



NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE **JANUARY 2019**

WHAT WE DO

The League registers voters and disseminates information about voting, to help make this basic right of citizenship a reality for every citizen. We provide information on community issues through our monthly *Coffee & Conversation* speakers and through interviews on our cable program, *City People and Issues*. We organize events to introduce candidates for state and local office and we encourage voters to submit their questions for debate. Young people are introduced to political careers through our state and county League programs, including *Students in Albany*.

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOUSE:

**Your
Freshmen
Congress-
women
Recite the
Preamble to
the
Constitution**



PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Monica Grey

The dawning of the new year is ripe with the sense of renewal – a time for recharging and reinvigorating our days, lives and purpose. Lose a few pounds, exercise more, reconnect with old friends, organize the garage, get more involved, volunteer, make a difference If those last couple call to you, seek no further! The League has many opportunities for you – whether you are ready to jump in with two feet or just want to test the water, you will find options that provide you with a meaningful experience, and the community with a valued service.

During this past month, our league competed for, and won, a small grant from the national league to support an expansion of our core voter registration program to youth and underserved groups. As a result, there will be added opportunities to register potential voters onsite at high school and college campuses and venues beyond our borders in neighboring communities not covered by an active league.

We are keenly interested in actively monitoring meetings of the School Board and City Council by reestablishing our Observer Corps. We need you to attend a meeting in-person, or virtually online, reporting back important information to be disseminated to our membership.

Each year LWWNR participates in the Students-in-Albany program hosted by the NYS league. We send a deserving NRHS student to experience the legislative process from the inside during three amazing days. Right now, we are looking for someone to act as our liason, coordinating the selection process with NRHS, and later acting as the contact person for the student and LWWNY.

These are only a few ways in which you might channel your curiosity and commitment, ways in which your time spent will be both valued and have an impact on strengthening our democracy! So many more possibilities! Please contact us at lwvnewrochelle@gmail.com or call me at 914 632-1086.

Wishing that your new year is filled with new goals, achievements, inspirations and ... happiness!

Happy Birthday Carrie Chapman Catt - born January 9, 1859

Carrie Chapman Catt dedicated her life to campaigning for woman's suffrage both in the United States and abroad. In addition to being president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association at the time of the passage of the 19th Amendment, she published a book about the suffrage movement, and founded the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War. She also conceived of and founded the League of Women Voters, and worked tirelessly for world peace, encouraging the United States to first become part of the League of Nations and later to be part of the United Nations.



Carrie Chapman Catt

In March 1919 at the National American Woman Suffrage Association's meeting in St. Louis, it was clear that final passage of the 19th Amendment was close, and the women were working state by state to achieve ratification by the needed 36 states. In the midst of this final push, Catt realized that NAWSA would at some point no longer be needed, and she founded the **League of Women Voters** to carry out what she saw as the next steps.

Initially the League was described as a "mighty political experiment" to help 20 million new voters carry out their responsibilities, but from the beginning, the League also encouraged women to become active in shaping public policy. According to a 1963 interview with Tarrytown suffragist Sarah Walker, Catt said, "What are we going to do? We know nothing about politics. We've got the vote. Now we must learn to use it."

The LWV began with tables in department stores and hotel lobbies to show women what was expected of them when they went to vote. The organization has since grown, with offices on city, state, and national levels, with the intent today to provide nonpartisan information to voters of both genders.

--adapted from Westchester County Historical Society



Catt's New Rochelle home

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE
HERE.**

READ PAST ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER HERE.

EDITORIAL A PRESERVATION PLAN FOR NEW ROCHELLE

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle supports instituting a Preservation Plan for the City of New Rochelle, so that residents can offer critical input into mapping a course for the protection and preservation of the historic properties that tell our city's remarkable story. As City Historian Barbara Davis noted, "Our city is different from all others because of its 325+ years of history. Dozens of downtown properties provide irreplaceable links to our community's evolution and to our sense of identity ... As a whole, our older downtown buildings create a sense of place that cities across America try to create."

On December 8, 2015, the New Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a new zoning plan that paved the way for "the most significant economic rebirth in the City's historic downtown." This Plan, and the "intensive year-long research, planning and community outreach process" by which New Rochelle arrived at it, can be seen on the City's website, [New Rochelle Ideally Yours](#). This [press release](#) described our agreement with Master Developer RXR as one that would, among other things, "usher New Rochelle into the 21st century, while respecting our city's history and soul."

