

LWV NEWSLETTER

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Democracy Series

Defending the Constitution

Three Programs about the core principles of the U.S. Constitution

Making Democracy Work: Constitutional Principles in an Age of Uncertainty

Dr. Katie Zuber, Assistant Director for Policy and Research at the Rockefeller Institute
 Tuesday, January 30, Gannett Auditorium, Palamountain Hall, Skidmore College, 6:30-8:30pm

Dying to Vote: Countering Strategic Efforts to Suppress Voting Rights

Chris Deluzio, an attorney with the Brennan Center for Justice
 Tuesday, February 27, Gannett Auditorium, Palamountain Hall, Skidmore College, 6:30-8:30pm

The First Amendment: Our Obligation to Assemble, Protest, and Protect the Free Press

This program is planned for the end of March at Skidmore College. Details are being finalized. Check for updates on our website and social media. Look for an email alert.

More information about this series is on page 3



Meet Rachel Carson

Join us for breakfast and meet the author of *Silent Spring* and *The Sea Around Us*, two of the most influential environmental books ever written. Samantha Fleischman will give voice to Rachel Carson at our Famous Person Fundraiser on Saturday, March 24, 9am in the Arches Room, Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Spa State Park. See more info and the coupon on page 9

Meetups Continue in 2018!

Meetups are a way for us to come together to explore, understand and advocate for issues that matter to us. Meetups are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Adirondack Trust Mabee Office Building community room. See the schedule of Meetup topics on page 7.

CONTACT US

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

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

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*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 98 years.*

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*League of Women Voters of the United States
www.lwv.org*

Appointed!

Ann Marie Pendergast, our Vote411 coordinator, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County at the board's January meeting. Her term ends at the Annual Meeting this coming June. (But the nominating committee might be able to persuade her to run for another term).

Democracy Series

Defending the Constitution

LWVSC is sponsoring a series of three programs on the core principles of the U.S. Constitution. One was scheduled for January, February and March, covering topics such as protections afforded by the U.S. Constitution, increasing voter participation, and First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly.

Pattie Garrett says “The League of Women Voters is committed to an inclusive, participatory democracy. Our mission has always been to educate voters as to their rights, which are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, and to work for socio-political change when necessary. Today, there are unprecedented challenges to our form of government, and fundamental rights are threatened. Our work to empower voters, who are the bedrock of democracy, is more relevant and important than ever.”

The first session, *Making Democracy Work: Constitutional Principles in an Age of Uncertainty*, is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30 from 6:30-8:30pm. Dr. Katie Zuber, Assistant Director for Policy and Research at the Rockefeller Institute, and visiting professor at Skidmore College, will facilitate the discussion in the Ganett Auditorium, Palamontain Hall, Skidmore College.

On Tuesday, February 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Chris Deluzio, an attorney with the Brennan Center for Justice, will facilitate the second session, *Dying to Vote: Countering Strategic Efforts to Suppress Voting Rights*. He will review the history of voting rights in this country, efforts to strategically suppress votes around the country, and ways to effectively increase voter participation. This session also will be held in the Ganett Auditorium at Skidmore College.

The third session, scheduled for the end of March, is titled *The First Amendment: Our Obligation to Assemble, Protest, and Protect the Free Press*. Civil liberties attorneys will be presenting. Check our website www.lwvsaratoga.org for updated details.

LWVSC gets A.Z. Solomon Grant!

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County (LWVSC) is proud to announce that it has received a \$1178.00 grant from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust. The grant will be used for the purchase of a portable sound system and wireless microphones that can be used in venues without sound systems, or in venues with unreliable sound systems. This support for LWVSC’s Reliable Portable Audibility Project will enable LWVSC to provide programs and services in a greater variety of venues and locations within the County.



THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

Donna Dardaris
Joan Kubricky
Margarita Muinelo
Pamela King-Hall
A.C. Riley
Anne Wasielewski
Joanna Zangrando

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Christina Calantone
Judith Dore
Mary Ellen Dowling
Mary Ann Holohean
Bill and Lorraine McPherson
Margarita Muinelo
Rachel Person
Mary Estelle Ryckman
Sharon Sassaman
Donna Skiff
Welcome Back: Shoban Parthasarathy

Women’s Marches – January 20th, 2018

LWVSC chartered a bus to the March in NYC. What a day! The camaraderie and energy of the people was inspiring. We were so glad to be a part of the movement. Other League members joined the ranks of the marchers in Seneca Falls, Glens Falls and Albany. We made a statement for the world to see! See pages 5-8 for lots more photos!

