



Newsletter April 2024

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Action Items



Get the most out of a Membership and Be Involved with Your Local League!

This section offers reports from ongoing groups and a Calendar to keep us connected:

MEETING DATES & ZOOM LINKS-

April

* All members and interested non-members are welcome at all League meetings unless otherwise indicated.

April 3rd

12:00 PM

LWV Mid-Hudson Membership Committee Meeting

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82525444407?>

[pwd=K7bTXgUbH6mKNaDLCiXar4kbTOmckg.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82525444407?pwd=K7bTXgUbH6mKNaDLCiXar4kbTOmckg.1)

April 4th

Noon

Lunch Meetup

Cooper's, Beacon

April 10th

7 PM

Becoming a School Board Member

Zoom meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82702837452?
pwd=kzKAsXgWN15GbJ2xnpLMfBQm5jE5Ph.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82702837452?pwd=kzKAsXgWN15GbJ2xnpLMfBQm5jE5Ph.1)

April 11th

Noon

Lunch Meetup for Dutchess Members & Friends

[Mahoney's, Poughkeepsie](#)

April 15th

11:30 AM

Lunch Meetup Saugerties

[Village Diner](#)

April 16th

8:00 PM

LWVMHR Board Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87841231146?
pwd=dFp5bDdtZFNvWjNMRTkyTVBCRmg3dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87841231146?pwd=dFp5bDdtZFNvWjNMRTkyTVBCRmg3dz09)

April 19th

Noon

Southern Tier Meetup

[The Silk Factory](#)

Newburgh

April 22nd

1:45 PM

Book Club

Enzo's, Kingston

April 23rd

11:30 AM

Lunch Meetup Woodstock

[Moonrise Bagels](#)

May 7th

League Advocacy Day

9:30 AM- 4 PM

Albany

Register [HERE](#)

The Prez Says



This newsletter is packed with so many reports on past activities and announcements of things to come, I want you to just read on and enjoy the goodies that await.

But first I thank all the members who are making the effort to visit with their state senators and Assembly members.

Anil Beephan in Hopewell Junction was new to us this year so a

special thanks to him for a pleasant and helpful visit. Some other visits are described here and more are in the works. We have 8 Assembly members and 4 senators, so it's a challenge to meet with all of them every year, but we try.

Our visits during the budget-making early months of the session have been focused on funding that would improve our elections, provide adequate funding for our public schools, the Bottle Bill, and adequate pay for home health care workers. We will soon be making visits based less on funding and more on specific issues. The state LWV is good at supplying us with a lot of information and keeping us up to date so we know what we're talking about!

I also want to highlight all the lunchtime gatherings that are happening in various parts of our sprawling League territory. The Zoom has saved us travel time and made more meetings possible, but we also need to get out of our Zoom boxes and be together in person. It gives us a chance to know each other better, ask questions, get updates, see how we can support each other's work, laugh, vent, whatever we need. And we never run out of things to talk about! You are welcome at ANY such gathering, but we hope you'll find at least one that is reasonably close to your home.

Finally please notice the series of meetings we are having with Sustainable Hudson Valley and the special discussion on what it takes to be a school board candidate.

You will probably find the latter interesting even if you don't really want to run for a seat. There's more to it than you may realize! We are grateful to have Jay Worona from the NYS School Boards Association starting us off and sharing in the Q & A.

And if you want to be a volunteer in any way, just let us know. There are so many ways you can help us "empower voters and defend democracy"!



Thinking About Becoming a School Board Candidate?

Or might you just want to be a more informed observer of school board meetings?

On **Wednesday, April 10, 7 PM** we are presenting a Zoom meeting featuring Jay Worona, deputy executive director and general counsel for the New York State School Boards Association; LWV-MHR member Nora Scherer, a former school board president in Kingston; a school district clerk; and several current or retired school board members. Mr. Worona will give a brief overview of the role of a board member, training requirements, and other issues to consider. Brief remarks from the other guests will follow, shedding light on what being a board member is like and what it was like to run. A school district clerk, who manages the process locally, will share the nuts and bolts of what you need to do to become a candidate. Finally there will be an audience Q & A with all the speakers.