The theme of past and present in harmony was also echoed in the words of Scott Rechler, CEO of RXR Realty, who wrote, "We look forward to developing a vision that ... will be sensitive to the community's proud history, while positioning it to continue to thrive throughout the 21st Century and beyond."

According to the website [New Rochelle Development](#), there are twenty five buildings planned for various sites within the Development Zone, a dozen of which are at "various stages of construction and development." It is not a surprise to us that buildings going up also means buildings coming down. However, preserving our city's historic character was a concern that came up again and again in the focus groups run by the City. In response to that concern, New Rochelle's November 2016 Comprehensive Plan included a recommendation that the City "create a Preservation Plan which includes a strategy to review demolition of historic structures."

On October 31, 2018, Barbara Davis presented a letter signed by nearly 200 people to Mayor Bramson, City Council Members and the City Manager. The letter asked that the City honor its prior written commitment by implementing a moratorium on demolition for all buildings identified at a City, County and/or State level as historically significant until a Preservation Plan is in place, directing staff to complete a Preservation Plan, and holding hearings on the proposed preservation plan to receive community input before the lifting of the demolition moratorium.

The LWVNR believes that this approach makes good sense. New Rochelle has a long and vibrant past that can be kept alive through the thoughtful preservation and integration of its wonderful historic structures into the current development plans. Like family heirlooms, our city's historic structures should be held close, kept safe, and handed down to future generations.

--Marilyn Brown and Leslie Mignault

CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES **JANUARY**

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presents two interviews on its cable television program, "City People and Issues." New State Senator Shelley Mayer, who represents George Latimer's former district, describes her background and her views on issues that are likely to be taken up by the state legislature. She is interviewed by Ina Aronow.



New Rochelle Councilman Ivar Hyden, an art gallery owner and supporter of the arts, focuses on aspects of New Rochelle's future that have been overshadowed by the developing new high rises.



He describes a future city "hip to technology" using augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) that are being quietly developed with the help of grants that can transform the city and the arts. He also talks about the possible ways to connect the Lincoln corridor to downtown with funds from the Bloomberg foundation. Tamar Tait is host.

The two programs will be shown on alternate weeks on Cablevision Channel 76 on Mondays at 7 pm, and repeated on Wednesdays at 10 pm and Thursdays at 9:30 pm. They will also be on demand at www.vimeo.com after the first showing on Cablevision.

The interview with Senator Mayer will be shown during the week of January 14. The interview with Councilman Hyden will be shown during the weeks of January 7 and 21.

New interviews will be recorded in January.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTCHESTER

READ THE LWV of WESTCHESTER'S COMMENTS ON THE 2019 BUDGET PROPOSED BY THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

On November 16th, County Budget Director, Larry Soule, presented the proposed 2019 Westchester County budget in a League meeting that was open to the public. After the meeting, LWV membership came to consensus for a statement on the proposed 2019 County Budget and presented it at an open session of the Board of Legislators on December 5th. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the League's statement on the proposed budget.



Voter Service

Voter Service is energized and busy planning for Spring 2019! With a grant from the LWVUS Educational Foundation, the Voter Service Committees of New Rochelle and Scarsdale will partner to undertake a Youth Voter Registration project in area high schools and colleges. We will purchase posters, signs and printing for educational materials geared to the first time voter. We will establish student and faculty contacts to assist us in publicizing and setting up the tables. Volunteers will definitely be needed! To volunteer for this important endeavor, please contact Joan Alexander at royjoanalex@yahoo.com.

WHAT WOULD A CITY THAT IS SAFE FOR WOMEN LOOK LIKE?

Sexual violence has rarely been so high on the news agenda. Since allegations against the movie producer Harvey Weinstein [started to emerge](#) in October last year, the global problem has finally become [a mainstream issue](#). The United Nations has [estimated](#) that one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence, with 120 million girls around the world having been forced into sex acts.



The repercussions go beyond the physical and psychological toll on individuals who have been attacked. Harassment and fear of violence can impede free movement of girls and women and stop them reaching their full potential, both socially and economically. "If women feel afraid," says Laura Somoggi, who manages the biennial [Womanity award](#) for the prevention of violence against women, "it could undermine their ability to work or go to school or university which affects their empowerment, their rights." Fear of attack is a bar to women escaping poverty.