Martin Luther King Weekend

LWVSC supported MLK Saratoga's weekend of Activities both financially and with volunteers. Diane and Darnell won tickets to the Opening Reception as door prizes at our Holiday Party. Dora Lee is a member of the MLK Planning Committee. Other League members present at the reception, and the Dr. King Challenge that followed, were Victoria Garlanda, Beverly LaBarge, Zuzia Kwasniewski, Barbara Thomas. On Monday LWVSC members Janice Burns, Helen Crawshaw, Mary Sue D'Orazio, Ann Kril, Louise Golub, Elizabeth Rossi and Sue Ransom served lunch to the volunteers and performers. All the activities played to the themes of these quotes from King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" & "The fierce urgency of NOW ... this is a time for positive & vigorous action!"



Diane Whitburn & Darnell Rohrbaugh



Dora Lee Stanley

February In-District Lobby Visits

By Jennifer Wilson,
Program & Policy Director, LWVNY

LWVNY is feeling confident that this year the Governor will be including funding for early voting in his 2018 budget proposal. However, there is no guarantee the Assembly and Senate will include that funding in their budget proposals. It is up to advocacy groups like the League to encourage their representatives to keep this funding in the final budget.

We are asking Local Leagues to meet with their Assembly members and Senators during their February break. This break begins on February 14th and ends on February 26th. [LWVSC will be scheduling appointments for groups of our members to visit their representatives. Contact Pattie Garrett or Ann Kril if you want to join in]

Help Wanted! Join our Audio-Visual team.

Thanks to the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust we have state of the art equipment for video-recording and sound amplification – but they do require people to operate them. No prior experience is required, just a willingness to be trained (it takes less than an hour) and a promise to operate the equipment at a LWVSC event of your choosing. Contact Steve Koebrich at 518- 587-3616 or skoebrich@yahoo.com to arrange your training.

It's Twins!

LWVSC member Sabrina Lauzon gave birth to twins, Iris Antonia and Watson David Kuczynski in December of 2017. Congratulations to Sabrina and her hubby Rob Kuczynski!

Women's March! 1/20/18









OUR FAMOUS PERSON FUNDRAISER

Meet Rachel Carson, the woman who said:



“In nature nothing exists alone.”

“The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but of ourselves.”

Rachel Louise Carson (May 27, 1907 – April 14, 1964) was an American marine biologist, author, and conservationist whose writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement. Embedded in all Carson's writings was the view that human beings were only one part of nature, but unfortunately with the power to affect it irreversibly. Her book, *Silent Spring*, brought environmental concerns to the American people and ultimately led to the ban on DDT and the creation of the EPA.

Join us for a delicious Breakfast buffet and a talk by Rachel Carson (portrayed by Samantha Fleischman)

Gideon Putnam Hotel, Arches Room
Saratoga Spa State Park
Saturday, March 24 at 9am

BREAKFAST BUFFET *Menu*

Seasonal Whole Fresh Fruit • Fresh Fruit Salad • Fruit Preserves • Flaky Croissants • Coffee Cakes • Breakfast Breads & Assorted Muffins • NY-Style Bagels & Plain, 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 RACHEL CARSON RESERVATION

Reserve by Wednesday, March 14 for the Saturday, March 24th performance

Donor levels: Biologist (\$55) Author (\$75) Environmentalist (\$100)

Number of reservations _____ @ _____ ea

I can't attend but here's my donation of _____

TOTAL PAYMENT _____

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to LWVNY EF and mail to Steve Koebrich, 718 Malta Ave Extn, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Your tax-deductible donations, except for the fair value of the breakfast (\$25), go to the LWV Saratoga Account within the LWVNY-EF to support Voter Service.

Holiday Party

Thanks to the great organizing and negotiating skills of Joan DiSare, we all had a spectacular time at the LWVSC Holiday party at Bravo. The food was tasty, especially the canoli – which were sinful. It was fun to get together without an agenda and just enjoy each other.



Book Club

Our Book Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome, however, you will get more out of the discussion if you have read the book or at least watched the associated video.

February 8—Clifton Park: Half Moon Public Library, 475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065

BLINDSPOT: HIDDEN BIASES OF GOOD PEOPLE
by Anthony Greenwald
www.seattlechannel.org/misc-video?videoid=x22212

March 8—Clifton Park: Half Moon Public Library, 475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065

STRANGERS IN THEIR OWN LAND
by Robert Wright & Arlie Hochschild
m.youtube.com/watch?v=itJtsPJyqFw

April 12—Saratoga Springs Public Library
49 Henry Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

EVICTED
by Matthew Desmond
m.youtube.com/watch?v=24M9wUaCEKo

Before They Were Our Mothers

Pat Nugent has done it again! She edited a new book that celebrates the lives of women before they went on to become mothers. Local women who wrote about their mothers are Carol Daggs and Josephine Pasciullo. It's currently available at Celtic Treasures, Crafters' Gallery, and Northshire, all on Broadway in SS. For online shoppers, it can be ordered from www.websterbookstore.com.



