WNEWSLETTER

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Fake News is a Huge Issue

Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement

OPICS: Pope Francis Endorses Donald Trump





Everyone is talking about Fake News. How can we recognize it. How can we combat it? What has really occurred and what is made up? LWV has scheduled a Public Information Program on the topic for Monday, February 27th, at 7 pm, featuring Rex Smith, editor of the Times

Union. We are securing a location so please check our Facebook or website and look for an email from the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County with the announcement.

Member Meetings Are Starting Up!

You've told us that you want meetings for members to keep in touch with the issues that are important to you. Mark your calendars! Member meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, through May. We've reserved a wonderful location at an Adirondack Trust Company's Office Building in Saratoga Springs. See page 8 for details and directions.

Meetings will feature a topic for discussion followed by news, updates, and most important, what's on your mind. Tell us about topics and issues you want us to focus on and make priorities. We want to hear from you. So join us for an enjoyable evening. And, as always, bring a friend. See page 6.

HAVE BREAKFAST WITH

Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Woman of Vision

Saturday, March 18, 9am

See Page 5 for details and RSVP coupon

Students Inside Albany



It's time for applications to the annual Students Inside Albany (SIA) conference. Every year LWVSC offers two 11th grade students from Saratoga County a chance to attend the conference. It is

scheduled to be held May 21-24, 2017 in Albany. The SIA conference, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. This interactive conference will bring together high school students from across the state

to learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy making arena.

As part of this program, students will also tour the Capitol and observe both the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislator. All their expenses are covered, including three nights at Hampton Inn & Suites, downtown Albany. The participants will receive a student membership in the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, which includes an e-mail newsletter and invitations to meetings on government related topics. Students are selected through a competitive application process. Applications for nominations are due to us via mail or email by February 6, 2017. An application can be found on the LWVSC web site.

CONTACT US

League of Women Voters of Saratoga County (NY-639)

Official address: LWV of Saratoga County PO Box 1029. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 518-728-5201

www.lwvsaratoga.org

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/lwvsaratoga and on Twitter @LWV SC

Steering Committee:

September, October, November: Darnell Rohrbaugh, Chair, Youth Programs, 6 Almeria Drive, Clifton Park, 12065 —371-2588

December, January, February: Mary Lou Classen, 4 Blue Spruce Lane, Clifton Park—877-8874

March, April, May: Barbara Thomas, PO Box 964, Saratoga Springs, 518-681-7530

June, July, August: Pattie Garrett, 537 Union Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, 496-4973

Secretary: Kathleen Koebrich, 718 Malta Ave. Ext,

Malta, NY 12020, 587-3616

Treasurer: Steven Koebrich, 718 Malta Ave. Ext,

Malta, NY, 12020, 587-3616

Directors:

Charlotte Druschel, 27 Paisley Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, 885-8986

Carol Glansberg, 62 Kent Street, Ballston Spa, 12020, 210-7743

Louise Golub, Chair, Action & Issues, 10 Hathorn St., Saratoga Springs, 12866, 584-7518

Ann Kril, Chair, Voters' Services, 60 Hillcrest Drive, Saratoga Springs, 12866, 584-1436

Terry Lowenthal, 12 Mystic Lane, Saratoga Springs, 12866, 587-2516

Off Board Chairs:

Cherie Grey, nominating, 38 Fifth Avenue, Saratoga Springs, 12866, 587-7211

Nancy Martinez, Membership, 4 Equestrian Lane, Apt. 8, Saratoga Springs, 12866, 281-1185

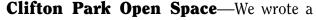
Francine Rodger, Vote411, 36 Hemlock Drive, Clifton Park, 12065, 371-4011

The LWV of Saratoga County does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. We sometimes take positions on non-partisan issues. This has been the League's policy for 97 years.

