



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

BULLETIN

March 2014

OUR MISSION

*The League of Women Voters,
a nonpartisan
political organization,
encourages informed and
active participation
in government,
works to increase
understanding of major
public policy issues,
and influences public
policy through
education and advocacy.*

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity.

This means:

There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Saratoga County.

The LWV Famous Person Fundraiser

March 22nd

at The Holiday Inn

9am Brunch followed by a performance of...

SOJOURNER'S TRUTH:

*How One Woman's History
Changed Our Nation's History*

D. Colin as Sojourner Truth

We are delighted to bring you this extraordinary woman who fought for the right of ALL women to vote.

RSVP by March 14th

**The Holiday Inn . 232 Broadway . Saratoga Springs
*See pages 3 and 8***

See page 5



AGRICULTURE CONSENSUS PART 2



**League of Women Voters
of Saratoga County (NY-639)**
Official address: LWV of Saratoga County
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Barbara Murphy, Chair, Good Government
2 Granada Drive, Clifton Park—371-6534

Ann Sheppard
9 Kirby Road, Saratoga Springs—583-6318

Schedule of LWVSC Board Meetings

United Methodist Church, Henning Road, SS
7—9pm 1st Wednesday of each month

September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4,
January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2,
May 7, June 4.

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

**League of Women Voters of New York State or
League of Women Voters of New York State
Education Foundation**

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207
465-4162 www.lwvny.org

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From the President...

This League is so lucky to have people with lots of talent. We all admired Patricia Nugent when she served as our President. She was so poised, passionate and articulate when she stood at the podium. Now we have seen another aspect of her talent in the play she wrote, *The Stone that Started the Ripple*. I wasn't around the first time LWV Saratoga produced the play (for the 75th anniversary of the LWV) but, from everything I have heard, the updated version we presented to a standing room only crowd was even more relevant and inspiring. And it helped us raise a lot of money (due to the grant from Soroptomist International of Saratoga that underwrote most of the production costs).

New LWV member Lezlie Dana is the Director of SPYA (Saratoga's Performing Youth Artists) now renamed as SHYFT (Saratoga Humanitarian Youth for Transformation... because SHYFT happens). That's the group that performed Pat's play this January – to such acclaim. Another talented League member for us to celebrate!

We are looking for a few more people with talent. We need someone to chair the LWVNY studies on term limits, ballot access, and a constitutional convention – and we need committee members to help conduct these studies. If you don't call me to volunteer (my home number is 884-9070 and my cell is 605-5013), I'll be calling you. Please pick up the phone when you see my name on the caller ID. If everyone does a little we can accomplish a lot.

And the nominating committee is looking for people with talent, too. We know it is plentiful in our membership. Respond to the call from the nominating committee (page 4) by suggesting someone you know (including yourself).

I hope you are looking forward to having brunch with Sojourner Truth on March 22. What an inspiring and talented woman she was! You won't want to miss D. Collins performing an expanded version of the role she played in Pat's *The Stone that Started the Ripple*.

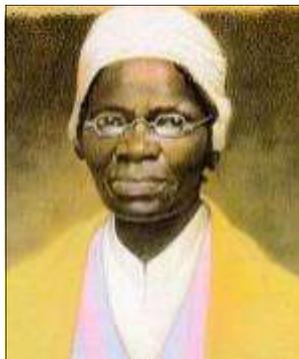
Donna

Thank You to Our Corporate Contributors

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OUR FAMOUS PERSON FUNDRAISER IS MARCH 22ND!



SOJOURNER'S TRUTH: How One Woman's History Changed Our Nation's History

Saturday March 22nd 9am

Brunch followed by the Performance



Based on Sojourner's own slave narrative, our re-enactor will tell the story of her life from a slave's birth in Ulster County, NY, to bearing witness to most of her own 13 children being sold into slavery, to a freed woman who took up the causes of abolition and suffrage. A compelling true story in the tradition of the movie, *Twelve Years a Slave*.

