



Commentator

MARCH 2015

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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WE WELCOME THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT ALL EVENTS!		
2014		
Month		
6	Fri. Noon	Naturalization Ceremony. Ulster County Courthouse, 285 Wall Street, Kingston. LWV volunteers gather at 10:45 AM to hand out voter info. Join us! Details: Jean McGarry, 845-336-6622
10	Tues., 5:30 PM	Materials Management (Solid Waste) study group, Gateway Diner, 379 Rt 9W, Highland (just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge, across from Burger King). Details: Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288.
10	Tues. 5:30 PM	The Ulster County Women's Network presents " You Have More Political Power than You Think! " a talk by LWV-MHR Co-President, Dare Thompson, at Stella's Italian Restaurant, 44 N. Front St., Kingston. \$20 for Women's Network members, \$30 for non-members, includes networking, dinner and the talk and Q & A. Reservations requested. Contact Melody Newcombe at mnewcombe@hvc.rr.com , 845-853-3761, or Laurel Herdman, lherdman@gmail.com or 845-594-5522
12	Thurs., 4 - 6 PM	LWV MHR BOARD Meeting , home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston. Call 845-339-3180 for directions. ALL welcome!
24	Tues. 1:45 PM	Book Discussion of Thomas Piketty's CAPITAL in the 21ST Century (2014) at Enzo's Ristorante & Pizza, 207 Boices Lane, Kingston. 845-383-3696 for directions. We'll discuss the introduction and 1 st chapter. <i>This is a follow-up to our reading of two other books on income inequality – Ehrenreich's Nickel and Dime and Stiglitz's The Price of Inequality.</i>

PREZ SEZ...

Prez Sez

During this 2015 Black History Month the LWVMHR Book group is reading "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander. If you can, join us on Tuesday February 24 at Enzo's at 1:45 pm. Even if you have not had time to read the book, you will be able to participate in the discussion since it concerns an evolving reality that we have all experienced during our lifetime. Michelle brings it into focus in a way that may not have been obvious. She shows how the "War on Drugs" became the new process to put black men in prison, similar to the vagrancy laws after Reconstruction.

As members of the League of Women Voters, one of the results of incarceration that interests us most is the disenfranchisement of released prisoners. In many States throughout the Union former prisoners are unable to vote for the rest of their lives.

When I arrived in the United States in 1977 this "War on Drugs" was in full swing. As a person married to someone of color I experienced housing discrimination in the City of Poughkeepsie where a landlord withdrew an apartment and gave my deposit back when he met my husband. Raising my bi-racial daughter has forced me to see the difference between urban school districts and suburban school districts.

The mortgage crisis of 2008 and the increase in economic inequality has impacted the African-American community more than any other ethnic group in our society. If you ever wondered if the LWV was irrelevant, wonder no more, there is much work yet to be done.

Jolanda

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

VOTER SERVICE**Moderating Guidelines**

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

STUDY AND ADVOCACY**A Crash Course on our Many Positions**

With yet another snow storm looming, a brave group of 18 Ulster and Dutchess League members gathered at the Olympic Diner in Kingston on February 21 to discuss all the positions the LWV has reached over the past few decades and the action we've taken on them.

Attendees were Nancy Beard, Sam Flax, Jolanda Jansen, Tom Kadgen, Shirley Kobran, Kim McEvoy, Jean McGarry, Anita Merr, Jacki Moriarty, Anne Needham, Margaret Sellers, Soyal Smalls, Esther Stickley, Harriett Straus, Merrill Sunderland, Dare and Doug Thompson, and Dorothy Winrow.

There were three goals for the meeting: 1) to see if we want to recommend that the state league add or drop any positions at its Convention in June, 2) to see if there might be local items we would like to adopt at our annual meeting in May, and 3) to see what positions we'd like to learn more about and/or take action on right away.

Goal 1: we agreed that the positions we currently have at the state and national level provide us with a sufficient platform for most work we'd like to do.

Goal 2: no local items were suggested but we know that there is interest among members not present in studying term limits at the county level.

Goal 3: there were was a lot of interest in doing more soon about several of our positions.