LWV Saratoga Takes Action On:

Pitney Meadows Community Farm—

This fall, we made a statement of support for the Pitney Meadows Community Farm to the Saratoga Springs City Council, which voted to approve the conservation easement and authorized \$1.3 million in open space funds. This action paves the way for Pitney Meadows Community Farm. The sale has closed and work on the farm has begun. The property will be a community supported farm, agricultural resource center with trails for hiking, biking, and cross country skiing. For more, visit their website. https://www.pitneymeadowscommunityfarm.org/



letter to the editor opposing the sale of 34 wooded acres of Shenendehowa School District land to a commercial developer instead of keeping the land in the public domain by selling it to the town for a park. Selling to the town would bring in only half the money that the developer offered, but would preserve the last large open space tract in the center of town. Some League members also participated in the petition drive organized by Friends of Clifton Park Open Space to bring the sale to a referendum vote. More than 7,000 signatures were collected and the school district is probably going to set a date for the election at its January 24th meeting, but we are writing another letter to urge that they hold a vote. For more information visit http://cpopenspace.ipage.com

Ending the Electoral College—The League of Women Voters has long advocated the abolition of the Electoral College and the direct election of the president and vice president. The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County has written a letter to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Representative Tonko urging action on this issue. Read the letter at http://www.lwvsaratoga.org/advocacv.htm



YOU CAN GET IN ON THE ACTION

Go to the Issues and Action page on our website http://www.lwvsaratoga.org/advocacy.htm, follow the red arrows next to each issue, and click on the link. It's an easy way to take action and it fits anyone's schedule.

Join one of LWVNY's new Advocacy Google Groups—LWV Saratoga member Francine Rodger had an amazing idea to create issues-based Google Groups where League members interested in similar advocacy areas could talk to each other via email and hold monthly conference calls. The groups will be headed by the state office but members of the groups can share their ideas, articles, statewide bills of interest, and whatever else they feel is appropriate.

The start-up groups are:

- General Advocacy Group: headed by Jennifer Wilson and Barbara Bartoletti.
- **Education Issues Group:** headed by Education Finance Specialist, Marian Bott.

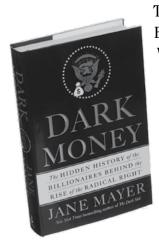
Join either group, or suggest another issue, by emailing Jennifer@lwvny.org.

Looking for *vote411* help

I am looking for one or two people to take over the vote411 activities for our local school board elections this spring. This is a short-term job that will teach you how vote411 works. It involves contacting the candidates, asking them to participate in our online guide, and helping to get their responses posted. Job time frame will be mid-March through early May, and I will be available to show you how to do it and solve problems along the way.

It is really important to have more of our members knowledgeable about how this valuable voter service is put together. If you are interested please call me, Francine Rodger, 371-8032 and we can discuss it.

LWV Book Club



The LWV Saratoga County Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month, at 1pm, alternating between the Saratoga Springs (SSPL) and Clifton Park/Halfmoon (CP/HPL) Libraries. All members are welcome to join us for any and all sessions—even if you haven't had a chance to read the book.

Here is the list of upcoming books and locations:

February 8—DARK MONEY by Jane Mayer, CPHPL

March 8—THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE by Masha Geesen, SSPL

April 12—SLEEPING GIANT by Tamara Draut and/or Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance, CPHPL

May 10—RUNNING FROM OFFICE by Jennifer Lawless & Richard Fox, SSPL

June 14—Lunch and planning, place TBA

Consensus: Local Governance

PLACE AND TIME:

Woodlawn Commons, 2nd floor meeting room 156 Lawrence St, Saratoga Springs.

April 1, 1-3 pm.

On Saturday, April 1, our League's study committee will present its findings relating to "whether local governments in Saratoga County should separate executive (or administrative) functions from legislative (or policy making) functions in the villages, towns, cities and the county government." We invite you to join us to learn about this subject and participate in the consensus. We also offer you an afternoon of good conversation, good friends, and light refreshments.

Meanwhile, here are some things to ponder about local government in Saratoga County:

- The Board of Supervisors is the governing and policy-making body of the county. But why is it called the board of supervisors instead of a county legislature?
- How many counties in New York have a legislature instead of a board of supervisors?
- How do local municipalities in Saratoga County deal with the policy and legislative functions?
- What branch of government doesn't exist in Saratoga County?
- Under State law, are towns allowed to have an executive branch? What about villages?

