



Newsletter June 2021

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Action Items



Think Local!

Members: check your recently received League Telephone List. Try contacting one or two of your League neighbors and discuss how you can collaborate on local issues.

Mid-Hudson Fuel Buying Co-op

The League, of course, is interested in sustainable energy



**MID-HUDSON
FUEL BUYING CO-OP**

resources for all. The non-profit Mid-Hudson Fuel Buying Co-op, now in its eighth year, as well as promoting energy efficiency and conservation, offers discounted prices on fuel oil, propane and kerosene to its members. [CLICK HERE](#) to view their prices for the next winter season. Annual membership applications are available only in the month of July.



March to Re-Unit Families

Every Thursday since May 2018, this group meets in Poughkeepsie to advocate for reuniting migrant children with their families and for closing the

detention camps. The group marches from 12-1 p.m. The group also assists immigrant families obtain food and other social services as the needs arise. [CLICK HERE](#) to see "Reunite Migrant Families" on Facebook, or contact Pat Lamanna, patla42@gmail.com.

What Would You Like to Do?

We'd like to know which areas you'd like the League to pursue in the coming year, and how you'd like to assist in these efforts. Please take a look at this survey on our website by [CLICKING HERE](#), and respond to lwvmidhudson@gmail.com.



Born This Way

TMI Project (Too Much



Information), along with The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, present "Born This Way/Stories of Identity," June 30th, 7-9:30. Honor the last day of Pride Month by listening to

heartfelt stories of the need for personal recognition, first and foremost as a human being. Register [BY CLICKING HERE](#) for this Zoom event.

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The Prez says...

What a joy it was to see everyone who made it to our 2021 Annual Meeting at the historic Milton Train Station! I am truly grateful to everyone who made it such a happy event. From Maura's poetry to Pat Lamanna's music, to tasty food, beautiful surroundings and the extraordinary fellowship of our community of members and friends, it really was an evening to remember.



To all who have renewed their membership, I thank you so much for taking the time. As a grassroots organization, our strength is in our membership and whether you are currently active or not, each of you makes a real difference to our effectiveness as a credible non-governmental political group. If you have not renewed yet, please take a moment to do so. [CLICK HERE](#) to

renew. Anyone who may be struggling with the financial aspect of membership should know that there is help here. Please contact us to find out more.

Best wishes to our departing board members, Dorothy Winrow, who has been a solid part of the backbone of our League for many years, and Kathy OConnor, without whom you would have no newsletter to read today. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new board members, Sheba Abraham, Tori Alexander, Emilie Hauser, Cindy Lanzetta and Peg Nau (who is taking a leave of absence until mid-November). I am so optimistic about the year ahead!

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who helped us through these most challenging times. We learned new ways to communicate, be active and stay involved. Some of these changes will go by the wayside as we no longer require them, but some will stay with us for the future. I intend to continue to hold board and some committee meetings virtually.

Collaborations with our sister Leagues and others as well as hybrid candidate events will also continue. I do plan to travel through our expansive geographic territory to help create a few regional hubs so our members can have more opportunities to affect change in their own communities. Please come to the one nearest you—I would love to chat about what matters most in your neighborhood. Keep an eye out for the schedule. It will be available as we make plans for the next year's program.

In League,
Cindy Bell, President
LWV Mid-Hudson Region

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In Memoriam - SHERRET CHASE



*Sherret Spaulding Chase,
Photo Daily Freeman*

League member Sherret (Sherry) Chase died June 7, 2021, just weeks shy of his 103rd birthday. He was a fascinating man, always welcome at League gatherings where his daughter Helen was kind enough to escort him.

An inquisitive scientist from the outset, Sherry made a lifelong pursuit into the arena of plant genetics. His discoveries had great impact on the scientific world and the ability to provide more food for more people in a shorter timespan.

