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Action Items



LWVMHR Book Club meetings north and south

Who doesn't enjoy reading a good book? And, as the New York Times Book Review shows, we even enjoy reading about a good book. That's

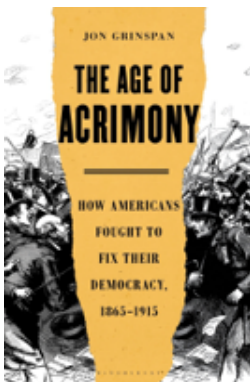
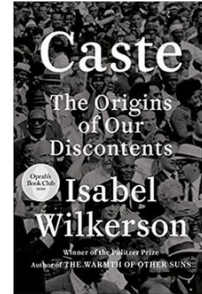
why, whether you've had the chance to read the book or not, we encourage you to come to one, or both, of our Book Club get-togethers in September. It's a fun way to meet other League members and discuss issues raised in our book choices. Check out the Kingston venue and a new venture in Newburgh for those of us in southern Dutchess and Orange county. We encourage members to seek out the book selections through the library system or purchase from local book sellers. If you'd like to patronize the Barking Goose Bookstore, you can order at

Tuesday, September 14th, 1:45pm

at Enzo's Restaurant, 207 Boices Lane, Kingston

A return to regular meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. Join Daisy Tyler and fellow League members for lunch & a discussion about **“Caste - The Origins of Our Discontent”** by Isabel

Wilkerson. *“Wilkerson’s book is a powerful, illuminating and heartfelt account of how hierarchy reproduces itself, as well as a call to action for the difficult work of undoing it.”*—Kenneth W. Mack, The Washington Post



Wednesday, September 22nd, 5:30pm at Barking Goose Bar & Café, 16 North Plank Rd., Newburgh. Join Cindy Lanzetta and League members for a Happy Hour discussion about **“The Age of Acrimony-How Americans Fought to Fix Their Democracy, 1865-1915”** by Smithsonian Historian Jon Grinspan. *“This is history at its very best: vivid, propulsive*

storytelling about the past and, at the same time, a vigorous and persuasive argument about the present, for anyone seeking to understand today’s political landscape.” Adam Goodheart, bestselling author of *“1861-The Civil War Awakening”*

Check out the NYS Redistricting Commission

**Monday, August 2 at 2:00pm,
Redistricting Commission meeting**

for the Mid Hudson and Capital Region online. [CLICK HERE](#) for information about joining and/or testifying in person or by written submission. You can also view earlier meetings. As you know, the Commission is tasked with setting district boundaries for representatives from New York State to the US House of Representatives, and for both houses of the New York State legislature. If you remember Dare's article in the March newsletter and the People Powered Fair Maps - Civics 101 that LWVMHR co-sponsored with various local organizations, you will know how important it is to keep an eye on the State Redistricting Commission (now that it is finally funded), as well as the local county Commissions.



Frederick Douglass Speech of 1858

Sunday, Aug 1st, 2:00-5:00 pm at College Hill Park, 149 N Clinton, Poughkeepsie. No fee.

After portraying George Washington in the first national tour of *Hamilton*, performer Paul Oakley Stovall developed an avid interest in the abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass. Celebrating the African Spirit presents the actor as he recites the Emancipation Day speech Douglass delivered to an audience of several thousand at Poughkeepsie's College Hill Park in August of 1858. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information

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The Prez says...

Greetings of the Summer to you all-

We had our local League's Board Planning and Orientation last week and went over League policies and plans for the coming year. It was a hybrid meeting, Zoom and in-person, which had its own set of challenges, but we managed to get quite a bit done. The coming year is full of promise, and I came away impressed at the quality of our board's skills and interest in bringing forth the League's mission anew in the coming months. We welcomed our newly appointed secretary Emilie Hauser and bid a sad farewell to Joanie Metzler, who will continue her League activities with our Observer Corps. We will be forever grateful for Joanie's willingness to step in to help during one of the most difficult periods in our history.



Our new fiscal year has begun and many of our members have already renewed. I thank those who have sent in their membership dues and our committee plans to follow up on members who missed the notice. I encourage anyone reading this to renew via our [website](#) or post office as soon as is convenient. Our membership is our strength and we have become stronger than ever through the pandemic.

We have a real presence in Dutchess County for the first time in several years. Our Observer Corps is gearing up for in-person meetings once again on both sides of the river and invite any member to join the ranks of the 'in crowd' with their local

governments. An Observer Training is being planned for September in Dutchess County, with the details in our next newsletter. We are looking forward to shared activities with our new Orange County members as well.

In New York State news, significant election laws - from restoring voting rights to people on parole, to passing constitutional amendments allowing no-excuse absentee voting, as well as same-day registration, are being implemented this year. [CLICK HERE](#) for details. This is a far cry from the voting challenges some states are facing.

“Plastic-free July” (see article below) helped foster an increasing awareness of the real cost of plastic, including what I consider this most disturbing fact—every piece of plastic ever created is still in existence. Ulster County and New York State governmental agencies are leaders in working for solutions to negative climate changes and the considerable issues surrounding our health, fiscal responsibility and stewardship of our land and its wildlife, while being fiscally responsible and supportive of citizens of all economic and cultural backgrounds. The League of Women Voters of New York State has been vocal in promoting best practices and action required through the new [Climate Emergency position](#) this year, - you can learn more about that in our News section below. We continue to strive through word and deed to help heal the earth and tip the balance of healing in our favor.