Study Committee members: Sheelagh Baily, Ann Kril, Terry Lowenthal, Francine Rodger, Margie Van Meter

Welcome New Members:

Nancy Sharples
Bornemann
Terri Brandt
Helen JoyceCarodonna
Carol Fallon
Elizabeth Harding

Suzanne Kwasniewski Christine Lang Judith LaPook Piper Lutbak Deanne Rehm Peggy Shands

Ellie Stearns, top, portrays Elizabeth Cady Stanton, below.



our famous person fundraiser Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Woman of Vision

PLACE AND TIME:

Gideon Putnam Hotel, Arches Room Saratoga Spa State Park March 18 at 9am

Ellie Stearns has researched and written portrayals of "Women of Vision" for schools and organizations throughout New York. In addition she visited Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home and the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York and spent time in Johnstown, New York, Cady Stanton's birthplace and family home. She participated for many years in the National Park's dramatizations of the 1848 Convention and portrayed Elizabeth Cady Stanton on C-Span's Writers and Books series in 2001.

BREAKFAST BUFFET Menu

Seasonal Whole Fresh Fruit & Fresh Fruit Salad • Fruit Preserves • Flaky Croissants • Coffee Cakes, Breakfast Breads & Assorted Muffins • NY-Style Bagels & Plain and Flavored Cream Cheese, Butter • Assorted Yogurts • House Honey Granola & House Selection, Cereals • Scrambled Eggs • Roasted Breakfast Potato Medley • Smoked Bacon & Pork Link Sausage • Cinnamon Swirl French Toast

Rainforest Alliance Certified Coffees • Tazo Teas • Assorted Fresh Fruit Juices

BREAKFAST WITH ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

Reserve by Wednesday, March 8 for the Saturday, March 18th performance

DONOR LEVELS: Mother (\$55) Suffragist (\$75) Author (\$100)

| | DONOR LEVELS. Mother (\$33) Sumagist (\$73) Author (\$100) | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------|--|
| | Number of reservations@ea TOTAL P. | AYMENT | |
| Name | Email | | |
| Address | essPh | Phone | |
| Please ma | e make checks payable to LWVNY EF and mail to Steve Koebrich, 718 Malta | | |
| | Your tax-deductible donations, except for the fair value of the bre | akfast (\$25), go to | |

the LWV Saratoga Account within the LWVNY-EF to support Voter Service.

UPCOMING MEMBER MEETINGS

All of these Member Meetings will be held in the same location: the Adirondack Trust Office Building located at 35 Church Street (see map and directions on page 8).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 7PM A Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage in NYS



2017 is the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in NYS and the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County is launching their Centennial Celebration with a birthday party for Susan B. Anthony, one of the leading suffragists, who was born on this date (February 15) in 1820. New York's women first went to the polls on November 6, 1917. Share a piece of birthday cake with League members, prospective members, and the public as we plan centennial events. Note: NYS is often a leader in social reform, and its women won the vote 3 years before the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution became law.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 7PM Life in the Cuban Dictatorship

Four members of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County traveled to Cuba just as the country was observing the mourning period for Fidel Castro. Janice Burns, Pattie Garrett, Zoe Nousanian and Barb Thomas will present their impressions of life in the Cuban dictatorship and share pictures from their recent trip. "The landscape of the island and the vistas of the Caribbean and the Atlantic are gorgeous" said Garrett. "We were overwhelmed by the architecture, the food, and the people." Light refreshments will be served.

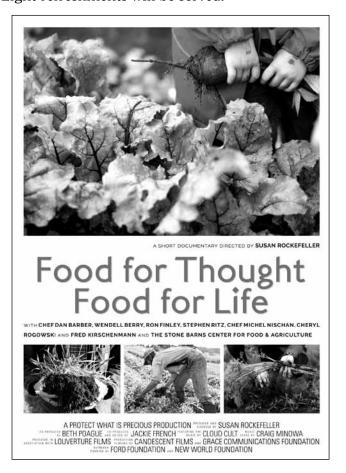




WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 7PM Food for Thought

We will screen Susan Rockefeller's short film, "Food for Thought, Food for Life" (20 min.) and follow up with a discussion.

We want our food fast, convenient and cheap, but at what cost? As farms have become supersized, our environment suffers and so does the quality of our food. Rockefeller's film explains the downsides of current agribusiness practices, and also introduces us to farmers, chefs, researchers, educators, and advocates who are providing solutions. The film is both poetic and practical; its powerful examination of the connections between our planet and our wellbeing is accompanied by specific strategies that protect both. With an eye towards a sustainable and abundant future, it offers inspiration for people and communities that are ready to make a difference. Light refreshments will be served.



