Be in Ten Years?
- Regional Agriculture in Our Schools and Institutions
- Reaching the Regional Market
- Success Stories: Farm Food for Strengthened Families and Communities
- Our Brand for 25,000,000 Customers in the Tri-State area

The conference will culminate in an overall discussion from "The Farmer's Point of View." In a plenary session, farmers will identify and elaborate on what they see as the greatest opportunities and barriers to serving local markets with the foods they produce.

**Julie Suarez**, Director of Policy at the New York State Farm Bureau, will deliver the luncheon keynote address. Ulster County Executive **Michael Hein**, New Paltz President **Donald Christian**, and State Senator **Cecilia Tkaczyk** will welcome participants. The conference will actively engage all who attend, giving time for their participation via input and reporting.

In 2011, [CRREO](#) published Region followed by [Food Insecurity in Ulster County](#) in 2012. "Mid-Hudson Agriculture: Growing Our Economy and Our Communities" will build upon these works, with conference participants gathering to discuss future action for the region's agricultural community. Farmers, policy makers, community leaders, and interested citizens will work together on ways to help us nurture farms in the region, create local distribution and markets for farmers, and help get healthy, local food to Mid-Hudson residents.

***This event and CRREO's studies will help the LWV as it reviews the LWVUS position on AGRICULTURE, adopted in 1988 and now out-of-date.***

The event is hosted by CRREO and sponsored by LWV Mid-Hudson and SUNY New Paltz Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS), Hudson Valley Agri-Business Corporation, and UlsterCorps.

For more information or to register: [www.newpaltz.edu/CRREO](http://www.newpaltz.edu/CRREO), [crreo@newpaltz.edu](mailto:crreo@newpaltz.edu).  
or 845-257-2901

... featuring Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNY

Saturday, **March 23**, 10:30 AM, Rhinebeck Town Hall, **76 E Market St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572.**

Some of the things we were concerned about when we were wearing FIX ALBANY buttons are going away. But not all. And some of the new wrinkles (like the new Senate leadership structure) have many citizens scratching their heads. No one can explain it all better than **Barb Bartoletti, LWVNY Legislative Director.**

Barb will also give a little review for new and prospective members of the League's proud **history of advocacy** at the Capitol and where it stands today. She'll go more deeply into **those issues that all of you bring to the discussion** - campaign finance, guns, financing education and the property tax cap, hydrofracking, redistricting, etc.

Share the treasure that Barbara is, and **bring your politically-interested friends** along. The

**Mid-Hudson  
Agriculture:  
Growing our  
Economy  
and our  
Communities**

**"What's  
REALLY  
going on in  
Albany?  
What's the  
LWV doing  
about it?"**

more the merrier.

Coffee and tea will be available. Call 845-340-2003 for more details or directions.

## ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Dutchess County Shared Services Study

Ellie Charwat and her committee have prepared the following FAQs you may find interesting

Jail Fact Sheet Version 4-1

Highway Departments in Ulster County

Fire Districts in Dutchess County

Purchasing in Dutchess County Municipalities

Justice Courts in Ulster County

Bus Transportation

You can find links to these materials at [http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action\\_Study.html#s02](http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html#s02)

## ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

### Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Date: Feb. 12, 2013

Start Time: 7:16 p.m.

Finish Time: 7:28 p.m.

Deputy Chairman Robert Parete called the meeting order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 057 supporting a grant application for a New York State Department of State Local Government Efficiency Grant, to partially fund the conflict defense shared services agreement with Dutchess County was approved.

Proposed LATE Resolution N. 0158 establishing a capital project for purchase of county highway equipment was approved. Bond Resolution No. 0159 is required. Legislator Ken Ronk discussed an issue of lateness of the resolution and he commented on the practice of "take home vehicles".

Under New Business the committee held a discussion regarding the Rules of the Legislature. Mr. Ronk suggested the Counsels of the Legislature, Langdon Chapman and Christopher Ragucci review the Democratic and Republican versions and determine the same and different language. The committee agreed and approved the suggestion.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 2-22-13

### Economic Development and Tourism Committee

Date: Feb. 13, 2013

Start Time: 5:37 p.m.

Finish Time: 6:32 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order and took attendance.

The Dec. 17, 2012, meeting minutes were approved.

The Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0129 approving the terms and conditions of a certain PILOT agreement in connection with the Mid-Hudson Medical Group - MHMG-KM Kingston LLC project (former Miron site in the town of Ulster) was approved, following a presentation of Jeff Kane, representing Kirchhoff, and some discussion with the committee.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0132 appointing and re-appointing members to the Ulster County Railroad Advisory Committee was approved.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0140 a shovel ready fund application for the former Colony Liquor site was approved. This resolution will require a bond resolution.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0142 appointing member and alternative member to the Ulster County Planning Board – Town of New Paltz was approved.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0143 authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation to accept state funds for the Ulster and Dutchess County Public Transit Service (LINK) was approved, following a discussion with Robert DiBella, Director of Public Transportation.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0144 designating the Ulster County Department of Tourism as the official tourism promotion agency of Ulster County was approved.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0145 pledging matching funds for the "I Love New York" tourism promotion was approved, following comments by Rick Remsnyder, Tourism Director. He discussed the funding and bed taxes, and the travel guide award.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0148 authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority for the payment of bus fares for visitors of Belleayre Ski Center was approved. There will be no cost to Ulster County.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0155 authorizing the Ulster County Executive to contract with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation regarding Community Development Block Grants (CDBG0) was approved, following discussion of damage of Tropical Storm Irene, hazard mitigation plans by the municipalities. A public meeting is planned for Feb. 28.

There was a discussion of the state takeover of the bussing for Department of Social Services (DSS) clients, and Bob DiBella is to talk with DSS about the costs.

Under New Business, March Gallagher, Deputy Director Planning, discussed the interest in the Gill Property on Washington Ave., by Bengal Motors. The county owns an adjacent property that would be considered in a project, but it has conditions of a "reverter clause" on it.

Legislators Ken Wishnick and David Donaldson are concerned about another "car site" on Washington Ave. and Mr. Wishnick suggested putting out a proposal for "best use" in the community.

Ms. Gallagher is to work on concerns and process for next month's meeting.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 2/22/13

**Legislative  
Health and  
Personnel  
Committee**

February 4, 2013 5:30 PM

Committee Members, Bob Aiello, Chairman, Jeanette Provenzano, Deputy Chair, Carl Belfiglio, Ken Ronk and Robert Parete were all present.

After a good deal of verbal scuffling on procedural points, Draft Resolution No. 0123 requesting a monthly accounting of all County employees was voted down by a vote of 2 for, 3 against. This resolution had been discussed at length at two previous meetings. Deputy Executive Ken Crannell offered to provide the report without a resolution which satisfied most of the members. A model report for January was available.

Draft Resolution No. 136 revised the current year budget to allow for additional Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) funds, increasing the amount from \$350,000 to \$600,000, all of which must be expended in the Golden Hill account. It was passed unanimously.

Draft Resolution No. 0134 sponsored by Mary Wawro on establishing a Public Safety Advisory Committee to study ways in which to identify individuals who are at risk of causing violence, identify ways in which these individuals can be helped, identify other ways to prevent violence; examine how drug abuse and drug related crimes can be reduced, and to identify ways to protect people in public places in Ulster County. Margaret Sellers, LWV observer, commented that the Community Services Board discussed many, but not all of the points made in the resolution and all were welcome to the CSB meetings. The resolution was amended to reduce the numbers of people on the Committee to nine and to make it a legislative committee that would call upon the Executive for information and support, but would not include the Executive or Department heads as committee members. Jeanette Provenzano brought up the recent City of Kingston Public Safety Committee. Len Bernardo, attending the meeting as a child advocate, had been to the city meeting and gave an opinion that the County proposal was broadly based and did not duplicate the more narrow City effort. A question of adding an appropriation for the study was raised, but it was decided not to include one at this time. The resolution was passed as amended.

Draft Resolution No. 0156 appointing a member to the Ulster Co. Board of Health was passed.

For New Business, Robert Parete discussed his proposal for sharing county sales tax dollars with the school districts to support mental health programs in the schools and/or BOCES at a proposed level of \$2.5M. The demise of the FACETS program in the schools due to lack of funds was lamented. His proposal can be viewed under Press Releases on the County website. He is advocating strongly for this effort, but is open to suggestions.

Margaret Sellers, substitute Observer



## Celebrate Women's History Month

March has been designated as Women's History month. In past years articles have been published noting the contributions made by women, particularly those women who may have been first to accomplish a particular endeavor.

This year, in addition to noting the achievements or contributions made by women, it was decided to highlight additional points of interest. For those who may question this direction, bear in mind that we live in a world in which achievements and contributions are made by all people from all walks of life.