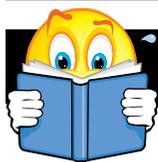
The Holiday Inn . 232 Broadway . Saratoga Springs

RSVP by March 14, using coupon on back cover.



D. Colin (above) as Sojourner Truth.

Danielle Charlestin, also known as D. Colin, is a poet and visual artist originally from Connecticut. She holds a B.A. in English and an M.A. in African Studies. Recently seen in Soul Rebel Performance Troupe's *Bookends* at CapRep in Albany, Danielle currently works as the program director at Troy Boys & Girls Club.



LWV BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, March 19, in the Glasby Room of the Saratoga Springs Public Library. The book for March is *Republic Lost* by Lawrence Lessing.

We will meet in April on Wednesday the 16th at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library to discuss *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt. All members are welcome to attend these discussions.

LWV members in front of the ornate elevator at the newly renovated State Capital. We oohed and ahhed over the architectural features.
See page 6



LWVNY STUDIES

Participate at the LWVSC level in one (or both) of the LWVNY Studies

Study of Term Limits

This study will look at the historic background of term limits, what has transpired to spark this interest, the states that do have term limits, the states that have abolished term limits (and why), the number of term limited legislators who move on to higher office, how term limits are established by legislative or state constitutional action, the arguments for and against term limits, the effects of term limits on states that have them, the current LWVUS and LWVNY positions on term limits.

Study of Ballot Access

In New York State, candidates for elected office most often gain access to the general election ballot by obtaining political party ballot lines via various mechanisms. The League of Women Voters Ballot Access study will examine the role of political parties in the process of gaining access to the general election ballot. Specifically, we will explore the process of gaining party lines on the general ballot via (1) New York's closed primary system, (2) fusion voting, and (3) Wilson Pakula certificates.

The study will include discussion and comparison of the different forms of primary systems and other states' experiences with fusion voting. In addition, we will explore the possible effects New York's ballot access process has on issues such as voter representation, corruption, voter turnout, and partisanship. At the conclusion of the study, we hope to be able to offer suggestions for ballot access best practices that ensure a thriving and functioning democracy.

Benefits of serving on a LWVSC Study Committee

You get to know a small group of members very well, you form friendships, you get an in depth knowledge of the subject you are studying, you get to consider the subject from several points of view, you stimulate your brain and have fun.

Visit www.LWVNY.org for the term limit and ballot access study materials.

Call or email Donna at 884-9070 (home) or 605-5013 (cell) or donnad.lwvsc@gmail.com and let her know which study piques your interest.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Calling! Calling! Calling for Nominations

The Nominating Committee seeks members who wish to be considered for positions on the Board of Directors of the LWV of Saratoga County. Serving



on the board is an experience to remember: rewarding, challenging, satisfying, demanding and fun. You will be able to: build your leadership skills; use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community; help to set the direction for the LWV of Saratoga County; share your League successes with other Leagues; and expand your commitment to the League.

If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Amy Durland, Nancy Martinez, Diana O'Brien, Holly Schwarz-Lawton or Lori Dawson, Chair. Contact information for all Nominating Committee members is listed in the membership list.

ROBERT J. PASCIULLO

Long time League member, Robert J. Pasciullo, died at Saratoga Hospital on February 4th. He was a man who spent his life fighting for principled causes, racial equality, social justice, and equal opportunity for all. He is survived by his wife Josie, also a League member, their son and daughter, and three grandchildren.

Following a LWV study and report, *Poverty in Saratoga County*, chaired by Josie, Bob became the first President of the Board of the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council and served for eight years. Always generous, Bob donated his body to the Albany Medical College. Gifts in his memory may be made to the SCEOC, 39 Bath St., Ballston Spa, NY, 12020.

A memorial for Bob will be held at a later date.



Agriculture Update Consensus, Part 2: Tuesday, March 18, 6:30PM, at the Saratoga National Bank, 386 Clifton Park Center Road. Take Northway, exit 9W, to rte. 146. Go 1/4 mile to light at Clifton Country Rd. Turn south, then 1 block go left onto Clifton Park Center Rd. Round the curve next to Firestone. You will be behind Penney's.