Join us!

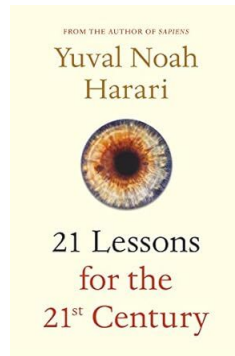
Topic: Becoming a School Board Member

Time: Apr 10, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82702837452?>

[pwd=kzKAsXgWN15GbJ2xnpLMfBQm5jE5Ph.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82702837452?pwd=kzKAsXgWN15GbJ2xnpLMfBQm5jE5Ph.1)



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

April 22nd

1:45 PM

[Enzo's Ristorante](#) in Kingston.

On March 15th, Book Club participants discussed the last chapters of "Sapiens" by Yuval Noah Harari.

Continuing with the subject of humankind, and its development, until our times, Yuval Harari wrote several more books following in this vein. Our next book is his insightful "Twenty One Lessons for the Twenty First Century" also by the same author.

All are invited to come- even if you haven't finished the book, there all kinds of subjects that come up during the discussions. Bring a friend and discover a new experience with League Members.

As always, we encourage members to borrow the book from the library or purchase from local booksellers.

Daisy Tyler
daisytyler68@hotmail.com



Medical Aid in Dying Act

from Kathie Beinkafner

With the Medical Aid in Dying Act before the New York State Legislature you can listen to the WAMC-NPR recording to learn more about the issue.

In an interview for "The Capitol Connection" - Corinne Carey, Senior Campaign Director for Compassion & Choices speaks on the importance of this bill [Here](#). The original Broadcast was March 14, 2024.

Please write or call your legislative representatives if you support this bill.



Put May 16th on the Calendar For NYers for the ERA Kick-Off Event

The New York State League of Women Voters is an active partner in the effort to pass a State Constitutional Amendment adding to existing enumerated protections against discrimination based on race and religion.

This amendment would explicitly prohibit discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex—including their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, reproductive healthcare and autonomy.

Check out this website:

<https://nyequalrights.org/>

On May 16th, 4:30-6:30 PM, The LWV Mid-Hudson will host a kick-off event at the [Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center](#) in Poughkeepsie.

Invitations will go out shortly and we are depending on our

members -**YOU**- to share the invitation, with people from all backgrounds, to come and learn how we can ALL WORK TOGETHER to spread the word about this important ballot initiative!

Are you interested in joining our LWVMHR ERA task force? If so, contact Cindy Lanzetta at packback56@yahoo.com or Louise Reavis at louise.reavis@gmail.com



Observer Corps

An important part of a local League organization is an "Observer Corps" made up of volunteers who attend County Legislative Meetings. LWVMHR Member Jane Simkin Smith attended (virtually) the Dutchess County Legislative Meeting that took place on March 11th, 2024.

This meeting consisted of many committee reports. At the end of the meeting, Chairman Pruitt saw the number of reports as “a testament to how hard everyone’s been working and getting involved in their committee.”

Ms. Smith attended virtually and wrote up an interesting summery

of her observations and you can find them [HERE](#).

We look forward to her future reports and hope we can find some members who can pop into the County Legislative Meetings in Orange & Ulster, as well!



Regional Meetup Groups

Southern Tier:

This group is made up of members from Orange County, southern Dutchess County, and southern Ulster County.

Welcome new member Carla Burns, Highland Falls, NY! We look

forward to meeting her! Besides the usual crew in March, we had Doug Thompson (Marlboro) & Diana Gross (Washingtonville) join us.

Our next regular meeting will be April 19th, noon, at the [Silk Factory](#) in Newburgh.

All League members & friends are welcome to attend!

Dutchess Members & Friends

Come to lunch with your fellow Dutchess County League of Women Voters members on April 11 at noon, [Mahoney's Pub](#) in Poughkeepsie. We have reserved a room upstairs so there will be ample opportunity to talk and socialize.

Topics for discussion include: the NY ERA and the planned kickoff event, state assembly visits, and May advocacy day. We should also strategize about voter registration and getting out the vote in Dutchess County this year.

