



NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE **MARCH 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 questions for debate. Young people are introduced to political careers through our state and county League programs, including *Students in Albany*.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

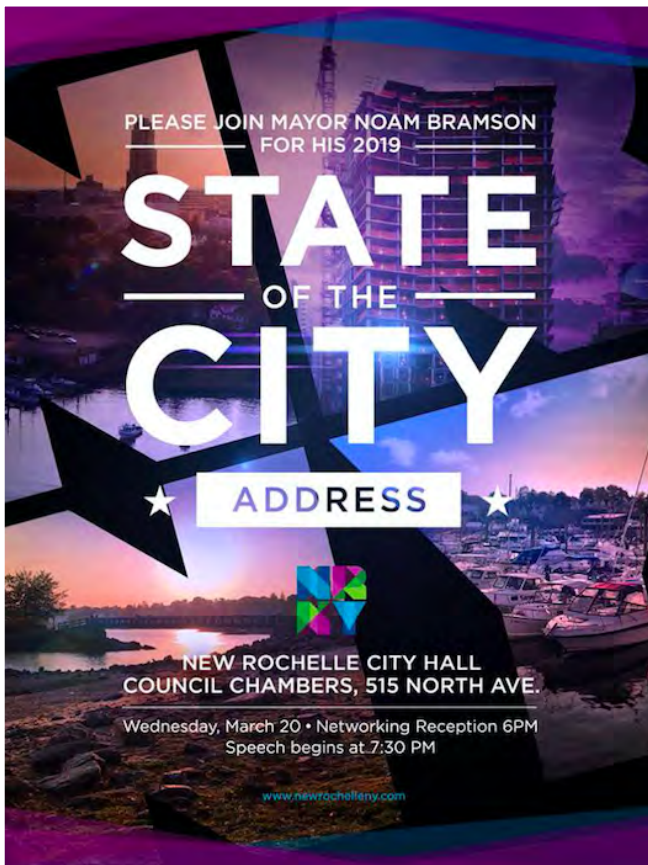
U.S. Women's History Month traces its beginnings back to the first [International Women's Day](#) in 1911. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. Read Carter's proclamation [here](#). The WHM theme for 2019 is [Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence](#). Find events celebrating WHM in New York [here](#) and [here](#).



PRESIDENT'S CORNER Two steps forward, one step back... That's a little bit of how it feels now that voter reform legislation, particularly early voting, has been passed, signed by Governor Cuomo, but not included in his proposed budget. Throughout the state, County Boards of Election will be making provisions to allow voters to cast their ballots days in advance of the formally designated Election Day on November 5th. This will require some new technology and manpower. Without support in the budget, this initiative becomes another unfunded State mandate, a financial burden to the counties. Change is often difficult and institutions routinely tend to resist it. The League advocated long and hard for this change that will provide access to voting for many people whose circumstances prohibited them from casting a ballot in a restricted timeframe. We can't let it fail because of lack of adequate funding. There is still time to have it included in the separate, proposed budgets of the Senate and Assembly that will be used in negotiations with the Governor. Please, contact your State Senator and Assemblyperson: tell them you want funding for early voting included in this year's budget!

The LWVNY has developed a very readable explanation of voter reform legislation that has been enacted. They have also published their research about the projected costs associated with early voting. Those documents are available [here](#) and on their website at LWVNY.org. On another note, as an organization founded by women almost a century ago, we are happy to acknowledge and celebrate March as Women's History Month. In recognition of it, our Coffee and Conversation on March 15th will feature New Rochelle's amazing City Historian, Barbara Davis, introducing us to notable, but perhaps lesser-known, women from New Rochelle's past - from movers and shakers to musicians and mistresses! We hope you will join us for this 'special edition' of our monthly, Friday morning program at the New Rochelle Public Library.

-- **Monica Grey**



NEW ROCHELLE NEEDS A PRESERVATION PLAN

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle opposes demolition of historic buildings without a Preservation Plan. Tell your elected officials we need to STOP demolitions until a preservation plan is in place. Click [here](#) to see contact information for your local officials and a sample script.