Up next:

August is [LWVUS's Civic Health Month](#). This is a national, month-long event to focus the nation's attention on the strong connections between health care, healthy communities, and civic participation. The aim of this initiative is to make voting and civic participation accessible to all – particularly those

underserved by the health care system. If you have a connection to a healthcare organization, we want to help set up a Voter Registration and Civic Education event at your location. Please let us know via our email lwvmidhudson@gmail.com

In League,

Cindy Bell

LWV Mid-Hudson Region

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News Items



left to right: Kate Hymes, Zara St. Croix, Leslie Simons

Voter Registration in Newburgh

On July 24th, the League was able to offer Voter Information and Registration at “Community Appreciation Day” in Newburgh.

Thanks to volunteers Kate Hymes, Zara St. Croix, Leslie Simons and Cindy Lanzetta, our first foray into Orange

County was quite successful. We were able to connect with many community groups working in the Newburgh area and let them know that we have expanded our range to be of assistance with League activities. Anyone who can volunteer for this important work should email lwvmidhudson@gmail.com or reach out to Kate Hymes for more information.

Ulster County Board of

**Elections sets up
'Voting for Kids' and
more**



VOTING
for Kids



Fun filled activity book

(Grade 1-5) is available on the [website](#), together with a website for students and teachers. Resources for college students include a Best Practices guide for setting up Voter Registration drives.

The "I VOTED" sticker contest is in its final stages, with Ulster residents [able to vote](#) in July on the five finalist designs, winner to be announced in August and the winning sticker to be distributed to voters in November.

The BOE also has a flyer, available to [download](#), showing details of early voting places and times in Ulster County.



MID-HUDSON
REGION

LWVMHR programs

The annual Program Planning Meeting in July reviewed feedback from our annual

meeting and identified the following high interest activities:

- Voter Services Events
- Writing to Elected Officials
- Protecting Natural Resources
- International Issues
- Social Policy Change
- Candidate Events.

We plan to inch back into live events but will allow for remote viewing where possible.

Upcoming events in the fall - details in future newsletters:

The Women and the Voting Rights with Historic Huguenot Street,

on September 18th

Confidence in the Election System panel on October 7th, with Ulster County BOE Commissioners to be held at Studio 89 in Highland and hosted by LWVMHR.

We hope to distribute educational materials to members connected to schools, please email if you are interested

lwvmidhudson@gmail.com

We expect to host county level candidate forums in the run up to the election, more details later.



LWVNYS declares Climate Emergency

At its 2021 biennial convention, the New York State League members unanimously adopted a [resolution declaring climate change an emergency](#). In doing so the state League joins the state Leagues of Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts and Oregon who have passed similar resolutions. These Declarations acknowledge that humanity is in a climate emergency and encourage governments to plan next steps for climate change mitigation. NYS advises the League's 46 local chapters to implore state and local governments to adopt and publicize Declarations of Climate Emergency. Of the three counties in LWVMHR, only the Ulster County Legislature has declared a Climate Emergency in October 2019.

Women Power Democracy -

A national program launched by the League to advance a stronger, more representative American

democracy. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

This is a 4-pronged approach to tackle systemic challenges:



DEMOCRACY TRUTH PROJECT

Countering mis- and disinformation and advancing better public understanding of the democratic and electoral process.

EXPAND THE FRANCHISE Increasing voter participation through VOTE411.org and voter registration, education, and mobilization programs, with a focus on underrepresented populations or low-propensity voters.

DEMOCRACY DEFENSE FUND

Protecting voting rights and advancing a more equitable democracy through advocacy and voter protection efforts.

PEOPLE POWERED FAIR MAPS™

Leading with advocacy, public education, and organizing to create fair, transparent, people-powered processes and eliminate partisan and racial gerrymandering in states during the 2021 redistricting process.

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Environmental Impact - a series by Cindy Bell

Many of us have heard of **Plastic Free July**, [CLICK HERE](#) for a quick video

But how, when, and where did it get started? In 2011, an Australian woman

named Rebecca Prince-Ruiz decided to do something about the all the plastic waste she saw and began building a movement. With help from her local government in Western Australia and a handful of friends, [Plastic Free July](#) was born. This small local campaign



resonated with many, leading to the formation of the [Plastic Free Foundation](#). The foundation's vision is to see a world without plastic waste by improving recycling and dramatically reducing plastics. Today, over 120 million people, in 177 countries around the world, share that vision and have made July a month of awareness and action. People take the opportunity to examine their own and others' consumption (literally!) of plastics and learn to make changes, educate others and work toward more conscious consumerism. Plastic Free has become a way of life many of us strive for and it took the commitment of just one person to get the ball rolling.

To see some practical and creative ways in which people around the world have actually stopped using plastics [CLICK 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 lwvmidhudson@gmail.com. Thanks.

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

lwvmidhudson@gmail.com

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