



Newsletter October 2023

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The Prez says ...



When you read this, our wine-tasting meeting at Whitecliff Winery on September 29th may already have passed, and we thank owner (and LWV member) Yancey Migliore for treating us to the wine and the beautiful location. We have many members (and their guests) signed up and we

should have some great pictures to share in the next newsletter.

This event provides a happy breather from a lot of hard work, by so many members, as we register voters and collect information for our Vote411 website coordinated by our state and national LWV levels.

We are also helping out at even more naturalization ceremonies now that Dutchess County, as well as Ulster, have us distributing copies of our "First Vote" flyer and other voting information at their events.

There have been so many members involved in the above, we won't try to name them here except to give a special shout out to Lisa Bretherick in Dutchess, Louise Reavis in Orange, and Deborah Marr in Ulster for taking on Vote 411 for the first time, and to Daisy Tyler in Ulster and Pat Lamanna in Dutchess for coordinating the naturalization ceremonies in their counties.

VOTE411 is challenging and time-consuming work, especially in a year that includes so many local races, but we hope to "go live" on October 5.

If - once the site is up and running - you see candidates you care about with no information posted, contact them! It is up to them to respond to our request and post their answers to our questions and we make it as easy as we can.

We are already responding to requests to moderate candidate events.

A moderating training on zoom will be held at 5 pm on October 9th for those of you who might want to be the moderator, help gather the audiences' questions, or be a timekeeper. See more details and a [zoom link](#) elsewhere in this newsletter.

Above all, watch for all the information you can find on the candidates who want to represent YOU. Be a fully-informed voter yourself!

Dare Thompson

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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-

October

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

October 4th

12:00 PM

LWV Mid-Hudson Membership Committee Meeting

Zoom link:



[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84179974295?
pwd=S1U0bEZ5TjFJcWp1UituUEVWcmw5dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84179974295?pwd=S1U0bEZ5TjFJcWp1UituUEVWcmw5dz09)

October 9th

6 PM

League Moderator Workshop

Zoom

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982936305?
pwd=H4YxxqMVypr7a1a5hzkjjau76YDfbq.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982936305?pwd=H4YxxqMVypr7a1a5hzkjjau76YDfbq.1)

October 16th

1:45 PM

LWVMHR Book Club

[Enzo's Restaurant](#)

Kingston

October 19th

5 PM

LWVMHR Board Meeting

Zoom link:

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

October 20th

12:00 PM

Southern Tier Meeting

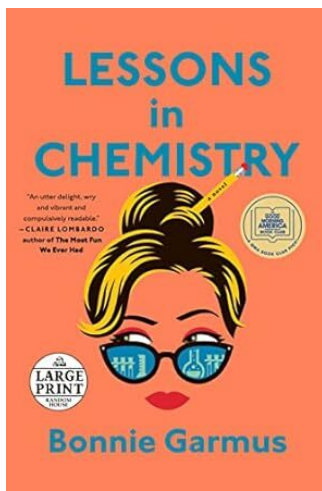
[The Silk Factory](#)

Newburgh

LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

October 16th

1:45pm



Lessons In Chemistry

by Bonnie Garmus.

From the New York Times:

“ In the 1950s, Elizabeth Zott’s dream of being a scientist is challenged by society that says women belong in the domestic sphere. She accepts a job on a TV cooking show and sets out to teach a nation of housewives ways more than recipes.”

Does it sound familiar or have expectations changed in 2023?

Note: The Book Club meets at 1:45pm monthly on the listed Mondays at [Enzo’s Ristorante](#) in Kingston.

All members are welcome to join. 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

WANT TO HELP WITH CANDIDATE EVENTS?

Find out all the ways you can help at **5 pm on Monday, October 9th on Zoom**

While the moderator is the most visible



role for a League member to play at a candidate event, timekeepers and those gathering questions from the audience are also very important. Hear how these jobs all work together to maintain our League reputation for fairness and integrity and consider participating yourself.

You probably know that the League is famous for debates. We even started presidential debates with the much talked-about televised one with Kennedy and Nixon, and you still occasionally hear people say with a sigh, "I wish the League of Women Voters were still doing these!" We gave the presidential ones up when the parties were making it impossible to run them by our rules. But we ARE still doing them at the state and local level.

Join this Zoom workshop and learn how to be part of the action.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982936305?
pwd=H4YxxqMVypr7a1a5hzkjjau76YDfbq.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83982936305?pwd=H4YxxqMVypr7a1a5hzkjjau76YDfbq.1)

Meeting ID: 839 8293 6305, Passcode: 340032



ERA Update

The New York State League of Women Voters is an active partner in the effort to pass a 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.

On September 5th, our local LWVMHR representatives listened to a lively meeting of the State League ERA Task Force. A representative of the State League Rural Task Force put forth the following suggestions for consideration:

"Create "snapshots" of a broad range of real people whose lives would be affected by the amendment. These could be used for flyers or social media posts.

Create animated video "vignettes" featuring situations where the Amendment which could be utilized by a diverse (in every sense) range of New Yorkers. Perhaps groups with local "boots on the ground" could reach out to area colleges where student groups or digital media classes could develop such videos.

