



Newsletter August 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-

August

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

August 1st

12:00 PM

LWV Mid-Hudson Membership Committee Meeting

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88561290895?>

[pwd=IssuU7JX3DIphLbLBNnZUxWbaecAYN.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88561290895?pwd=IssuU7JX3DIphLbLBNnZUxWbaecAYN.1)

August 2nd

12:00 PM

Dutchess Meetup/

ERA Postcard Party

[Mahoney's](#)

Poughkeepsie

August 9th

Dutchess Naturalization Ceremony

100 new citizens!

August 12th

1:45 PM

Book Club

[Enzo's](#)

Kingston

August 16th

12:00 PM

Southern Tier Meetup/ERA Postcard Party

[Silk Factory](#)

Newburgh

August 20th**Board Meeting**

8 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87841231146?>

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

August 27th

6 to 7 PM

Walkway Over Hudson Event

"Women's Suffrage"

Live music

Save the Dates!

"What the Constitution Means to Me" by Heidi Schreck at the Rosendale Theatre Sept 26-29. More information will be forthcoming at the Rosendale website [HERE](#)



The Prez Says

I ended my last Prez Says with the words "Buckle up!" but I hardly could have imagined what the next few weeks would dish up – an attempted assassination on a former president and the stepping down from a second-term campaign by the current president being only two of the notable moments!

The board met only three days after the assassination attempt to plan for the most challenging election that most of us have ever seen. We are grateful for the meet-ups and the other ways in which we have been building a stronger community of members and volunteers, many of them new. We are grateful too for the way in which board members and others are eager to step up to the challenge of registering voters in all corners of our three counties – especially in the less likely places – and making sure voter information is widely available.

A key part of this work is strengthening our relationships with our libraries, SUNYs, and other key institutions and with many other membership



President Dare Thompson and Juanita Lewis

organizations doing election-related work. Our network has already been greatly enlarged by all those working statewide to educate voters about the NY-ERA ballot issue. AAUW, NAACP, Chambers of Commerce and other groups are frequent partners but I was pleased to connect, just today, with Juanita Lewis of Community Voices Heard (www.cvhaction.org) and Alpha Kappa Alpha, who works in the same counties we do.

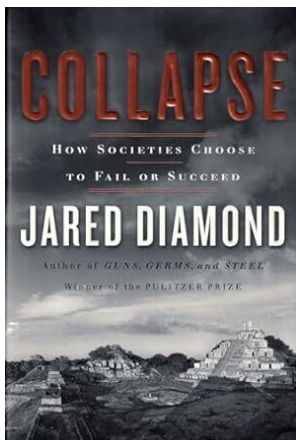
Issue-related work will be taking a bit of a backseat until November 6 and beyond, but we are still planning to have some opportunities to relax together and share what we're doing and learning. See the Newsletter Calendar [here](#) and watch for even more in the next newsletter.

Please also visit our Facebook page ([League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region](#)) and website (lwvmidhudson.org). The communications team is working hard to keep them helpful and lively.

Dare I say "Buckle Up" again? I'm guessing the surprises will only keep coming in this highly charged political climate. Let's all keep focused on the country's needs and keep things as civil as possible. We've been practicing for decades and it's never mattered more.

REMINDER: Dues were due July 1st but we are still collecting for this new year. If you haven't sent yours, please do so as soon as possible. Contact me or treasurer Cynthia.Bell2@aol.com with any concerns.

Dare
darethompson@gmail.com,
845-236-3074 (home)



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

August 12th

1:45 PM

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

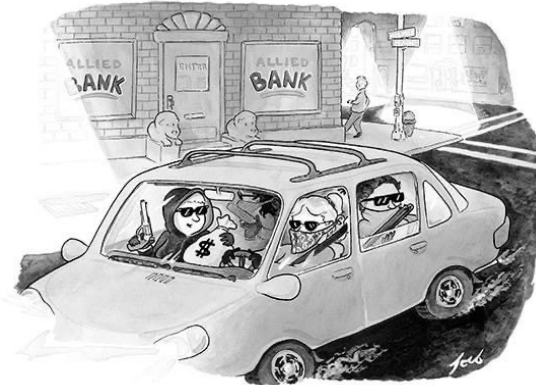
Because of illness, our July meeting was cancelled. We will discuss the book - "Collapse - How Societies Choose To Fail or Succeed" by the Pulitzer Prize winning author, Jared Diamond. Another superb example of what League members

are discussing.