We're trying something different

Save June 13 for the LWVSC Annual Meeting. No speaker, no fee, an evening in the middle of the week- just drinks and hors 'd oeuvres in the elegant North Broadway home of Elizabeth Rossi. Of course, we will attend to the business of the annual meeting (elections, passing the budget, etc.).

Meetups Gear Up as the Legislature is Up and Running

Join us as we learn what the NYS Legislature is up to, the status of bills, and what we can do to change the course of our government's policies.

During the Wednesday, February 21st Meetup, we'll have an open discussion on the Women's protests including the marches. Let's learn about the legislation that focuses on women's issues. Put on your thinking caps and let's discuss issues that you are concerned about.

The Wednesday March 21st Meetup, will prepare us for lobbying at LWVNY's April 24th annual lobby day. On this day we travel to the NYS Capital to discuss legislation we support. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your legislator. We will also plan visits to our representatives' home offices.

At the Wednesday April 18th Meetup, we will hear from Linda McKenney, a member and life coach. She will present, "How to Listen Across Differences." Linda will help us build our active listening skills that enhance civil discourse. Don't miss this Meetup.

Our meetups are focused on members and their interests. We are open to the public so bring a friend.

All meetups are scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Adirondack Trust's Community Room. Check our website for updates and map (www.lwvsaratoga.org/pdfs/MeetupLocation.pdf) and let us know what you think.

The Art of Protest

At our January Meetup we heard from John Brueggemann, Professor and Chair in the Department of Sociology at Skidmore College, about the "Emergence, Maintenance, and Outcomes of American Social Movements." This was particularly fitting as many of our members were preparing to get on the bus to the Women's March in NYC the very next weekend and we wanted to know if we were wasting our time – or not.

Looking to take your commitment to the next level?

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: Donna Dardaris, Louise Golub, Tim Holmes, Kathleen Donohue and Cherie Grey (cjgrey1@juno.com), Chair.

Become a LWVSC Observer

There's no better way to learn about the myriad of local governments that you are a citizen of than to be a regular observer at meetings. Linda Gush is heading up the revitalization of the LWVSC Observer Corps and she can help you with tips, an observer badge, and a report form. Contact Linda at 518-742-9069.

An App just for us: **Voices: Our Political Advocacy App**

Voices LWV of New York State has launched a new partnership with Voices, a political advocacy app that shares action alerts from the League directly to your phone. These action alerts will allow you to quickly call, email, or tweet at your legislator with the touch of a button. The alert will provide you with a sample script, email, or tweet and give you the power to lobby on these issues quickly and easily. Download the app on your phone using this link: tryvoices.com/lwvnys or search "Voices: Political Advocacy" in the Apple App Store or Google Play on your cell phone. tryvoices.com/lwvnys

LWVNYS Advocacy Training Day (AKA Lobby Day)

Save the Date:
Tuesday, April 24, in Albany

Come learn about the LWVNY advocacy agenda and how you can make the League's voice heard. If you can join our delegation contact Pattie Garrett 518-496-4973 or Ann Kril 518-584-1436 or use their emails from p.2.



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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February

- Thursday, 2- 8-18, Book Club, Clifton Park - Half Moon Public Library, 1:30pm
- Wednesday, 2-21-18 Meetup: Women’s Protests & Issues, ADK Trust Mabee Office Building, 7pm
- Tuesday, 2- 27-18, Making Democracy Work Series: Dying to Vote, Gannett Auditorium, Palamontain Hall, Skidmore, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

March

- Thursday, 3- 8-18, Book Club, Clifton Park - Half Moon Public Library, 1:30pm

- Wednesday, 3-21-18 Meetup: Get Ready to Lobby, ADK Trust Mabee Office Building, 7pm
- Saturday, 3-24-18, Famous Person Fundraiser: Rachel Carson, Arches Room, Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Spa Park, 9am, \$55 – 100.
- March Date TBA, Making Democracy Work Series: The First Amendment, Details are being finalized. Check for updates on our website and social media.

April

- Thursday, 4-12-18, Book Club, Saratoga Springs Public Library, 1:30pm
- Wednesday, 4-18-18 Meetup: How to Listen Across Differences, ADK Trust Mabee Office Building, 7pm
- Tuesday, 4-24-18, LWVNY Lobby Day, Albany, 10am-4pm
- Thursday, 4-25-18, Topic TBA, Saratoga Springs Public Library, 7pm

Always check the website & Facebook for last minute changes or cancellations.

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