Two outstanding items were all the new (and possibly unregulated) toxins that go into our watersheds and mass incarceration, particularly one major cause for this - mandatory drug sentencing.

We also talked about the problems of racial profiling, lack of legal services for indigents, and the need for more alternatives to incarceration.

There was rightful concern about voter turn-out and the need for early voting and no-excuse absentee voting.

While we know that the health system is probably too unsettled right now to make action appropriate, members were directed to CommonwealthFund.org for the latest and best info on how the Affordable Care Act is working across the country.

We continue to support the LWVNYS's push to get the whole Women's Equality Act passed - including the reproductive rights plank. And education equity is always a concern - particularly the need to get rid of the "gap elimination act" which is really hurting small city schools like Kingston.

This just scratches the surface of our lively discussion. If you don't see a topic mentioned here that you're all worked up about, let us know!

The board will be talking more about possible local studies at its March and April board meetings so speak up NOW by calling 845-340-2003 or writing info@lwvmidhudson.org. We represent YOU.

Twelve of us sat around a table at Poughkeepsie's Adriance Library on a recent snowy Saturday and failed utterly to get to the League Holy Grail – Consensus.

If, as in other organizations majority ruled, our five proponents of term limits might have taken the day. They mounted an impressive case: horrifying tales of arrogance, corruption and slick dealing in our state government. With a campaign finance reform in limbo, redistricting on hold till decade's end and only a severely watered down ethics reform law on the books, nothing was left but term limits as a solution for broken government, they said.

And what of the lonely two who were passionately committed to elections as being the only democratic form of term limits? First, they presented the philosophy: We are the League of Women Voters. We must do nothing to inhibit the voters' rights to select legislators. Second, there was the record of mixed success in places which have attempted term limits: Women and minorities did not do statistically better as candidates and voter turnout actually declined in some term limit areas.

The Undecideds had it easy. In New York State there is practically no chance of the Legislature agreeing to fire itself. States that enacted Term Limits had systems of voter referendums. We do not. However, while hiding behind realpolitik and breathing a sigh of relief, the Undecideds complimented both sides on really wonderful presentations.

In addition to the 12 members, the meeting was attended by a potential member and also by the chair of the Dutchess County legislature who has just declared his candidacy for mayor of Poughkeepsie. The non-members, though adding insights, did not participate in the actual consensus.

All in all, we could not agree. But we gave and received lots of information and were absolute poster children for civil discourse.

Anne Needham

President's Note: So what happens now? We've told the state LWV that after study and discussion we did not reach consensus, and we can only sit tight and wait for all the responses from leagues across the state to be counted. By late March we hope to know whether the pro or anti term limits voices will carry.

**TERM LIMITS
CONSENSUS
MEETING
February 7, 2015**

**Shared Services
Committee
Meeting Notes**

February 16, 2015

Present: Ellie Charwat, Diane Jablonski, Gina Klein, Jolanda Jansen, Marianna Martin, Soyal Smalls, Suzi Stoller, Merrill Sunderland and guest David Gill

We welcomed new League member Merrill and guest and future member David

The group reviewed the latest version of the PowerPoint presentation on Shared Services and made suggestions and comments. Gina will incorporate these for a FINAL version in the next week or so.

Next steps:

Plan an outreach campaign for presenting the slide show. Everyone should give Ellie ideas of groups to reach out to.

Suggestions:

- Government classes at Dutchess Community College
- Town boards/ city councils
- Realtors' associations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Civic groups like Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange Clubs
- AAUW
- Taxpayers associations
- Public officials associations

We need contact names, emails and phone numbers to set up presentation schedule! This is the responsibility of all of us!

No next meeting set – probably in early April

**Materials
Management
Committee
Meeting Minutes**

February 10, 2015, Gateway Diner, Rt. 9W, Highland

In attendance: Cindy Lanzetta, Dare Thompson, Jolanda Jansen, Merrill Sunderland, Sarah Womer

Ulster County Materials Management:

We discussed the upcoming Legislative initiative to establish the UC Solid Waste Management Improvement Committee. It will include 3 LWV members – Kathie Beinkafner and legislators Tracey Bartels and Manna Jo Greene.

