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## Action Items



### **LWVMHR Book Club meetings north and south**

Kick off the fall with a good book discussion! Meet other League members and share your thoughts on important subjects. We have a

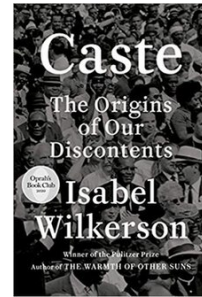
luncheon meeting in Kingston and a new “Happy Hour” get-together in Newburgh - come to one or both. Haven’t read the book? No problem - the discussion will be spirited either way!

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 [barkinggoosebookbar@gmail.com](mailto:barkinggoosebookbar@gmail.com)

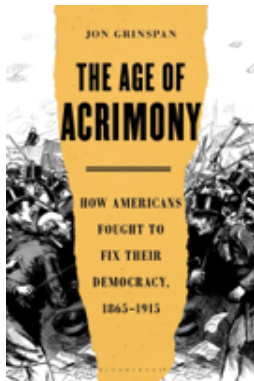
**Tuesday, September 14th, 1:45pm**

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.** “A surprising and arresting wide-angle reframing . . . Her epilogue feels like a prayer for a country in pain, offering new directions through prophetic language.”—Bilal Qureshi, 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.

—“Democracy was broken. Or that was what many Americans believed in the decades after the Civil War. This is the origin story of the ‘normal’ politics of the twentieth century.” (Inside jacket)

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## **Ranked Voting**

"This summer's New York City primary election was the largest Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) city election in U.S. history. The turn-out was the highest for a primary election in 32 years, with over 942,000 votes cast for mayor."



Read more of the article by Victoria Alexander about this experimental way of voting in New York by going to the [League website](#)

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### **UN & International Update**

Chief United Nations Observer for the League, Rosalee Keech, has stepped down from the position she held for 10 years. Because of her devotion to League issues like Human Rights and World Peace, Ms. Keech elevated the

League to a well-recognized organization at the UN.

Our new Chief UN Observer is Dr. Connie Sobon Sensor. Along with Observers Paulette Austin, Jane Colvin, Sarah Hirsch, Dr. Madeline Motta, and Robin Tokmakian the League is well represented.

Read more about this and the UN health initiatives in the update [by Sheba Abraham](#)

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### **The Prez says...**

It has been an eventful summer, spending much more time this year with friends and family, traveling and appreciating anew our opportunity to be

mobile and together again. While at home, the Olympics this month provided us with inspiration and respect for the physical strength, stamina and the depth of character it takes as well as a fresh look at mental health issues and the honest fragility of those superhuman Olympians.



Speaking of fragility, I was dismayed that Governor Cuomo, who kept us updated daily with pandemic status and news, would resign in disgrace a year later. [See LWWNY's statement here](#). If there is some good to come from this, it may be that Kathy Hochul, tireless advocate for women's issues as well as many other important initiatives, will be taking the helm to lead us through these difficult times. We're looking forward to the positive change she will bring to New York State.

While our state government has been front and center of the headlines, it is time to focus on our many local races this year. We have participated in just a couple of events so far and looking forward to picking up the pace as election day approaches. Any of you interested in creating or supporting an event in your area, please contact Sally Colclough through the League's email to find out how.

Our Voter Service team has some new tools to support voters. Our new Voter Guide outlines all 5 statewide propositions on the ballot this year and is at the printer as I write this. You can download and print your own using the link in this newsletter, stop by a voter registration table or send an email to us to get the guide by mail. Ulster County has a brand-new educational coloring book for children that will be available soon.

A last reminder to renew your membership. Our members are our strength-- and we need every one of you!

Thank you, as always, for your commitment to a better tomorrow.

In League,  
Cindy Bell  
LWV Mid-Hudson Region

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## News Items



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

### **New York State Voter Guides**

Check out the Voter Guide information available on the State website:

[Voter Guide 1](#)

[Voter Guide 2](#)

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**Ulster County Board of Elections sets up 'Voting for Kids' and more**



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.



### **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.

### **Events in the fall - details in future newsletters:**

From our Program Committee:

"We regret to inform our membership that we are postponing the event previously scheduled for Saturday, Sept 18th at Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz focusing on the path of Women's Suffrage. We are so disappointed that we are unable to have the walking tour, historical presentation and luncheon at this time but we are very dedicated to finding a place in this year's

calendar to hold the in person event when conditions are better suited. Thank you for your continued interest.

We are preparing a strategic approach to the National Voter Registration Day on September 28th. If you have an idea for a great non-partisan location which could benefit from having voter registration materials on hand for this annual event, please let Maura know at [omeara6076@gmail.com](mailto:omeara6076@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:lwvmidhudson@gmail.com)

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



**League of Women Voters of New York  
State Statement In Response to Attorney  
General James' Report on Governor  
Cuomo**

“We stand with the women who came forward to tell their story and commend them for their tremendous bravery. Attorney General James’ office has completed a thorough, independent, and detailed investigation which they believe shows credible evidence that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed multiple staff members and members of the public. It is unconscionable that Governor Cuomo has made statements minimizing the experiences of his victims and sexual harassment survivors everywhere. This is unacceptable.

The League of Women Voters of New York State calls on the Legislature to carry out its constitutional responsibility and hold Governor Cuomo accountable for his actions.”

Members can find a copy of [the Attorney General's Report here](#).

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## Environmental Impact - a series by Cindy Bell

### Climate Smart Communities

There are numerous benefits to receiving Climate Smart designation for your town including a better, healthier life for citizens with improved water and air quality, more places to walk and enjoy a more diverse and pleasing natural environment. Financial benefits include savings on utility bills and lower costs of damaging weather remediation, a more sustainable economic future through green businesses and practices as well as a more attractive environment for tourists and travelers. This is to name just a few.



Currently, there are 343 registered communities with 9,428,292 citizens living better lives, 63 of them Bronze Certified and 7 Silver Certified. To start the process to get your community on board, speak with your local government and ask them to pass a resolution to pledge their commitment to becoming a Registered Climate Smart Community. There are excellent resources to



assist concerned citizens in this process, followed by complete guidelines and information on how to proceed once the resolution is in place and a contact person is established.

As League members, you might use the power behind our Climate Emergency position passed at Convention this year. [See it here.](#)

Bard College students recently made an outstanding presentation to the Town of Ulster, [see it here.](#)

For more information and support on how to work with your local governments, please email our League and we can help you get started

Cindy Bell

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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](mailto:lwvmidhudson@gmail.com). Thanks.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website [lwvmidhudson.org](http://lwvmidhudson.org).

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