Supply one-pagers providing more detail on the various aspects of the amendment, including the disability piece, the rights of the aging, protections for freedom of religion, for equal treatment of all races, as well as for gender/sex rights. The protections for those of all ethnicities and countries of origin can be framed for use in rural areas too. For example, we have many migrant farm workers whose advocates could be addressed as part of this messaging, as could supporters of the victims of human trafficking, which is a problem along the northern border.

Encourage Campaign participants to reach out to trusted messengers in the communities they want to reach.

The League is perfectly positioned to both be such a messenger and to do this outreach. So are faith communities and statewide organizations like the NAACP, the Poor People's Campaign, United Way, and Make the Road NY.

Suggestions for other organizations to involve in community outreach should include Offices of the Aging, Community Health Centers, Planned Parenthood clinics (in rural areas these are sometimes the only local source of reproductive healthcare), Occupational Health Clinical Centers; disability rights groups like United Cerebral Palsy; LGBTQ+ groups in communities or on campuses; unions like SEIU, AFT, UUP and AAUP."

These suggestions will be offered in continuing discussions. The public campaign is still in the development phase. Stay tuned!

Check out this website:

<https://nyequalrights.org/>

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

We hope to begin meeting regularly to prepare for the campaign in 2024. In the meantime, read the info on the website and watch this space!

Regional Meetup Groups

Southern Tier:
This group is made up of members from Orange County, Southern Dutchess County,



and Southern
Ulster County. All
League members are welcome to attend!

Silk Factory, Newburgh

Our next regular meeting will be October 20th, noon, at the [Silk Factory](#). All League members & friends are welcome to attend!

VOTE411 Info!

This website enables all voters to simply type in their address and instantly have access to all the voting information they could possibly



need from how and where to register in their area, to finding out what races are on their ballot (national, state, county and local town or village), even information from candidates about their stand on important issues and recordings of any debates that have occurred.

Our LWVMHR has teams working on getting info for VOTE411. This is the latest update for Orange County:

"Great news! We have sent 86 email invitations to candidates (and received several responses!) and in the next couple days will send out 49 more by snail mail to cover all contested races. This means that there are 58 candidates in uncontested races that won't receive an invitation in Orange County. So we are on track to publish our data for the first time in this election cycle towards the end of next week which is almost a month before the election.

Thanks for your help thus far. The next step will be to follow-up with candidates who haven't responded and to advertise VOTE411 and get the word out to the voting public. Stay tuned!"

If you want to help you can contact

Louise Reavis at

louise.reavis@gmail.com for Orange County

Deborah Marr at

debmar38@gmail.com for Ulster County

Lisa Bretherick

lisabretherick@gmail.com for Dutchess County

Thank you!

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Environmental Impact

In place of Cynthia Bell's usual column we have a release by **Riverkeeper** curated by Kathie Beinkafner:



An International Disaster Planned by the State of New York and Province of Quebec:

The Champlain Hudson Power Express
From Riverkeeper:

General Electric dumped an estimated 1.3 million pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the Hudson River between 1947 and 1977. The PCB discharges came from two GE capacitor manufacturing plants located in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, New York, about 50 miles north of Albany.

In 1973, the Fort Edward Dam was removed from the upper Hudson River causing large amounts of contaminated sediments to wash downstream and settled throughout the Hudson River.

In 1984, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classified a 200-mile stretch of the Hudson River, from Hudson Falls to the Battery in New York City, as a federal Superfund site. To this day, the Hudson River is the largest Superfund site in the country.

Though a landmark dredging project removed PCBs from select areas of concentrated pollution known as “hotspots” in a 40-mile stretch of the Upper Hudson north of Troy from 2009 to 2015, a significant amount of PCBs remained in the river upon completion of the project.

Scientific studies are showing that cleanup efforts have not succeeded to the degree projected, and the spread of PCBs down the Hudson River has only increased over time. The dredging has had little to no effect on PCB levels in fish below the Troy dam.

GE’s PCBs are still found at dangerous levels in sediment, water, and wildlife throughout the Hudson River ecosystem as far south as New York Harbor and remain a health hazard to those who eat the fish.

Women under 50 and children under 15 are advised by the New York State Health Department not to eat fish from anywhere in the

river south of the Corinth Dam to New York City. Others are advised to limit their consumption of fish and crabs. Such restrictions place a disproportionate burden on individuals in environmental justice communities who rely on the fish as a food source. These injustices will persist for generations.

The Hudson Seven: Towns of Esopus, Hyde Park, Lloyd, Poughkeepsie, and Rhinebeck as well as Village of Rhinebeck and City of Poughkeepsie get either all of their drinking water from the Hudson River or a large portion of the water for the population.

The New York State Public Service Commission has approved of a project called the Champlain Hudson Power Express to lay electric lines from Quebec through the trench plowed in the bottom sediments of the Champlain Lake and Canal and the Hudson River to Queens, NYC.