Dutchess County Materials Management:

Jolanda is consulting on the Cornell Cooperative Composting Feasibility Study. Merrill will begin attending the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency Meetings. Sarah will contact the DCRRA for more information on HHW collections in DC. Cindy will contact Lindsay Carille to set up a meeting to discuss the 2015 Materials Management focus. The DC website has been improved

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/SolidWasteMgmt/24190.htm>

Composting Event at Hudson Valley Regional Council:

Cindy and Sarah reported on the event they had attended. (See separate notes on this event.) It was well attended, informational, and inspiring. It was scheduled to end at 1pm, but went on until 2pm. We hope to stay in the loop and monitor the development of a Master Composter (MC) Program in the Hudson Valley.

Sarah reported that she would like help in finding transportation and use for fabric and related items from a warehouse in Yonkers. Contact her at sarah.womer@gmail.com

Rich Schiafo sent information on the Organics Conference on March 5th, at Marist

<http://www.nysar3.org/page/nys-summit-on-organics-management-100.html>

Next meeting: March 10, 2015, 5:30, Gateway Diner. ALL welcome!

Cindy Lanzetta, Materials Management Committee Chair

**Hudson Valley
Regional Council
Solid Waste
Management
Committee
Meeting,
February 4, 2015**

It was a pleasure to attend the recent meeting of the Hudson Valley Regional Council's (HVRC) Solid Waste Management Committee. HVRC's Deputy Director, Rich Schiafo, welcomed us to their offices in Newburgh, overlooking the beautiful Hudson River.

The highlight was a presentation by NYC's Composting Program Manager, Jodie Colon, and her associate, Andrew Blancero. Jodie's enthusiasm for her subject matter was contagious. "I think composting could solve all the world's problems!" she said half-jokingly.

Jodie is an employee of the New York Botanical Gardens, and her program is funded by NYC Sanitation. The focus is on residential urban composting. It is her job to coordinate the work being done by the numerous volunteer Community Composting Sites and educate the public on the necessity and how-to's of composting. To that end, they have developed a "Master Composter" program. This is a competitive volunteer course that includes:

Classroom Instruction

Field Trips and Hands-On Experience

Community Service Hours (30 hours the first year)

Final Project (building relationships)

As Jodie said, "The difference between a dream and a goal is a deadline." The program is monitored and successful "MC's" build a base of activity and good will.

The HVRC's Solid Waste Committee had many questions. There was good representation from Cornell Cooperative, who also has an interest in the program.

The following links will further your education on composting.

<http://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/regional-initiatives/solid-waste-management-committee/>

www.nyc.gov/compostproject

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dsny/resources/initiatives/nyc-compost-project.page>

<http://www.bbg.org/learn/composters>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/.../edit?usp=sharing> – Composting Manual

<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/compost>

Cindy Lanzetta, Chair, LWV-MHR Materials Management Committee

**2015 BOOK
GROUP
SELECTIONS**

Join us on Tuesdays at 1:45 at Enzo's Pizza, 207 Boices Lane (at Enterprise), Kingston. You don't have to have read the book to come sit in! Please confirm dates and times at 845-340-2004 or www.lwvmidhudson.org.

February 24

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Michelle Alexander, 2010

According to Alexander, one third of black men are likely to spend time in prison, only to find themselves into permanent second class citizenship.

March 24

Capital in the 21st Century, Thomas Piketty, 2014

We will discuss the Introduction and first chapter.

"There's been a bizarre phenomenon this year: a young, little-known French economist has written a 700-page tome about economic inequality – dense with data, historical examples from France, and a few literary references to Jane Austen." The Guardian

April 14

Outliers: The Story of Success, Malcolm Gladwell, 2008

According to Gladwell, if we want to understand how some people thrive, we should spend more time looking around them -- at such things as their family, their birthplace, or even their birth date.

May 19

Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal, Aviva Chomsky, 2014

Immigrant rights activist Aviva Chomsky shows how "illegality" and "undocumentedness" are concepts that were created to exclude and exploit. Blending history with human drama, Chomsky explores what it means to be undocumented in a legal, social, economic and historical context.