On a recent visit to [Delhi](#), Somoggi witnessed the long-term impacts first-hand. "If girls are harassed and tell their parents about it, their parents will tell them not to go to school. They're not going to try to solve the problem. It's a massive social issue."

Part of the problem is that cities have been "planned by men, for men," says Somoggi, who lives in London but is originally from São Paulo.

--IDEAL CITIES, THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION, 12/13/2018

[READ THE REST AT SAFETY](#)



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, enables you to receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

INDIVIDUAL \$60/YEAR

HOUSEHOLD* \$85/YEAR

* ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK PAYABLE TO LWV NR

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE WITH A **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** CONTRIBUTION

MADE PAYABLE TO **LWV EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

\$100

\$50

OTHER _____

RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle

45 Long Vue

New Rochelle, NY 10804

or

Join and/or Donate via **PAYPAL** on our website: www.lwvnewro.org



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Carol Troum, the Executive Director of Hope Community Services, will speak at Coffee and Conversation on January 18th at 9:30 am about the challenges that Hope Community Services' clients face during the winter.

Coffee and Conversation is an ongoing series of informal public gatherings, with guests discussing public issues. The meetings, open to all, are sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. Coffee and Conversation is held in the New Rochelle Public Library's first floor meeting room. Coffee and light refreshments are served. For further information, please call 914-632-8254.



The New Rochelle Board of Education will meet on Tuesday, 1/8, at 7 pm in the Central Administration Offices at City Hall, 515 North Avenue, New Rochelle



"My husband's career had allowed me to witness the machinations of politics and power up front. I'd seen how a handful of votes in every precinct could mean the difference not just between one candidate or another, but between one value system and the next. If a few people stayed home in each neighborhood, it could determine what our kids learned in school, which health care options we had available, or whether or not we sent our troops to war. Voting was both simple and incredibly effective."

-- Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

OUR MADDENING ELECTION LAWS MAY FINALLY CHANGE

New Yorkers have a well-earned skepticism toward politicians' promises. So when Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced on Monday that he wanted the state's byzantine election laws revamped and (gasp!) made more voter-friendly, there was applause — and apprehension.

In his speech, Mr. Cuomo called for automatic voter registration, an ease on the restrictions to voting by mail, and an expansion in the number of days when people can vote. Thirty-eight other states already allow early voting. He even wants to make Election Day a state holiday.

"We're very pleased," Susan Lerner, executive director of the good-government group Common Cause, told The Times. But "the devil's in the details," she said. "Early voting needed to include "a minimum of two weekends, and some evening hours."

This would allow the most people to be able to get to the polls, she said: "Seniors, the young, communities that are often economically challenged, where people are working three or four jobs." --New York Times, 12/19/2018 [READ THE REST AT VOTING](#)

Women's March Roiled by Accusations of Anti-Semitism

The Women's March Alliance, which organizes the Women's March on NYC, has a disclaimer on its website stating that it "has no affiliation and was never part of Women's March Inc."

Within days of Donald J. Trump's election, a diverse group of women united by their concern about the incoming administration gathered at a restaurant in New York to plan a protest march in Washington. They had seen the idea floating on Facebook and wanted to turn it into a reality.

The women who gathered that night would go on to organize one of the biggest protests in American history, remarkable not just for its size, but for its inclusive nature. The event on Jan. 21, 2017, inspired thousands of women who had never been involved in politics before to pour their energy into helping Democrats win elections this fall.

But the divisions apparent at that very first meeting continue to haunt the Women's March organization, as charges of anti-Semitism are now roiling the movement and overshadowing plans for more marches [next month](#). - -New York Times, 12/23/2018



[READ THE REST AT MARCH](#)

NEW ROCHELLE NEWS

New Rochelle's Winning Idea: Open-source augmented reality app to showcase new developments and foster community engagement

A variety of factors contribute to citizens not being in the know when it comes to new buildings or public spaces under development in their communities. New Rochelle leaders thought there could be an app for that. Thus was born the idea to make a public-facing virtual reality app.

The idea is to offer citizens an easy way to learn about new and ongoing projects and to participate in the development and approval processes. "We hope to develop an open-source app that allows anyone to access and interact with this information," said Ralph DiBart, executive director of the New Rochelle Business Improvement District.