Kudos To Our Members:

Amy Durland—for being appointed to the Saratoga Springs Planning Board

Cherie Grey—for being appointed to the Saratoga Springs Zoning Board

Francine Rodger—for receiving (along with her husband Ed) the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library's Vinciguerra Citizen Laureate Award for their work, since 1967, to establish, enhance, move, build and maintain the library. This is only the third time the award has been given to anyone.

In Memorium Barbara Murphy

A Woman who stood up for her Principles- And she had a lot of them!

She was for peace and understanding; Against corporate agriculture and the big chemical companies; For optical scan voting machines



that use paper ballots and are routinely audited; Against Big Pharma; For good nutrition; Against fracking; For community-supported agriculture; For medicine that treats the whole person; For individual rights; Against money in politics; For spirituality and a loving religion.

Just one example: When she found out that there were termites in her porch she searched out a pest care company that used safe, bio-degradable treatments—even though she knew it would take more treatments and money to be effective.

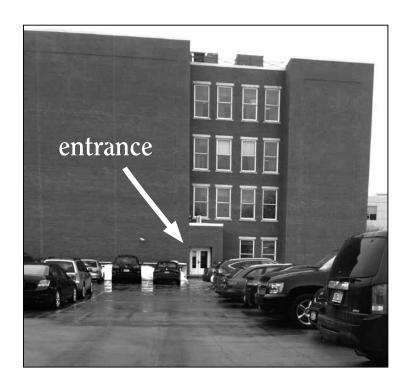
Barbara was a founding member of the League in Shenendehowa and then active in LWVSC, serving on the board for many years. She arranged many Annual Meetings, recruiting interesting speakers.

Barbara died January 2, 2017. We will miss her.

New Meeting Place for Members

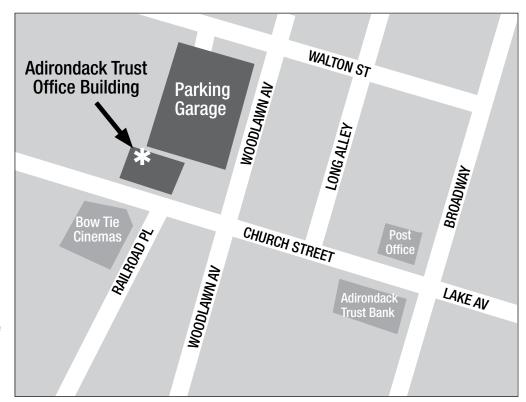
We're trying to make it easy for members to get together and get to know each other, so beginning in February, we are going to meet on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7pm, in the Community Room of the Adirondack Trust Office Building, 35 Church Street, Saratoga Springs. BUT you have to enter from the top floor of the City parking garage that is located on the corner of Woodlawn and Walton. (The entry to the upper deck is from Walton, see below).

You will love the location, (once you find it) because you will walk right up to the door from the parking lot and right into the room! Note: We will continue to have other, more public events in other locations throughout the year.



Directions:

From Broadway where Lake
Ave crosses over turns into
Church Street, take Church St to
Woodlawn Avenue just before
the Bow Tie Cinemas. Take a
right onto Woodlawn Ave. Drive
past the parking garage and
take a left onto Walton Street.
Drive onto the upper level of
the parking garage and park.
You will see a single door
(unmarked) at the far end (movie
theater end). This is the entrance
to the Community Room.



* enter from top level of parking garage, entrance off Walton St

2016 League Day At the United Nations

By Darnell Rohrbaugh

Four members from LWV Saratoga joined capital district League members for a bus ride to the 2016 League of Women Voters Day at the United Nations in November. The bus ride alone with such a nice group of concerned citizens was fun, especially since the state league provided refreshments. We (Helen Crawshaw, Pam King-Hall, Darnell Rohrbaugh, & Barb Thomas) toured the newly renovated UN and had a delicious lunch before going to the informative afternoon briefings on Refugee Crisis and Anti-terrorism.

