



Newsletter December 2023

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The Prez says ...



I hope you had a good Thanksgiving – a day when theoretically we can all get together in peace and gratitude, leaving all the problems of our country and our world waiting outside the door. May at least some of your celebrating have had that spirit!

I know that I continue to be immensely grateful for the hard work of our board members and other volunteers in all three counties

registering voters, getting VOTE411 up and running in Dutchess and Orange, moderating candidate forums, and generally helping get out the vote.

I was also grateful to see a recent Washington Post opinion piece by Danielle Allen on efforts across the country to address the lack of civility and cooperation in our political environment. It stated that while many groups were mentioned as helping in that effort, only one was mentioned more than once – the League of Women Voters – and it was mentioned seven times.

I, personally, was also on a very large Zoom gathering of Quakers discussing this same topic and again heard many people mention the importance of partnering with the League.

Our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, would be very proud - and she would also be surprised! When the League was established as an outgrowth of the women's suffrage organizations in 1920, the goal was to train women to use their newly-gained voting rights and then close up shop. They weren't envisioning the many new voters of both genders who would be coming along as they became eligible by age or citizen status. They certainly didn't foresee our role in helping to keep our whole democracy functioning well.

While some of our voter-centered work will continue into the new year, our focus now shifts to ISSUES we care about. We are hoping to have a Zoom program on the federal FARM BILL, which addresses not only farms but related issues like food stamps and is always very controversial when it comes up for re-approval every five years. Watch for a separate notice about that when we have the details.

In January we will address issues that will come up in the next

session at the state Capitol and also offer a program on how to run for your local school board, an entry point for many people interested in getting more involved in their government.

But for now, please do take some time to enjoy the hustle and bustle of the holiday season!

Dare Thompson, President

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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-

December

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

December 6th

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)

December 7th

12:00 PM

Dutchess County & More

Regional Meetup

[Mill House Brewing Company](#)

Poughkeepsie

December 11th

1:45 PM

LWVMHR Book Club

[Enzo's Restaurant](#)

Kingston

December 15th

12:00 PM

Southern Tier Meeting

[The Silk Factory](#)

Newburgh

December 19th

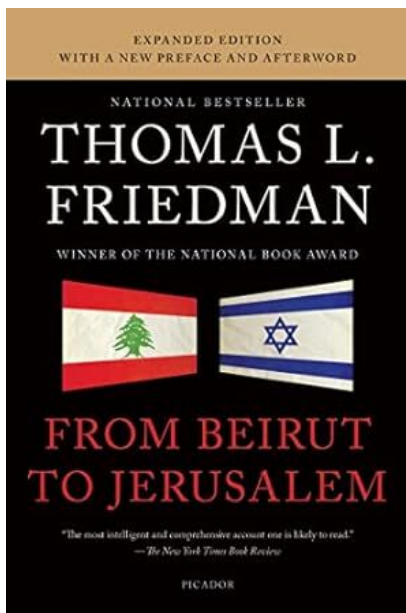
8:00 PM

LWVMHR Board Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84610313877?>

[pwd=BqXY7M4BoTmimyaDGyrLayk9thakcn.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84610313877?pwd=BqXY7M4BoTmimyaDGyrLayk9thakcn.1)



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

December 11th

1:45pm

"From Beirut To Jerusalem" by

Thomas L. Friedman

Written by three time Pulitzer winner journalist and book author, Mr. Friedman brings his experiences of the Middle East to light in this book. As one critic writes "if you are going to read

one book on the Middle East this is it."

The last meeting for this year will be on December 11th. We are going to continue with the book by Thomas Friedman, "From Beirut To Jerusalem."

Meeting will be 1:45 PM, 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

by Louise Reavis

LWV Mid Hudson has been very busy in 2023. Here is a summary of some of the work we have done so far in 2023.