TRACK NEW ROCHELLE'S ONGOING DEVELOPMENT ON THIS INTERACTIVE WEBSITE



New Rochelle looks to reinvent Ward Acres property

Ward Acres Park is a forested eyesore with dilapidated structures surrounded by a middle-class neighborhood in the north end of New Rochelle.

City officials and admirers are now on a mission to return it to its glory days.

"This is the largest park in New Rochelle," Mayor Noam Bramson said. "We want to enhance one of the city's most beautiful natural areas."

The 62-acre area was once part of the 500-acre Hillandale Farm owned by renowned horse breeder Watson Dickerman and housed the sires of two historic race horses: Atlantic Express and Bellini.

The 15,000-square-foot barn complex, which includes a horse barn, farm complex and barn stable, was built in 1906. Part of it was purchased by the Ward Family in 1925. Nearly four decades later, in 1962, the city bought it.

Ward Acres Park gradually fell into disrepair after decades of neglect, vandalism and flood damage.

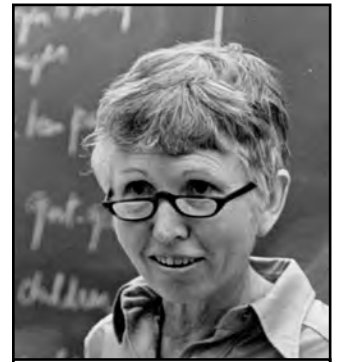
"The complex has been subject to long-term neglect and most of the complex is in an advanced stage of deterioration with many interior locations unsafe," according to a recent city-commissioned study by Stantec. -- **LoHud**, 3/1/2019

READ THE REST AT **WARD ACRES**

Anne Firor Scott, Scholar of Women's History

This 2/12/19 obituary of noted women's history scholar, Anne Firor Scott, credits her early career with the **League of Women Voters** with laying the ground work for her landmark study of the under-appreciated role of women making social change.

Anne Firor Scott, a scholar who brought a new prominence to women's history and taught generations of Duke University students how to study and appreciate it, died on Feb. 5 at her home in Chapel Hill, N.C. She was 97. Her family confirmed her death.



Scott in 1985

Her 1970 book, "The Southern Lady: From Pedestal to Politics, 1830-1930," challenged the portrait of Southern women as prettily dressed, tea-sipping spectators to the cataclysmic events of the century of the title. -NYTimes, 2/12/19

[READ THE REST AT SCHOLAR](#)

What Is the Equal Rights Amendment, and Why Are We Talking About It Now?

Do you understand the Equal Rights Amendment? That's been my go-to party question lately, and to my surprise, most people don't politely excuse themselves for a refill when asked.

The most common responses I've heard, especially from women my age, were to the effect of: "Don't we already have that?" or "That was a '70s thing, right?" -- NYTimes, 2/22/2019

[READ THE REST OF THIS OPINION PIECE AT ERA](#)



WELL, ACTUALLY. VOTING FOR A WOMAN DOES MATTER

The 2020 Democratic primary is shaping up to center mothers and motherhood in ways that exceed my wildest hopes. Previous elections have hinged on cloying conservative pro-mommy sentiment, or obsessed over winning the votes of suburban white "soccer moms." But this time around, it's different. The women in the Democratic primary race are pushing for a deep, and deeply feminist, re-evaluation of how women's unpaid and invisible labor makes all our lives possible, and what the United States owes to the mothers working out of our sight and without our support. --DAME, 2/21/2019

[READ THE REST AT DAME](#)

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN MARCH AND GET
FIFTEEN MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF TWELVE !**



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE SPOTLIGHT ON CIVICS

WHAT DOES A CITY COUNCILPERSON DO?

The City Council is New Rochelle's legislative body. It includes the Mayor, elected at large, and 6 Council Members, elected by district. The Mayor and City Council Members serve 4 year terms, and there are no term limits. The Mayor and Council are up for re-election in November 2019.

The City Council establishes policy, and directs the City Manager and staff to carry out its directives.