ANSWER EACH QUESTION WITH YES, NO, OR NO CONSENSUS

Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

1. *Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:*

- a) Subsidized agricultural credit (loans).
- b) Disaster assistance.
- c) Crop insurance.
- d) Farms that supply local and regional markets
- e) Subsidized implementation of best management practices.
- f) Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat.
- g) Commodity livestock program.
- h) Commodity dairy program.
- i) Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc.
- j) Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms.

2. *What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?*

Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.

- a) *Eliminate* direct payments to farm operators.
- b) *Update* the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability.
- c) *Broaden* the types of farms that are eligible.
- d) *Broaden* the types of crops that are eligible.
- e) Effectively *enforce* existing rules.

3. *What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?*

- a) Extend to more types of crops.
- b) Link to the use of conservation practices.
- c) Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land.
- d) Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2).

4. *Should government act on any of the following?*

- a) Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets.

- b) Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture.
- c) Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc.

Animal Management

5. *Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?*

- a) Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations.

- b) Apply and enforce existing clean air and water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities

6. *Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?*

- a) Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs.
- b) Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities.

Research and Development

7. *Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?*

Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “**developed using any new technology**” or “**new technologies**” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.

- a) Basic research. b) Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products *developed using any new technology*.

- c) Research to assess the impacts of *new technologies* on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption.

- d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems.

- e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity.

- f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products **and** respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research.

- g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes.

- h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms.

LOBBY DAY

LWVSC at LWNYS Advocacy Training Day.

We all met at exit 11 of the Northway to car pool to the LWNYS Advocacy Training Day in Albany. It would have warmed the cockles of the LWNYS's Transportation Issue Specialist (Gladys Gifford) to know that the 7 of us (Mary Lou Classen, Donna Dardaris, Louise Golub, Kathy Koebrich, Ann Kril, Carol Schupp-Star, Barbara Thomas) arrived in only 2 cars.

We had a presentation from Marian Bott, Education Finance Issue Specialist, who explained the ramifications of the Governor's proposed budget on fair funding of education. Her testimony to the Joint Assembly/Senate Hearing on Education Funding called for funding Foundation Aid, implementing Circuit breakers and phasing out STAR, implementing property tax assessment and collection reforms, reversing unintended negative consequences of the Tax Levy Cap and seriously funding Pre-K.

Similar detailed presentations by Sally Robinson (President LWNYS and Director for Issues and Advocacy) on LWV process for taking action; Gladys

Gifford (Transportation) on supporting structural changes to funding for transportation; Helga Schroeter (Judicial) on adding 20 Family Court Judges, increasing funding for indigent legal services; Lois Haignere (Pay Equity) on supporting comparable worth pay equity; Aimee Allaud (Election Law) on the single June primary, better ballot design, early voting, allowing 16 & 17 year olds to pre-register to vote; Barb Thomas (Pay Equity, Women's Equality Coalition) on the economic and social importance of the entire Women's Equality Act; and Barbara Bartoletti (LWNYS Legislative Director) and Sarah Podber (LWNYS Program and Policy Director) on corruption in Albany, the Moreland Commission, Campaign Finance Reform, Enforcement of Campaign Finance Reporting within the Board of Elections. **All the hand-outs from the Advocacy Day, are available on the home page of**

www.lwvny.org.



Top: Louise Golub, Kathy Koebrich, Ann Kril.
Bottom: Barbara Thomas, and Carol Schupp-Star.

'The Stone That Started The Ripple' WOWS 'EM

Members of the League, their friends, and theatre goers were treated to their fourth production of **THE STONE THAT STARTED THE RIPPLE**, by former League President, Pat Nugent. The occasion was a fundraiser for the League, held on January 11, at the Filene Auditorium of Skidmore College.

The dramatic presentation of a modern day reunion of several Suffragists was staged by the Saratoga Performing Youth Artists (SPYA), under the direction of newly minted League member Lezlie Dana, in a version updated by the author.