His most notable accomplishment here in the Hudson Valley was as the founder and first President of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development in Arkville, NY. Read more about his life by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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News Items

IF YOU MISSED
OUR ANNUAL
MEETING

(or even if you



Board members (l to r) Dare Thompson (current), Emilie Hauser, Cindy Lanzetta (new), Pat Lamanna, (Nom Committee), Maura O'Meara, Sheba Abraham and Tori Alexander (new). Not shown new board member Peg Nau.

did not)

The LWV Mid-Hudson Annual Meeting was held June 16th in the delightful setting of the historic Milton Train Station, the center of what will become Milton Landing

once the new pier is constructed next year, and a long term project of new board member Cindy Lanzetta and her husband, Al. It was good to see several of our new members from Orange county there as well as many from both Ulster and Dutchess counties.

We welcome the following new LWVMHR board members who were elected to a two year term: **Peg Nau, Cindy Lanzetta, Emilie Hauser, Sheba Abraham and Tori Alexander.**

Kathy OConnor (founder and editor of this newsletter), **Dorothy Winrow** and **Joanie Metzler** are stepping away from the board, but not away from the League.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out our new slate of board members, and [HERE](#) for some info on our arriving and departing board members.

To read more about our annual meeting, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Recap of the NYS Convention

Dare Thompson has written an excellent summary of her experience at this year's NYS LWV online convention. [CLICK HERE](#) to read it. You can also access almost all the convention discussions and resolutions by [CLICKING HERE](#)



NYS Capitol, courtesy of WAMC

NYS Legislative Update

Despite the work for Covid relief and the distracting scandals emanating from the Governor's mansion, the legislature did pass some significant legislation, including major voting rights legislation which was strongly

advocated by the League.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, voting rights were finally strengthened with two constitutional amendments (which we will vote on in November), to allow no-excuse absentee voting and same day voting registration. There will also be a permanent online request portal for absentee ballots, online absentee ballot tracking, and requirements to expedite the counting of absentee ballots. Other bills that passed increased the number of early voting poll sites per county and allowed those on parole to vote. Boards of Election across the state got over \$32million to enact these new rules. Separately, the state's first Independent Redistricting Commission finally got \$4m funding to start its work.

The NY Healthcare Act did not come to a vote, but an important healthcare related bill was passed, ensuring safe staffing for

hospitals and nursing homes.

Another constitutional amendment was passed to make clean air and water a state constitutionally protected right; it will also be on the ballot in November.

Senator Michelle Hinchey sponsored a bill, currently on the Governor's desk, that should help get broadband access to underserved rural areas. The bill requires that utility poles be accessible to cable and internet providers with shared costs, thus cutting some of the enormous current cost of delivering broadband in some areas.

Opening of Kingston African Burial Ground

On Saturday Juneteenth 2021, Harambee's Pine St African Burial Ground in Kingston was officially opened to the public. There was drumming, singing, speeches, honoring the ancestors in the ground, anticipating community events to come there, vendors galore, fantastic music, dancing, and a final Frederick Douglas monologue. Kudos to all who made this project a reality. Be sure to visit this wonderful museum at 157 Pine Street, and check out their website by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Harambee Founder and Chief Executive Officer Tyrone Wilson with Rep Antonio Delgado

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[Environmental Impact - a series by Cindy Bell](#)

The League has been a strong supporter of this UCRRA (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency) **ZERO WASTE**

SEMINAR PROJECT and we urge members to spread the word about these online seminars within your own community and with interested local

legislators. This is a community engagement project celebrating **Plastic Free July** and the many ways we can prevent pollution from our waste. Click on the links below for information about each seminar.



Understanding the Waste-Climate Connection JULY 7 @ 12:00 PM - 1:30PM virtual [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register

Reduce, Reuse, Refill, Rethink! JULY 13 @ 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM virtual [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register

Up-cycling Art for Kids! (ages 6-13yrs) JULY 14 @ 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM in person event at Robert E. Post Park Pavilion, Town of Ulster, limited class. No fee. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register

Business Leadership Summit JULY 21 @ 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM virtual [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register

Small Plastics, Big Impact: How Plastics Are Impacting Our Local Waterways JULY 26 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM virtual [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register

Reuse It, Re-gift It, Repair It! JULY 28 @ 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM virtual [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register

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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 lwvmidhudson@gmail.com. Thanks.

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

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