--SmartCities, 11/15/2018

READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE AT [NEW ROCHELLE](#)



Track New Rochelle's development on this [website](#).

Can This Westchester Community Revitalize without Displacement?

New development and the zoning that facilitates it are often a double-edged sword for U.S. cities. On one hand, as urban areas densify, they can put people to work, provide them with new places to live and create more walkable and vibrant neighborhoods. But small businesses and low-income residents can often be left out of the happy picture that cities paint when describing their grand plans.

The City of New Rochelle has taken innovative steps to revitalize itself with the goal of not leaving anyone behind. While eager to see progress in the city, some local advocates are concerned about the plans' unforeseen effects of gentrification. But New Rochelle has been recognized as a model for pioneering new planning and engagement methods. Time will tell if they are successful in combating the all-too-well-known effects that new development can have on communities.

--NEXT CITY, 12/3/2018

READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE AT [DISPLACEMENT](#)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

CIVICS

According to a report by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, nearly 10% of recent college graduates think that "Judge Judy" is on the Supreme Court. Thank goodness the state League has been working with NY's social studies teachers' association to develop lesson plans on civics that have since been shared with all the high schools in the state. Click here to learn more about these: <https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state/civics-education>



We plan to translate these lesson plans into programs that you can put on in your communities, but most Leagues include savvy teachers in their membership. If a local high school is using the lesson plans, maybe some students would like to participate in the community teach-in - and maybe the PTA would co-present the event.

Our state League is one of 20 state Leagues participating in a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) effort that the national League is spearheading. LWVUS is asking us to be more aware of our own biases and our very human tendency to stay within the comfortable cultures we know. A self-assessment period begins in January, and by early March the participating state Leagues should have created action plans. This important work can be put off no longer. You can read more about the DEI program here:

<https://www.lwv.org/League-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

--Dare Thompson, President, League of Women Voters of NYS

Lawsuit with NYCLU on Voter Registration Deadline

The League has signed on as a plaintiff on the NYCLU lawsuit to challenge the 25 day voter registration deadline. Public interest in the people and issues on the ballot peaks in the 25 days before Election Day. Yet eligible voters who become motivated to vote by the flurry of electoral activity in the last four weeks of political campaigns find themselves unable to do so because they failed to register prior to the 25-day cut-off. The lawsuit charges that the voter registration cut-off is no longer necessary in the age of computers and needlessly disenfranchises thousands of voters. The suit claims that this disenfranchisement violates the state Constitution's guarantee of the fundamental right to vote as well as its equal protection clause.

Rosanell Eaton, Fierce Voting Rights Advocate, Dies at 97

Rosanell Eaton, a resolute African-American woman who was hailed by President Barack Obama as a beacon of civil rights for her role as a lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against a restrictive North Carolina voting law that reached the Supreme Court in 2016, died on Saturday in Louisburg, N.C. She was 97.



Caught up as a witness to history in one of the nation's major controversies, Ms. Eaton, an obscure civil rights pioneer in her younger years, became a cause célèbre after Mr. Obama cited her courage in his response to a 2015 article in *The New York Times Magazine* about growing efforts to dismantle the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"I was inspired to read about unsung American heroes like Rosanell Eaton in Jim Rutenberg's 'A Dream Undone: Inside the 50-year campaign to roll back the Voting Rights Act,' " Mr. Obama wrote in [a letter to the editor](#). "I am where I am today only because men and women like Rosanell Eaton refused to accept anything less than a full measure of equality."

A year after the president's letter, the Supreme Court, in a 4-4 vote, let stand a federal appeals court judgment upholding the lawsuit spearheaded by Ms. Eaton and other plaintiffs. The ruling struck down a North Carolina statute whose provisions "target African-Americans with almost surgical precision" in what the court called an effort to depress black turnout at the polls.

--New York Times, 12/9/2018

[READ THE REST OF THE OBITUARY AT VOTING RIGHTS](#)

News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle is published by the Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. We are Joan Alexander, Ina Aronow, Marilyn Brown (Contributing Editor,) Leona Newman, Susan Fleming, Monica Grey, Sydelle Herzberg, John Hessel, Peter Korn, Leslie Mignault (Editor,) and Pearl Quarles. Contact us at LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD
UPCOMING EVENTS

Considering a Career in Firefighting?

**JOIN THE
NEW ROCHELLE
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

EXAM: APRIL 2019

We're looking for the best.