**The first listing deals with achievements/contributions made by women. The list is not definitive by any means, nor are all those on the list a first.**

- 1795: Anne Parrish established the House of Industry in Philadelphia, the first charitable organization for women in America.
- 1821: The first women's college to be founded in the US was Troy Female Seminary, founded by Emma Willard.
- Ada Lovelace (1815-1852) analyst of Charles Babbage's analytical engine and described as the "first computer programmer."
- 1862: Mary Jane Patterson: first black woman to receive a BA degree. Received from Oberlin College.
- 1864: Rebecca Lee Crumpler: the first black woman to receive an MD degree. She graduated from the New England Female Medical College.
- 1866: Lucy Hobbs: first woman to graduate from dental school, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.
- 1873: Bela Lockwood: first woman admitted to appear before the Supreme Court. Took her 7 years to Achieve this status. Her first case was a divorce which she won and for the first time in history, included a judgment forcing the husband to pay alimony.
- 1873: Ellen Swallow Richards: first woman to be admitted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology; earns her BS degree; becomes first female professional chemist in the US.
- 1903: Emma Goldman founds Free Speech League in New York City; forerunner of the American Civil Liberties Union.
- 1910: Baroness Raymond de Laroche (France): passes qualifying tests and becomes first woman in world to be issued a pilot's license.
- 1911: Harriet Quimby: first woman to gain a pilot's license in US; and in 1912 first woman to fly across the English Channel.
- 1919: Nancy Astor: American born wife of Waldorf Astor: first woman in British history to be elected to and take a seat in Parliament. She took his seat in the House of Commons when he moved to the House of Lords.
- 1921: Edith Wharton, American novelist, first women to win Pulitzer Prize for fiction for her book, *The Age of Innocence*.
- 1921: Bessie Coleman: first black woman licensed pilot.
- 1933: Sheila Borrett: first woman radio announcer.
- 1934: Lettie Pate Whitehead: first American woman to serve as a director of a major corporation, The Coca-Cola Company.
- 1936: Elizabeth Cowell: first woman TV announcer when she is chosen to host programs on the BBC Television Service.

- 1939: Jane Bolin: first black woman to become a judge (sworn in by Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia) in the US per NY City's law department; also first black woman to graduate from Yale Law School.
- 1939: Barbara H. Liskov: first American woman Doctorate of Computer Science (1968).  
Hedy Lamarr: Hollywood diva and co-inventor of an early form of spread-spectrum broadcasting.
- 1948: Alice Couchman: first black woman to win Olympic gold medal by winning the high jump.
- 1955: Marian Anderson: first black member of the Metropolitan Opera Company.
- 1965: Patricia Harris: first black woman ambassador; appointed to Luxembourg.
- 1972: Sally Jean Priesand: first woman rabbi in the United States.
- 1972: Rosemary Brown: first black Canadian woman to be elected to a Canadian provincial legislature (1972-1986).
- 1973: Liza Minnelli: first woman to win a Golden Globe (Cabaret), a best actress Oscar (Cabaret) and an Emmy for outstanding single program (Liza with a Z) in the same year. She also was a recipient of the British Academy of Films and Television Arts for British Academy of Fine Arts (Cabaret). Additionally, she was named Woman of the Year (Cabaret).
- 1991: Melvina Lathan: first black woman licenses as a professional Boxing Judge in NY, 1991; May 30 2007 first black woman to be confirmed as a NYS Athletic Commissioner; July 25, 2008 appointed Chairperson of the NYS Athletic Commission (first woman and first black woman to hold this title).
- 1992: Mae Jamison: first black woman astronaut.
- 1993: Shiela Widnall: first woman secretary of a branch of the US military when she is appointed to head the Air Force.
- 1998: Jean Vigil: first Native American woman to be elected as a state district judge in US: elected to New Mexico's 1st Judicial District.
- 1998: Lt Kendra Williams (USN): first US female combat pilot to bomb an enemy target (during Operation Desert Fox in Iraq).
- 1999: Lt. Col. Eileen Collins: first woman astronaut to command a space shuttle mission.
- 2000: Jennifer Murray: first woman to fly around the world in a helio-copter.
- 2003: Oprah Winfrey: first black woman television host: The Oprah Winfrey Show; noted as richest black person and world's only black billionaire.
- 2005: Condoleeza Rice: first black woman US Secretary of State.
- 2009: Susan Rice: US Ambassador to the United Nations: first black woman to represent the US at the UN.
- 2009: Irina Bokova, Bulgarian diplomat, 53, first woman to be elected to head UNESCO.
- 2009: Dr. Regina Benjamin: confirmed as US Surgeon General; first black woman to head a state medical society (Alabama); received Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights; and in 2008 received a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant."
- 2011: The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Harvard-trained economist, Africa's first democratically elected female president in 2005), peace activist Leyman Gbowee (head of the Women Peace and Security Network in Liberia) and human rights activist Tawakkul Kaman (head of Women Journalists without Chains in Yemen).
- 2012: Ginni Rometty, 55, first woman CEO of IBM (19th largest company by revenue in world; 2011 sales surpassed \$107 billion and in 2012 5th largest by valuation market cap of \$235 billion); named as #1 among Fortune's Most Powerful Women in Business for 2012.
- 2012: Internationally #1, Maria das Gracas Foster, first woman CEO of Petrobras (Brazil).
- 2012: Ellen DeGeneres awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.
- 2012: Gabby Douglas: first black woman to win gold medal in Olympics as a gymnast.