June 16

The Village Effect, Susan Pinker, 2014

An exploration of the powerful effects of face-to-face contact in our increasingly computer-mediated world. Pinker's witty and informative book reveals the complex picture of these interactions.

July 21

Soul of a Citizen, Paul Loeb, 1999

A book of inspiration and integrity, *Soul of a Citizen* is an antidote to the twin scourges of modern life--powerlessness and cynicism. Loeb tells moving stories of ordinary Americans who have found unexpected fulfillment in social involvement.

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

Audio recordings, addenda and minutes of Legislative Committee meetings can be found at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/legislature/committeesinfo/index.html>

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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. *We will guide you, so you do not need to be an expert to get started.* Call Margaret Sellers at 339-3180 with your questions.

Energy and Environment Committee

Energy and Environment Committee

February 4, 2015, 6:06 PM - ? (LWV Observer needed to leave after resolutions were voted)

Committee Members:

Peter Loughran, Chairman, Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Deputy Chairman, Richard A. Parete, Hector Rodriguez, Mary Wawro

Mr. Loughran replaced Legislator Tracey Bartels as chairman and member of the committee, and Legislator Hector Rodriguez replaced Legislator Manna Jo Greene on the committee.

Meeting called to order by Peter Loughran, Chairman.

Minutes from the December 8, 2014 meeting were approved.

Resolutions for February 17, 2015:

1. Resolution No. 314A - Establishing A Pilot Program For Alternative Fuel And Committing To Create A Green Fleet Policy. After considerable discussion in the committee including John Parete, Chairman of the Legislature, the resolution failed.

[Subsequently a Petition to Discharge the resolution was successfully executed on Feb. 5,

2015. On Feb. 17, 2015, at the Regular Meeting of the Legislature, an amendment was approved to eliminate the provision of *committing to create a green fleet policy*. The amended resolution was approved. Legislator Bartels announced she would be proposing an action to create a green fleet policy. County Executive Michael Hein voted the amended resolution.]

2. Resolution No. 38 – Opposing The Pilgrim Pipeline. Adopted following a discussion by the committee and guests of many issues and a proposal to have a representative of the company address the committee.

[Subsequently at the Regular Meeting of Legislature on Feb. 17, 2015, the memorializing resolution was adopted, following a comment of Legislator Loughran that Pilgrim Pipeline didn't respond to a request for a representative address the Legislature.]

3. Resolution No. 42 – Establishing An Environmental Remediation Reserve Account. Postponed.

4. Resolution No. 43 – Establishing Policy And Procedure For Use Of The Environmental Remediation Fund. Postponed.

5. Resolution No. 44 - Appointing Members To The Ulster County Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission. Katheryn Beinkafner, Member, League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Valley, is named to the commission. Adopted, as amended.

6. Resolution No. 45 - Supporting A Budget Line Item For The Catskill Park And Catskill Forest Preserve In The New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Adopted.

Old Business:

1. Climate Smart Committee – Update

Guest Presentation: Resource Recovery Agency Report: Tim Rose, Executive Director

Vic Melville, LWV Observer, 2-23-15

Feb. 3, 2014, 6:30 – 7:40 PM

Committee Members: Thomas J. Briggs, Chairman, James F. Maloney, Deputy Chairman, Chris Allen, Lynn Archer, Tracey Bartels, Herbert Litts, III, Mary Beth Maio

Meeting called to order by Chairman Briggs, and approval of Dec. 4, 2014 and Jan. 7, 2015 meeting minutes.

Resolutions for Feb. 17, 2014:

All proposed resolutions were adopted.

Legislator Lynn Archer requested that heads of county departments make presentations.

These presentations began with the Department of Tourism. Rick Remsnyder, Director, and Tony Morino of FocusMedia discussed recent activities and presented a video about Ulster County. There is a county Tourism Advisory Board. The committee discussed items with Mr. Remsnyder about effectiveness of the programs and how they are measured (or not). Legislator Bartels wants outreach to the local Chambers of Commerce, etc. Legislator Ken Wishnick attended and he wants more involvement and reporting of results.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer, 2-23-15

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee

March is Women's History Month



Each year for several years an attempt has been made to provide an article dealing with women for the March issue of The Commentator in recognition of Women's History Month.