Take the test!

NewRochelleNY.com/NRFDTest



Summer 2019 can be life changing
for your 10th or 11th grade girl.
Encourage her to learn to code and
change the world at Girls Who
Code's **FREE** Summer Immersion
Program!

Our program teaches rising juniors or seniors the computer science skills they need to make an impact in their community while preparing for a career in tech. Stipends of up to \$1000 to cover transportation and living expenses are available to those who qualify.

Applications open in mid-January 2019
and close March 15, 2019

Send this interest form to girls who qualify!

32ND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM
An Annual Event of the Larchmont Mamaroneck Human Rights Committee

RACISM TODAY:
Unpacking The Myth of the North/South Divide



2019 EVENT HONOREE: SHANNON TURNER-PORTER
Mamaroneck High School Teacher

A robust and engaging presentation – including audience Q & A – about the history and present day geography of race and racism in the US featuring nationally renowned journalists:



John Biewen

John Biewen is an audio program director at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University (CDS), and host and producer of the CDS podcast Scene on Radio: Seeing White.



Dr. Chenjerai Kumanyika

Dr. Chenjerai Kumanyika is a researcher, journalist, and artist who works as an assistant professor in Rutgers University's Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

Sunday, January 13, 2019
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Hommocks Middle School Auditorium
130 Hommocks Road, Larchmont, NY

When it comes to America's racial sins, past and present, a lot of us see people in one region of the country as guiltier than the rest.

Face questions like:
Charlottesville, could that happen here?
And is racism (or was it ever) a distinctly Southern problem?

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Family Law Informational Seminar
with **Martin J. Rosen**

Saturday, January 12, 2019

Location: New Rochelle Boys and Girls Club
79 Seventh Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801



Since 1971, the law firm of Martin J. Rosen, P.C. has provided high-caliber divorce representation to clients in Westchester County and throughout the Hudson Valley. From his office in White Plains, Mr. Rosen handles divorce, custody and other family law issues with the skill and professionalism that these sensitive matters deserve. For more than five decades, the firm has efficiently addressed the specific needs of high-net-worth clients in sophisticated cases while seeking the best and most cost-effective resolution possible. As a seasoned and respected family lawyer, Martin J. Rosen is committed to providing the exceptional service you need to resolve your issue.

Throughout Westchester County and the Hudson Valley, the firm works diligently to resolve family legal challenges positively and efficiently.

AREAS OF PRACTICE: Divorce, Child Custody & Visitation, Child Support, Separation/Paternity, Maintenance / Alimony, Prenuptial and


Prenuptial Agreements, Equitable Distribution, Modification of Judgments Orders of Protection, Adoption Law

Q & A after, please email us your questions so we can provide them to Mr. Rosen.

RSVP by January 4, 2019
on our website

<http://theqbmf.org>

We will have snacks and beverages, all we ask is you bring yourselves and something to write with and on.




The 3Cs of the SBA

Attention Westchester's Small Businesses:
Join us for a discussion on Capital, Counseling and Contracting

- Understand what the Small Business Administration is all about.
- Learn how the SBA can help you with financing, business education and contracts.
- Sign up for one-on-one counseling with the Small Business Development Council.
- Get involved with SCORE and the Women's Business Center.
- Explore how government contracts can start or expand your business.

Special Guest: Man-Li Lin, Economic Development Specialist, Small Business Administration

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019 • 9:30 - 11 a.m.
WESTCHESTER COUNTY CENTER, LITTLE THEATER



We ♥ Small Business

Westchester County
Office of
Economic
Development
George Lattimer

The New Rochelle Open Mic

This new free program is a platform for local musicians, dancers, spoken word artists and singers to share their voices and their talent. Local poet Bobby Sanchez is the host/emcee. For guidelines for performers, please email communityrelations@nrpl.org.

- **Who can participate? Anyone 16 years and older.**
- **How do I sign-up? Registration will start at 2:30 pm the day of the event continue until 2:55 pm, or until all slots are filled. First-come, first served basis!**
- **What can I perform? Spoken word, dance and music can be performed during the Open Mic session.**
- **All performances must be three minutes or less, with a 10-second grace period.**
- **No obscenities, racism, sexism or homophobia.**

Free. Made possible by the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library

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NOVEMBER



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HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES
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IN MEMORIUM