The hall was filled to capacity with hearty souls who had braved the crisp winter Saturday evening. Even with extra chairs added, it was still standing room only. The good news is, the League raised \$2,100 on this event.

The struggle to procure the right of women to vote in these United States, began in 1848 at the now famous convention held in Seneca Falls, NY. Seventy-two years later, the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution was ratified, on August 18, 1920. Lest we forget, it states: "The right of citizens of the

United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Attendees to this dramatization were treated to the incarnate souls of four of the vigorous ladies who had battled long and hard to secure the women's' right to vote, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and former slave, Sojourner Truth. These souls, physically manifested by actresses Kaleigh Cerqua, Lila Glansberg, Carla Duval, and Danielle Charlestin (D.Colin), admonished the crowd to stay the fight and not let down their guard. They were assisted by Sarah Marlin, who portrayed the Moderator, trying to maintain some sense of order among these dynamic and forceful women. Several other members of SPYA participated.

The young actors performed well and the production was enthusiastically applauded by the audience.





VOTER SERVICE

School Board elections for Saratoga County are on May 20, 2014.

GETTING THE WORD OUT!

In preparation for the school board elections in the county we are currently contacting all the PTA (PTO, PTSO) presidents in hopes of gaining their support for getting the word out for our online voter guide and for encouraging the candidates to participate. It is our hope that each candidate will enter their bios and answer the questions we pose so that every voter will have the information they need to make an educated choice.

If you know someone on your local PTA, could you please encourage them to help with this effort?

Our Vote411 (online voter guide) information will be up on our website, lwvsaratoga.org starting the second week in May.

Saratoga Springs Housing Authority elections:

The voter service committee will be helping the SSHA with their elections, date TBA. The LWV as a disinterested third party helps give the residents full confidence in the outcome of their election.

Members who would like to help with either of these activities, please contact Ann Kril at 584-1436 or akril@nycap.rr.com. Remember to vote because: "Democracy is not a Spectator Sport.

Acting as participants, rather than spectators, citizens do make a difference."

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

To LWVSC

Fred & Sheelagh Baily

Linda Bullard

Carol Fleming

Mike & Ann Kril

Ben & Jennifer Mirling

Pat Nugent

David & Helen Porter

John & A.C. Riley

Dee Sarno

Barb Thomas

Diane Whitburn



JOIN LWV and help us make democracy work!

YES! I Would like to join the League. 2014/15 dues enclosed.

(Note: The Bulletin is free with membership) \$55. Individual \$80 Family \$25 Student

Please send more information I would like to subscribe to the BULLETIN, \$15. enclosed

Membership dues assistance is available, contact membership chair.

In addition, I would like to contribute \$_____

Please send a gift membership to:

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Preferred Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Information is only distributed to LWVSC members, LWVNYS, and LWVUS, for LWV business only.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18, Tuesday, **Agriculture Update Consensus, Part 2**, Saratoga National Bank, Clifton Park, 6:30pm

March 22, **Saturday, Brunch with Sojourner Truth**, Holiday Inn, 9am, \$40

March 19, Wednesday, **Book Club**, Glasby Room, SSPL, 1:30pm

April 16, Wednesday, **Book Club**, Clifton Park/ Halfmoon Library, 1:30pm



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SARATOGA COUNTY
P.O. BOX 1029 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

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MARCH 2014

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RESERVE FOR THE SOJOURNER TRUTH FUNDRAISER

YES! I Would like to reserve _____ tickets. at \$40. per person “Rabble Rouser”=\$ _____



at \$75pp “Abolitionist” = \$ _____

at \$100pp “Suffragist” = \$ _____

I cannot attend, but I would like to contribute \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED
\$ _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY MARCH 14TH

Make your check payable to: LWWNYSEF

Tax deductible except for \$25 fair value of the event/pp attending. Receipts will be provided at the door.

Mail to: Mary Lou Classen, 4 Blue Spruce Lane, Ballston Lake, NY 12019