The selections this year and the arrangement of the material is not definitive by any means.

Women have contributed extensively throughout the centuries and certainly the 20th and 21st centuries are no exceptions.

Presently women are fully integrated with male personnel in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Once the draft was ended in June, 1973 all enlisted positions were opened to women. In 1976 admission to the service academies began. In 1993 rules were laid down allowing women to fly combat aircraft and serve aboard warships. It was not until 2010 that the Navy announced that women would be placed in submarine crews by January, 2012. In 2013 the Pentagon lifted the ban on women serving in direct ground combat units.

There is a monument located at Arlington National Cemetery. The Women In Military Service for America Memorial near the cemetery's ceremonial entrance. It was dedicated October 18, 1997 in honor of the 2.5 million women who have served in the US military since the American Revolution.

In 2011 Marcia Anderson became the first black, female two star general in the army.

In 2014 Michelle Howard became the first woman and first black woman to become a 4-star admiral (#2 in navy); also the first woman to command a ship.

There are six first ladies who are presently alive: Michelle Obama, Laura Bush, Hillary Clinton, Barbara Bush, Nancy Reagan, and Rosalynn Carter. Early in 2014 Siena College/C-Span released the findings from a poll conducted at the time with 242 historians, political scientists, and other scholars from October 25, 2014 to November 25, 2014 via mail and on line. The subject: the nation's first ladies. The survey has been conducted five times since 1982.

The results: Eleanor Roosevelt viewed as the nation's best first lady (and has been so viewed each of the five times); Abigail Adams is #2; Jacqueline Kennedy

is #3; Dolley Madison is #4; Michelle Obama is #5 and Hillary Clinton is #6.

Another interesting note about women occurred at the NATO meeting in February, 2014. Five countries were represented by women in the position of defense minister. This was a first for NATO: the largest number of women defense ministers to serve at one time in NATO's 28 year history. The countries so represented and the names of the defense ministers: Italy (Pinotti); Albania (Kodheli); Germany (Leyen); Norway (Soeide); and the Netherlands (Hennis-Plasshaert).

Some other facts acquired: As of 2011 4.8% of the female population have the possibility of living to age 90. As of 2013 the total population of the United States was given as 316,128,839 of which 160,501,141 or 50.8% of which are women.

After a long battle, marching and talking, etc. women were granted the right to vote in 1920 in America. One of the places where an effort was made on behalf of women's suffrage was in May, 1893 at a convention held in Dallas, Texas. Over time the group that was formed devoted itself to supporting the right of women to vote. Eventually they were successful. Note: this information was submitted to the writer by James McGarry.

In April, 2014 Fortune published its April issue in which the main article dealt with The World's 50 greatest leaders. Of the 50 noted, 19 are women. Some of those listed are as follows: Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, Aung San Suu Kyi, Chair National League for Democracy, Myanmar; Christine LeGarde, Managing Director International Monetary Fund; Angelina Joline, Actress, Humanitarian;

Gabrielle Giffords, Co-Founder/Americans for Responsible Solutions, former member of US House of Representatives and survivor of a shooting; Juliet V. Garcia, President/University of Texas at Brownsville; Malala Yousabki, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and survivor of a shooting by the Taliban; Gail Kelly, CEO/West Pac.

The following is a list of women who have contributed, performed, been acknowledged for various aspects of their lives, but no means is it definitive.

Elise Stefanik, 30, youngest woman elected to Congress from New York in 2014.

Malala Yousafzai, 17 years old, youngest Nobel prize winner. Received Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. She has survived the Taliban attack upon her in 2012.

Geri Owens, grandmother, 80, of New Paltz, New York. Completed the TCS New York City Marathon in just over 7 hours. This was the third time that she had competed in this marathon.

Mia Lowe: first black Republican woman elected from Utah in 2014.