Rosalee Keech, the LWVUS's UN Observer, explained that her role entails more than being a passive observer. She serves on the UN's NGO (nongovernmental organization) Working Group on Girls and is co-chair for its task force on preventing violence against women and girls.

Our two UN speakers were Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief of the Migration Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations in New York, speaking on Refugee Crisis and Migration, and Mr. Mattias Sundholm, Communications Adviser for the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Highlights from the briefing on Refugees

Migrants are people who change their country of residence for various reasons, often economics. A migrant can usually go home again and often sends money back home. Currently there are around 244 million migrants, or 3.3% of the world's population.

Refugees leave their country of origin because of fear of being persecuted for their religion, race, nationality, or political opinions. Refugees cannot go home and are people without a country or without the protection and rights of citizenship in any country. It is estimated that 60 million people around the world are considered refugees. In some cases generations can be born and live their whole lives in refugee status.

We discussed the difficulties of resettling immigrants and the advantages of immigration to an



Barb Thomas, Darnell Rohrbaugh, Pam King-Hall, Helen Crawshaw

economy. The current positions of the US on accepting refugees agreed upon by the Obama administration are now uncertain due to the upcoming change in administrations.

The topic of terrorism and counter-terrorism is extremely complicated. For one thing, there is no accepted international definition of terrorism, because one group's terrorist may be considered another group's freedom fighter. The UN has a counterterrorism task force, which helps a country assess its counter-terrorism strategy and make improvements. Organized terrorism today is different than in the past, since groups like Isis attack and hold territory and use social media to recruit. When found and foiled in one place, it pops up somewhere else. Isis is very effective at recruiting teenagers and young people. Around 30,000 to 40,000 young people, both girls and boys from about 100 countries, have traveled to be with terrorist groups. What makes young people vulnerable to such recruitment is poverty, a lack of opportunity for them. often lack of education, and a feeling of exclusion from the society where they live. Isis thinks the new US administration will boost their recruitment.

Terrorist attacks also happen in countries that don't have a Muslim influence including Japan, China, and Caribbean Countries. Although there are many terrorist attacks per year, you are more likely to die in the bathtub than to be killed by a terrorist attack. There is more information on these briefings on the LWVNY web site.

Women's Marches January 21, 2017

Members of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County participated in many of the Women's Marches held across the country on the day after the Presidential Inauguration.

Darnell Rohrbaugh who was in DC, reports, "People were everywhere with signs of solidarity, women's strength, and every cause of concern. Everyone was polite and helpful. They came from across the country. There were no people opposing us. We're tired, but we were heard." Other Leaguers in DC were Kathy Koebrich and Caren Baker and Ann Kril.

Marching in Glens Falls were Sheelagh Baily, Terry Lowenthal, Barb Thomas and Sue Ransom. Others were in NYC and Seneca Falls – and there were undoubtedly others we weren't even aware of.

Petticoats of Steel

5:30 pm, Thursday, March 2, Huxley Theatre at the NYS Museum, Albany.

Cap Rep, the regional theater group, has developed a theatre piece on the history of women's suffrage in NYS. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in New York State by attending this powerful production. Experience the battles for women's suffrage, as expressed in the words and actions of the brave warriors who fought them. Petticoats of Steel uses primary sources to tell the true stories of the women of New York State —Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton—and the roles they played in gaining voting rights for all women of the United States of America.

Bring your children and grandchildren—it is appropriate for preteens and older, all the way up to senior citizens—and it's FREE.

45 minutes with a 15 minute post-show talk back







Barb Thomas in Glens Falls



Darnell Rohrbaugh (r) with daughter and Rep. Tonko in DC

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

December 29, 2016 NY Times

Groups Seek NY Constitutional Right to Clean Air, Water ALBANY, N.Y. — Environmental and public policy groups in New York are calling for a state constitutional amendment that would guarantee residents a right to clean air and water.

Environmental Advocates of New York and EffectiveNY are promoting the proposed amendment with online video ads featuring children from Hoosick Falls, where water wells have been contaminated by an industrial chemical.

Transportation of Oil

That's the topic of a forum we'll be holding on April 26, 2017 at 7:00 PM, at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Watch for details. To help with this forum contact Louise Golub.