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



“And to think that we started as a book group.”
New Yorker



Equal Rights for All - Update

by Louise Reavis & Cindy Lanzetta

The NY State Board of Elections has worked on a draft of the simple language for the New York State Constitutional Amendment ballot. The proposed wording:

Adds Certain Protections to the State Bill of Rights

Adds anti-discrimination provisions to State Constitution. Covers ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex, including sexual

orientation, gender identity and pregnancy. Also covers reproductive healthcare and autonomy.

A “YES” vote puts these protections against discrimination in the New York State Constitution.

A “NO” vote leaves these protections out of the State Constitution.

Public comments have been solicited and the final form should be available soon.

Our League is moving full steam ahead in our collaborative effort with New Yorkers for Equal Rights in educating the public about the amendment and ensuring that all voters understand the importance of passing it.

The New York ERA would significantly strengthen the protection of current laws aimed at giving women reproductive freedom as well as prohibit discrimination by government agencies that is related to gender, disability, age, ethnicity and sex or gender expression.

The Mid Hudson ERA task force is working with Voter Services to distribute information and we will be at the local LWVMHR Meetups to write postcards to encourage voters to turn their ballots over and vote! We are also working with Voters Services to engage partners like the NAACP, AAUW, the YWCA and local libraries in helping get the word out.

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

Regional Meetup Groups

Southern Tier:

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

We are going to be focusing, heavily, on Voter Services and educating groups about the upcoming ballot initiative for the New York State Constitutional Amendment for Equal Rights for All! Our next meeting will be at the [Silk Factory](#) in Newburgh, on August 16th at noon.

BRING YOUR PENS!



Postcard Party!

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Dutchess County

Dutchess County League members meet monthly for lunch at Mahoney's in Poughkeepsie. It's a great chance to talk about current issues, focus on what we can do to empower voters, and get to know each other.

Meetings are normally the second Friday of each month. However, in August, the second Friday is also the county naturalization ceremony at which we will host a voter registration table. So, **we will have our regular lunch on the FIRST Friday in August (August 2). This month we will be writing postcards to our neighbors in support of the NY Equal Rights Amendment. We have a script, addresses, stamps, pens, and postcards.** All are welcome - so bring your friends! Let us know if you can join us - faycasatuta@gmail.com



Don't forget to check out the most recent report about the Dutchess County Legislature Meeting. Our League Observer, Jane Simkin Smith, talks about the contentious public hearing regarding the proposed homeless shelter for Poughkeepsie. This report can be found [HERE](#).

We are looking for additional Legislative Observers for Ulster & Orange Counties. Let us know if this might be for you?

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Environmental Impact

Creating a throw-away culture: How companies ingrained plastics in modern life

Just for a minute, think about how much of the plastic you use today will end up as trash. Drink bottles? Grocery bags? Food wrappers? If you live in the United States, it'll probably add up to about a pound of stuff — just today.

Most plastic is dumped in landfills or becomes pollution in places like rivers and oceans, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Along the way, it sheds microplastics that can make their way into animals and people. Just 4% of plastic in the U.S. is recycled.

It wasn't always this way.

Learn more about this issue [HERE](#) at NPR!

Another good source of information is BEYONDPLASTICS.ORG, started by the well respected environmentalist Judith Enck.



Photo by Greenpeace

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News



Walkway Program Highlighting Women's Suffrage August 27th

From Pat Lamanna

The program on Women's Suffrage that Lydia Adams Davis and I were set to present in June on the west side of the Walkway Over the Hudson was rained out.

Fortunately, The Walkway had an open date that they offered us. On Tuesday, August 27, from 6-7 p.m., we will present a short show consisting of songs of the Women's Suffrage Movement, followed by a song swap of our own original and favorite songs. Since the 19th Amendment was certified on August 26, 1920, there could hardly be a more auspicious day for this presentation.

I hope you can join us! Bring voter registration forms with you, and maybe we can get some voters registered!



REPRESENT!

Voters Services is gearing up to hit the ground running in September. We are lining up opportunities for service. Orange County Voter Service Coordinator Leslie Simons & friends are already covering the weekly Cornwall Farmers Market. Soon LWVMHR members will receive regular emails for volunteer slots for Voter Registration. Watch your mail!

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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 August 26st.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website <https://lwvmidhudson.org/newsletters/>

info@lwvmidhudson.org

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