We hope you can join us - it's a great time to get to know your fellow Dutchess County League members and talk about the issues that matter to you. Questions? faycasatuta@gmail.com

JUST IN! - Join Sheba Abraham on April 4th, noon, at [Cooper's](#) on Main St. in Beacon!

Ulster County

NEW Saugerties & Woodstock Meetups Scheduled!

We will meet at the [Village Diner in Saugerties](#) on Monday, April 15th at 11:30 AM and in Woodstock at [Moonrise Bagels](#) on Tuesday, April 23rd at 11:30 AM.

For more info contact Cindy Bell- cynthia.bell2@aol.com

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Environmental Impact

April 2024

This month focuses on the **Climate Roadmap from Sustainable Hudson Valley**. The project as a whole is so large and encompasses so much that it was agreed that it should be broken down into four sections, each focusing on one aspect. These one-hour sessions are chock full of useful and important information presented in a way that most people can understand.

LWVMHR is sponsoring this series along with our friends at AAUW and will be shared among local leaders with an interest in the state of, and possibilities for, making a positive impact on the future of our Hudson Valley and beyond.

Please join us for these important conversations. Feel free to share the flyer with your local environmental organizations, political leaders and others who may benefit from learning more about what is happening and what each of can do.

Please support our local League programs and work. We are a grassroots organization and our power is always in our membership.

Registration Links for each workshop on flyer below:

[April 8th, 6 PM](#)

[April 9th, Noon](#)

[April 10th, 6 PM](#)

[April 11th, Noon](#)

HUDSON VALLEY CLIMATE ROAD MAP 101

The work to be done and how you can get involved

Click any topic to register for Zoom session

<p>MON APRIL 8</p> <p>Decarbonizing Power, Buildings and Transportation</p> <p>6 PM</p>	<p>TUES APRIL 9</p> <p>Building a Low Carbon Circular Economy</p> <p>12 NOON</p>	<p>WEDS APRIL 10</p> <p>Farms, Forests, Land and Water</p> <p>6 PM</p>	<p>THURS APRIL 11</p> <p>Community and Economic Benefits</p> <p>12 NOON</p>
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A Sustainable Hudson Valley Webinar Series
Cosponsored by The League of Women Voters &
The American Association of University Women

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News



In the last few weeks we lost two valued members of our League.

On February 24th we lost **Ramona Fradon** of Woodstock, who was 97. Her obituary in the weekly newspaper HV 1 states that she "is well-known for her work in the comic industry and was one of the two first women to break the glass ceiling and become a commercial comic illustrator with comic book giants DC and Marvel Comics." She was a household member with her daughter Amy, who in 2020 happily sent us a selfie of the two of them braving the pandemic to get out and vote. The obituary also has this: "A Depression baby, Ramona still had tears when she saw a picture of Franklin Roosevelt and she cared deeply about America and voting." The news of her passing was also shared on CBS News Sunday Morning on March 3rd.

On March 15th we lost **John Moriarty** of Kingston, age 83, a retired IBM-er and business advisor, a long-time member and dedicated volunteer with the League, and a dear friend to so many of us. He and wife Jacki were household members for decades and their daughter Chris Henning has also been a member for most of her adult life. We have watched Chris' son John go from man to grown-up architect and several years ago he was one of our League's "Students Inside Albany." The delightful Moriarty spirit lives on in Jacki, Chris, and John, but the loss of their tall, generous, and humorous husband, father, and grandfather is deeply felt by the League.

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of these two remarkable people and are proud and grateful to have had them in the League.



Pine Bush High School

Mid-Hudson League Keeps Busy in Orange County!

Leslie Simons reports:

Warwick High School registration was conducted by Louise Reavis and Anne Sandor. **28** new voters were registered!

Pine Bush High School registration occurred on March 5 and March 7, 2024. Ann Toner, Louise Reavis, Mary Missere and Leslie Simons were on hand to collect **91** new voter registrations! We had the help of the Department of English and dedicated student coordinators who publicized and encouraged students one-on-one on the registration days.

We are seeking summer locations for registration activity such as farm markets, community events, partner programs.