MLK 2017— The Fierce Urgency of Now



League Members helping to make Saratoga's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration a success were (top, L to R): Helen Crawshaw, Susan Ransom, Barb Thomas, Deanne Rehm, Mary Sue D'Orazio, Carol Schupp Star,

Dora Stanley, and Cherie Grey (not pictured). Carol and Dora served on the planning committee. Helen, Susan, Barb, Deanne, Mary Sue, Cherie and Ann Kril (not pictured) served the lunch for performers and volunteers. Lezlie Dana (not pictured) directed the SHYFT performers. Mayor Joanne Yepsen, (above, left) announced the formation of a Human Rights Council.

Have Fun with the Smartest and Most Fun Group in Saratoga County!

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. If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Charlotte Druschel, Louise Golub, Margie Van Meter, Kathleen Donohue and Cherie Grey (cjgrey1@juno.com), Chair.

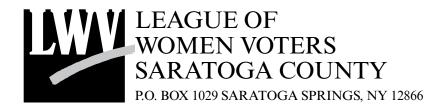
Receiving News from LWVSC?

If we have your correct email address, we will send you email messages about upcoming events and opportunities to take action, approximately once a week. In the "From" section it says "League of Women Voters of Saratoga County" and then the banner at the top of the message has the LWV logo and name in Red, White and Blue. (This is done using a service called Mail Chimp).

We send this Newsletter to you as a link in a Mail Chimp that tells you a little about the content of the Newsletter. If you didn't get a Mail Chimp about this Newsletter we don't have your correct email and you are missing out on a lot of info.

Note: This Newsletter is mailed quarterly to all members (and some others) unless you specifically tell barb.lwv@nycap.rr.com to take you off the list.

| JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE |
|--|
| YES! I would like to join the League. 2016/17 dues enclosed. |
| □ \$55. Individual □ \$80 Family □ \$25 Student In addition, I would like to contribute \$ □ Please send a gift membership. (enclose name and address) |
| NAME |
| ADDRESS |
| CITYSTATEZIP |
| PHONE (home) (work) |
| E-MAIL |
| ☐ Check if you would prefer an electronic Bulletin ☐ I would like to subscribe to the BULLETIN, \$15. enclosed (<i>Note: The Bulletin is free with membership</i>) |
| Total enclosed |
| Please send your check to: League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. |



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February 27
DON'T MISS
REX SMITH DISCUSS
"FAKE NEWS"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February

Wednesday, 2-8-17, 1pm, Book Club, CPHPL

Wednesday, 2-15-17, 7pm, Membership Meeting —A Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage in NYS, ADK Trust Bldg.

Monday, 2-27-17, 7 pm (place TBA), How to Recognize Fake News (and what to do about it)

March

Thursday, 3-2-17, 5:30pm, Petticoats of Steel (play produced by Cap Rep), NYS Museum

Wednesday, 3-8-17, 1pm, Book Club, SSPL

Wednesday, 3-15-17, 7pm, Membership Meeting—Life in the Cuban Dictatorship, ADK Trust Bldg.

Issue 1, Feb/Mar/April 2017 (min 4 issues per year)
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Design Editor: Paula Jo Smith.
Photos: Bill Crawshaw.
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Published by The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County,
PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Saturday, 3-18-17, 9am, Breakfast with Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Famous Person Fundraiser) Arches Room, Gideon Putnam Hotel \$55+

April

Saturday, 4-1-17, 1pm, Consensus: Local Government, Woodlawn Commons, 156 Lawrence St. Wednesday, 4-12-17, 1pm, Book Club, CPHPL

Wednesday, 4-19-17, 7pm, Membership Meeting- film, Food for Thought, ADK Trust Bldg

Tuesday, 4-25-17—LWVNY Lobby Day, LOB (Albany)

Wednesday, 4-26-17, 7pm, Transportation of Oil, SSPL Community Room

May

Wednesday, 5-10-17, 1pm, Book Club, SSPL

Wednesday, 3-15-17, 7pm, Membership Meeting—Topic TBA, ADK Trust Bldg.

June

Saturday, 6-3-17, 11:30 am, Annual Meeting-Speaker: Ron Deutsch, Bravo, \$25

June 9-11, LWVNY Convention, Syracuse (Liverpool) NY