VOTER REGISTRATION,
NATURALIZATION
CEREMONIES, CANDIDATE
FORUMS AND VOTE411

14 in-person voter registration drives were held at high schools including Minisink, Pine Bush and Newburgh, and colleges including SUNY Ulster, SUNY Orange and Dutchess Community College, as well as the YWCA and Ulster County jail, just to name a few. A total of 361 voters registered at these events (many for the first time) and brochures and other information was distributed.

We were on hand at 6 naturalization ceremonies, covering all three counties and were able to give registration forms to every single new citizen, a total of 364.

We moderated at 7 candidate forums, some only in-person and some virtual/in-person. The candidates were running for offices such as mayor, district attorney, school board and town board. We also offered training to members for moderating candidate forums.

We provided voter information on VOTE411 with details about 254 races in Dutchess and Orange counties.



Many LWV members and friends volunteered to make these events a success. Thanks to all of you!



Newburgh Armory Naturalization Ceremony 2023

THE NYS EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT



We are getting closer to the year 2024 and the time is almost ripe for our local League to begin the

process of actively lobbying for the New York ERA ballot initiative!

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.

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

Watch for news on our first meeting in the January Newsletter!



Regional Meetup Groups

Southern Tier:

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

and Southern Ulster County.

Our next regular meeting will be December 15th, noon, at the [Silk Factory](#) in Newburgh. All League members & friends are welcome to attend!

Dutchess County and More:

Greetings all,

This year's election is behind us and LWV is already planning for next year. Want to get involved and help organize LWV activities in Dutchess County?

On Thursday, December 7th, come to [Mill House Brewing Company](#) in Poughkeepsie at 12 noon. We will reserve a table and hope to have a productive discussion about how to deliver meaningful actions in the coming year.

Possible activities include, but are not limited to, voter registration, candidate events and other voter education, naturalization ceremonies, visits with legislators, and observation of town and county meetings.

If you can make it, please reply to lisabretherick@gmail.com so we know how large a table to reserve. And if you cannot make it but are interested, let us know also - we look forward to an active 2024 in Dutchess County!

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Environmental Impact

BMW ended production of combustion engines in its home country of Germany, the birthplace of the automobile, reports CleanTechnica, and New Jersey will ban fossil-fuel-burning cars by 2035.



Google searches around “anxiety” in the first 10 months of 2023

are 27 times higher than the same period in 2017, reports the BBC.

New York just installed its first offshore wind turbine, the next step to developing an offshore wind industry in federal waters, reports Reuters.

These environmental highlights are just a taste of the information you can access for FREE if you sign up to the Washington Post's Climate Coach Newsletter [HERE](#).

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News Items

LWVMHR PRESENT AT NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region was honored to attend the Orange County Naturalization Ceremony held November 15th at the Newburgh Armory.



Newburgh Armory



Newburgh Armory Naturalization Ceremony 2023

**LWVMHR at Minisink High
School**
from Ann Toner

We have been doing voter registration in some local high schools for the last four years, but this spring we had a new experience. Normally, a LWV member reaches out to the school district, and we arrange for dates, location and time, but this year, we had a student from Minisink High School in Orange



County reach out to us to ask if we could come in and register voters at her school. It was part of her senior honors project, and she and others in her group arranged the permission, location, etc.

They also advertised through announcements on the school PA system and on the social media for a few days before we arrived and during our two days there. In addition, while we were stationed outside the school cafeteria) at least two or three students in the group walked around the cafeteria each period holding signs they had made beforehand and urging their fellow students to register.

The ratio of students registered to the school population was the highest of all our high school events. The students who initiated this project were delighted and so were we.



Amy James Oliveros, Mary Williams, Assembly member Barrett, Dare, and Solange Muller

LWVMHR President Wears Two Hats

LWVMHR President Dare Thompson visited Assembly member Didi Barrett (106th district) in her Poughkeepsie office with fellow Quakers to lobby for the "Fair and Timely Parole" legislation.

The League also supports this legislation. This legislation would require that the parole board pay attention to the degree to which prisoners may have become rehabilitated and focus less than they typically do (which is almost entirely) on the crime the person committed, which of course can never be changed.



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 December 22nd.

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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