In order to provide electricity for New York City, the State of New York is willing to poison people in the Mid-Hudson Valley with PCBs in the river water. The Governor of NY last week went off to some ribbon cutting on the end point of the power line.

Alternative Landline: This power line does not have to be laid in the sediments of the contaminated Hudson River, they could use a landline and lay the cable down the right of way of the New York State Northway and the Thruway to the west of the proposed water route and cross the Hudson River under or on the new Tappan Zee Bridge.

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News Items



LWVMHR PRESENT AT NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

On Wednesday, August 30, four members of the League tabled at a Naturalization Ceremony that took place in front of the Roosevelt Mansion in Hyde Park. It was sponsored by the National Park Service.

Forty-five new citizens checked in with the

Immigration Service, and were then directed to our table to pick up a large envelope containing a voter registration form, a “First Vote” pamphlet, Voter Guide, and brochures explaining the right to vote for various populations: disabled, college students, etc. All seemed excited and grateful to receive the materials. One said, “that’s why I’m becoming a citizen, so I can vote!” The keynote speaker, a man from Kenya, declared that he will be voting for the first time in his life.

The program was held under a large tent on a day that started rainy but turned sunny and beautiful. Following the swearing-in, local politicians offered their congratulations. As their names were called, one by one each person came to the front to receive a

certificate. New citizens were photographed by relatives and loved ones as they proudly held their certificates, with the home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the background.

This was only the second time in recent memory that members of LWVMHR attended a swearing-in ceremony in Dutchess County. On August 4, Pat Lamanna, Richard Mattocks and Sheba Abraham were present for a ceremony at the Fishkill Recreation Center. This one was sponsored by Dutchess County. Brad Kendall, the County Clerk, assured us that he will inform us of future ceremonies so we can be present.

The four League members at the August 30 ceremony were (left to right in the photograph) Lisa Bretherick, Fay Casatuta, Pat Lamanna, and Daisy Tyler.

If you'd like to participate in a swearing-in ceremony in Dutchess County in the future, please contact [Pat Lamanna](#).

On September 27th, member Louise Reavis attended the ceremony for the newest citizens of Orange County in Newburgh. It was the highest number of candidates ever, for Orange County, for this event, according to one official who spoke.



*Newburgh Armory
Naturalization
Ceremony 2023*

**Ulster County Chamber of
Commerce Breakfast**

Once again, the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region helped to facilitate the questioning of candidates (Ulster County DA), Mike Kavanaugh, Jr.(R) and Manny Kavanaugh (D), at the Chamber Breakfast. Thanks to the photography of Gloria Waslyn, we are able to show a good time was had by all!



Dare Thompson, Hugh Reynolds, Cindy Bell



Ulster County Election Commissioners John Quigley & Ashley Torres



Mike Kavanaugh, Jr., Chamber President Ward Todd, Manny Nneji



National Voter Registration Day & Beyond!

On September 19th, LWVMHR member Fay Casatuta worked with the "Friends" of the East Fishkill Community Library to provide information and opportunities to register voters.

LWVMHR member Leslie Simons also reported:

"We were invited to participate in Constitution Week at SUNY Orange by the Director of Student Involvement. This dovetailed

perfectly with Voter Registration Day and the promotion of Constitution Week on campus really helped our cause! We were positioned near a table where cookies and pocket Constitution booklets were distributed to students going to and from their classes in the beautiful student center at Middletown and the new and impressive Kaplan Center in Newburgh. Overall we successfully registered 60 students.

Ann Toner, Mary Missere and I were onboard for Middletown and Mary and I manned the Newburgh table.

At the conclusion all were very pleased with the outcome and we requested that any student organizations on campus that would like to continue registration efforts get in touch with us. We really hope to establish an ongoing interest in democracy as we move into 2024"



SUNY Orange Newburgh



Lastly - Cindy Bell reports:

National Voter Registration Day 2023 was a wonderful opportunity to connect with people and, not just to register voters, but to provide useful citizen information to anyone walking by. At SUNY Ulster, we set up just outside the cafeteria at lunchtime.

The LWVMHR has historically been the only organization permitted to hold these events at the college, though many others have tried. We engaged many young people in conversation and were heartened by the number already registered. Others were concerned about the personal information needed to register and the final few were simply not interested in being a part of this citizen duty. Many questions were asked and answered! We are grateful for the trust placed in us and the support of the college's president, Allison Buckley, also a newer LWVMHR member. Many thanks to Deborah Marr for her assistance in setting this up and making it a success.

The YWCA in Kingston also hosted a table that afternoon and, while we did not have the traffic we were hoping for, we did spend a wonderful couple of hours with a SUNY New Paltz student and Women's Studies major Grace Pierson, who is also our newest student member! Grace is interning with Isis Benitez, Director of Communications, Advocacy and Outreach for the YWCA. Isis also happens to be a member of LWVMHR and we are looking forward to working with her much more in the coming year.

Thank you Daisy Tyler, for making sure we had all the supplies we needed and joining in all the animated conversation.

This was a worthwhile day full of opportunities to share our knowledge and information with anyone who came by.



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 October 23rd.

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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