**Locally the following should be recognized:**

- 1988: Ezabelle Marable: black woman of note: 1985: winner of Distinguished Alumni Award-SUNY Plattsburgh; 1991: YWCA-Kingston: Woman of the Year.
- 2010: Melissa Leo: Ulster County resident: awarded an Oscar as best supporting actress for The Fighter.
- 2012: Terry Bernardo: Ulster County legislator is elected Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, the first woman to be elected to that position.
- 2012: Lt. Col. Jacqueline D. Breeden, US Air Force assumed command of the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base in California. She is related to former New Paltz residents.
- 2012: Justice Karen K. Peters: first woman to be Presiding Justice of the Third Department; 1994: first female Justice appointed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court from Ulster County; 1992: first woman



elected to the New York Supreme Court in the Third Department; 1983: first woman elected to the Ulster County Family Court.

**As noted above, the thought was to include some additional points of interest to this article.**

The top 10 on the list of America's Best Colleges: Princeton University, Williams College, Stanford University, University of Chicago, Yale University, Harvard University, US Military Academy, Columbia University, Pomona College, Swarthmore College.

Given the emphasis begin place on the economy and jobs at this time, it would be appropriate to note some of the companies which are considered the best to work for (number indicates place on list of 100): Google (1), Wegman's Food Markets(5), Dreamworks Animation (12), Container Store (16), USAA (40), Mayo Clinic (41), Men's Wearhouse (50), American Express (51), Marriott International (64), Microsoft (75), AFLAC (84), Starbucks (94), Mars (95), Mattel (96), Aeropostal (97).

The question may be asked what makes each part of the list: reviewing the information provided in the article for each of the 100 companies on the overall list: it appears that employees are provided with an array of benefits and treated with respect. One result: employees appear to stay employed for many years with these companies.

A listing of the 100 worlds biggest public companies was next: the top 10: Exxon Mobil (US), JP Morgan Chase(US), General Electric (US), Royal Dutch Shell (Netherlands), ICBC (China), HSBC Holdings (United Kingdom), Petro China (China), Berkshire Hathaway (US), Wells Fargo (US), and BR (Brazil).

Two of the richest royals: Queen Elizabeth II (England-\$94.8 billion is # 1) and King Abdullah bin Abdul Azizal Saud (Saudi Arabia-\$63.2 billion is # 2).

The world's most powerful people (top 10 in order): President Barack Obama (US), Chancellor Angela Merkel (Ger), President Vladimir Putin (Russia), Bill Gates-co-chair Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (US), Pope Benedict XVI-Roman Catholic Church, King Abdullah bin Abdul Azizal Saud (Saudi Arabia), President Mario Draghi (European Central Bank), General Secretary Communist Party Xi Jinping (China), and Prime Minister David Cameron (United Kingdom)

Most recently a surprise announcement by Pope Benedict XVI that he would be resigning as of February 28, 2013 took the world by surprise. He is the first Pope to resign in 600 years. Pope Gregory XII was the last to do so according to an article written by Father William Saunders, Dean of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College.

**Some interesting items:** Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-New Jersey) is the oldest member of the US Senate at age 89 and the Senate's last veteran of WWII. Serena Williams at 31 is the oldest top ranked women's player. Jimmy Fallon, Saugerties native and HS graduate, won a Grammy Award at the recent Grammy Awards for his comedy album "Blow Your Pants Off". Albert N. Brown, 105, a retired Army major, lived to be the oldest survivor of the 1942 Bataan Death March in the Philippines. He was thought to be among the oldest surviving Americans to have fought in WW II. He died August 14, 2011.

**On a lighter note,** the world's most powerful celebrities (the top 10 in order): Jennifer Lopez, Oprah Winfrey, Justin Bieber, Rihanna, Lady Gaga, Britney Spears, Kim Kardashian, Katy Perry, Tom Cruise and Steven Spielberg.

By the time this issue is available the 85th Academy Awards Ceremony will have been held. Some points about the awards: first wards presented May 16, 1929; any number of people have hosted the ceremonies: Douglas Fairbanks, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Jerry Lewis, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Carson, Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg (first black woman to do so). Some actors have won more than once: Katharine Hepburn (4), Ingrid Bergman (3), Walter Brennan (3). Hattie McDaniel first black actor to win (for Gone With The Wind)

**Sources of Information:** *Forbes lists:* <http://www.forbes.com/power-women/list> ( there are a variety of lists); *wikilepedia, World Almanac 2012. Academy Awards, Fortune magazine October 8, 2012, Fortune magazine February 4, 2013, newspapers (local, NY Times, etc.)*

Lee Cane