Joni Ernst: first senator from Iowa in 30 years who is a Republican and first combat veteran to so serve

Professor Maryann Mirzakhani, of Iranian birth, academic based in America; first woman to win the Fields Medal, the world's top math prize....August, 2014

Dorji Choden: First female cabinet minister of Bhutan: minister for works and human settlement. She is also known as Bhutan's first female engineer. In early 2013 she was elected president of the political party Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa, one of only two women to hold such a post in Bhutan.

Karen Magee: first female to be elected president of the NY State teachers union. She has been elected to a 3 year term (March, 2014)

Somayya Jabarti: first woman to lead a Saudi Arabian daily when named editor in chief of the Saudi Gazette (March, 2014)

Mariam AlMonsowri, 35, A major in the United Arab Emirates air force. First female fighter pilot of the UAE. Participated in the UAE military action, September, 2014 against ISil or ISIS. At that time she was a veteran pilot of F-16 warplanes.

Anne Sweeney: as of January, 2015 to step down as co-chair of Disney Media Networks and president of the Disney ABC Television Group. Daughter of Anne and Donald Sweeney and a graduate of Coleman Catholic High School in Kingston, N.Y. in 1975. She has been quoted as saying that she plans to pursue becoming a director of TV shows...to pursue her creative interests.

Rita Mae Brown: author of the Sister Jane fox hunting novels and the Sneaky Pie Brown mysteries; founded the first all-women's polo club, Blue Ridge Polo in 1988.

Gertrude Weaver, 116: confirmed in July, 2014 as the oldest living American by Gerontology Research Group and the 11th oldest person of all time in the world.

Tonight, February 22, 2015 is the night of the Oscars. Many people will watch. However, this article will have been written. Perhaps the following may be of interest to those who love to go to the movies.

Those who have won multiple Oscars: Katharine Hepburn, 4; Ingrid Bergman, 3; Luis Rainer, 2 (recently died in London, England at age 96); Olivia deHavilland,

2; Elizabeth Taylor, 2; Glenda Jackson, 2; Jane Fonda, 2, Hillary Swank, 2; Jodie Foster, 2; Maaggie Smith, 2; Meryl Streep, 2; Shelley Winters, 2; Dianne Wiest, 2. Hattie McDaniel was the first black actress to win an Oscar for her supporting role in *Gone With the Wind*; and Sidney Poitier, the first black actor to win for *Lilies of the Fields*.

As we move along through the years unfortunately time catches up with everyone. The following are those who are no longer with us:

Dr. Rosemary Brown: first black Canadian woman elected in 1972 to a Canadian provincial legislature (British Columbia) and only the second woman (died 4-26-2003)

Alice Herz-Sommer, 110, believed to be the oldest known Holocaust survivor, died 2/23/14 in London, England.

Cornelia G. Kennedy, 90, died May 12, 2014. Had a long history of involvement with judiciary and government in general. Was the only woman appointed to a Federal judgeship by President Nixon.

Mary Messina, 90; died June, 2014; from Saugerties, New York; a very active and involved participant in various community groups: League of Women Voters, Saugerties Jaycees, Campfire Girls, Hudson Valley Philharmonic. She was the first woman nominated to run for the UC Legislature.

Alice Coachman Davis, 90: died July, 2014, first black woman to win Olympic gold medal (high jump), 1948 games in London. In 1975 she was inducted into USA Track and Field Hall of Fame; and in 2004 into the US Olympic Hall of Fame.

Sophie Masloff, 96, August, 2014 dies; first woman mayor and first Jewish mayor of Pittsburgh.

Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock: 88, dies September 30, 2014: first female pilot to fly solo around the world in 1964; flew a single engine Cessna 180, "Spirit of Columbus" 23,000 miles in 29 plus days landing in Columbus, Ohio on April 17, 1964.

Jane Byrne: 81, dies November, 2014: first and only female mayor of Chicago. She overcame opposition from the Richard J. Daley "powerful political machine" to win. She was not re-elected.

Sources of Information: local newspapers, NY Times, World Almanac, 2015, Fortune and Forbes Magazines, and the internet.

Lee Cane