Suggestions? lesliesimons1066@gmail.com



LWVMHR Attends Naturalization Event

On March 15th, Ulster County hosted the ceremony for new candidates becoming nationalized citizens of the United States.

Twenty four candidates from fifteen different countries took the oath at the Ulster County Court House. As usual it was a happy and moving event! Four League members participated: Nora Sherer, Deborah Marr, Cynthia Bell and Daisy Tyler.

Cynthia Bell included this in her report:

"Our fellow LWVMHR member and Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher spoke so honestly and eloquently to the newly naturalized citizens that I was moved to ask for a copy of her notes so I could share with our newsletter readers.

She graciously sent the following:

"Welcome fellow brave new Americans. It's my honor to be with you here today to express to you how encouraged I am to have you become citizens.

You are gaining citizenship at a time of great challenge for the United States of America. We face divisiveness and a lot of rhetoric about immigration that I want to address.

Our strength as a country has always come from the mosaic of our

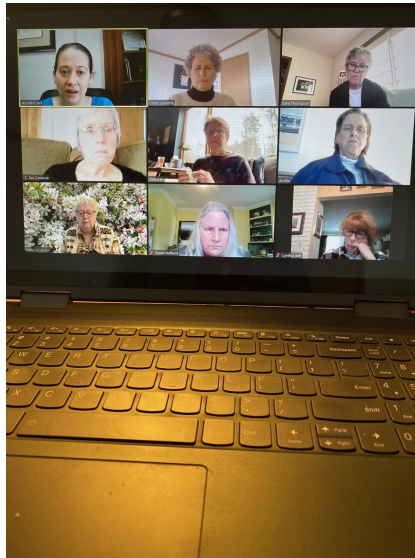
differences, our diversity. In Ulster County 7.2% of our population is foreign born and 11% of our community speaks a primary language other than English. As your Comptroller and the fiscal oversight for Ulster County, I can tell you that economists and financial analysts credit our immigration as an essential building block to our success as a nation.

Just last week Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank Jerome Powell submitted testimony to Congress that said “Strong job creation has been accompanied by an increase in the supply of workers, particularly among individuals aged 25 to 54, and a continued strong pace of immigration.” U.S. population increase in 2023 was driven by the most immigrants since 2001—and immigration will be the ‘main source of growth in the future.’

I am incredibly thankful for the sacrifice of my great grandparents who came to this county and worked plucking chickens and delivering newspapers. And thankful for the investments that federal, state and local government made in my family such as public education.

We will be making those investments in you. Your step in becoming a citizen today will better your life and your family’s life. At the same time, your citizenship will better our community. You are investing in us. I’m here to thank you for making that effort to bring your talent and resources as American Citizens. Thank you and welcome home.”

All members of the LWV (and the public) are welcome to participate in their county naturalization ceremonies, even if just an observer. It’s always worthwhile.”



LWVMHR Discusses Impact of Dobbs/Jackson Ruling

On March 19th, local League Members were able to learn about the 2022 Supreme Court Ruling in the Dobbs/Jackson Case and why it had such an impact on civil rights.

LWV Mid-Hudson Vice President and Attorney Jen Clark was able to break down the Court opinions based on Court history and precedent. In essence, the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization took away the constitutional right to privacy and bodily autonomy by giving states increased rights to limit and even outlaw abortions. Fortunately, the decision did not ban abortions nationwide.



*Assemblyman Chris Eachus at a visit
with League Members 2023*

LWV Mid-Hudson Visits Legislators

Assembly District 99, Christopher Eachus was visited by constituents on March 8, 2024. Assemblymember Eachus is largely in agreement with the League's legislative priorities and would welcome us on Advocacy Day on May 7.



We also have an archive of videos done by our local LWV Mid-Hudson on YouTube!

You can access them [here](#).

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Editor's Note:

We want you to know that we welcome your feedback with regard to anything you read in this newsletter, or items that you would like to see. We're here for you and would like to hear from you. Contact info@lwvmidhudson.org. Thanks. Next Newsletter deadline is April 21st.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website lwvmidhudson.org.

info@lwvmidhudson.org

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