Specific duties of the City Council include setting policy, appointing the City Manager and City Clerk, approving the Budget, and enacting local laws, resolutions, and ordinances. Enactment of a local law must be preceded by a Public Hearing. To pass laws, a majority vote on Council is required. Council Members also make appointments to several Citizen Advisory Committees; for example, the Advisory Committee on Boating and Marinas.



REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In addition to legislative duties for the City, each Council Member responds to constituent issues on the local level, such as parking, potholes, and other issues specific to that district. Citizens reach out to their City Council Member, making City Council a representative governmental body.

The City Council meets twice a month, one time for the Council of the Whole (which includes Public Hearings and Citizens to be Heard), and one time for the Regular Legislative Meeting.

Council meetings are open to the public and televised live on Government Access Cable Stations 75 (Cablevision) and 28 (Verizon) and streamed live and on demand on the City's website. Meeting agendas are available on the City's website.

-- Liz Fried, LWVNR Member and New Rochelle City Council Member, District 6

CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presents two new interviews on its cable television program, "City People and Issues." One is with Rabbi Scott Weiner, president of the New Rochelle Interreligious Council, and the other is with City Historian Barbara Davis. The 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.



RABBI SCOTT WEINER

Week of March 4: Theresa Kump Leghorn, president of the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, speaks with host Ina Aronow about why the arts are important and what is happening in the arts in New Rochelle (last week on Cablevision.)

Week of March 11: Rabbi Scott Weiner, president of the New Rochelle Interreligious Council, discusses the value of the Council in an interview with Tamar Tait.

Week of March 18: City Historian Barbara Davis talks about the importance of preserving the historic structures in New Rochelle as new development goes forward. She is interviewed by Ina Aronow.

Week of March 25: Repeat of Rabbi Weiner interview

The February interview with New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson, who discusses the positive impact of development on the city and the plans for catching up on long-delayed infrastructure needs, is now available on vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/317590847>.

RUNNING AND WINNING WORKSHOP GEARING UP FOR APRIL

The LWW is sponsoring its 8th annual Running and Winning workshop, to be held on April 11th in White Plains.

The workshop is open to female-identified junior and senior high school students from Westchester County, and provides a day-long opportunity to interact with female elected officials and to engage in exercises designed to introduce students to establishing a campaign platform and communicating with voters as part of a campaign team.

Adult volunteers who are interested in spending a wonderful, rewarding day helping out as facilitators should contact Deb Morel at moreldeb@gmail.com.



Voter Service

We registered voters at the College of New Rochelle's Educational Symposium on February 13th (right.) The Hon. Pearl Quarles, former Westchester County Legislator and a LWVNR Board member, was a panelist at the Symposium. LWVNR



Volunteers also registered voters at the Do it For the Culture Gospel Fest on 2/28 at The College of New Rochelle.

The Voter Service committee is working on a spring schedule of Voter Registration activities at local colleges and area high schools. The plan is to register students and then follow up before local primaries, if any, and the general election, to remind them to vote. An email for volunteers will be sent out when the program is finalized. Contact Joan at 914-715-3916 or royjoanalex@yahoo.com.

Trump administration inches closer to defunding Planned Parenthood

The US Department of Health and Human Services issued its draft [final rule to revise the Title X family planning program](#) Friday, jeopardizing a decades-old program that serves millions of low-income people, critics say.

Title X, established in 1970, provides more than \$250 million in funding for birth control and other reproductive health care services to approximately 4 million people every year.

Central to opponents' concerns about the rule are provisions that prohibit health care providers who receive federal funding from performing abortions or even referring patients elsewhere for the procedure. --CNN, 2/23/2019 **READ THE REST AT TITLE X**

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.



H.R. 4: Voting Rights Advancement Act Introduced This Week!

LWV is proud to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), which would restore the VRA by updating the coverage formula to determine which states and localities must pre-clear election changes with the Department of Justice. The bill would essentially restore section 4 of the VRA, which was gutted in the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. [Read our statement on the VRAA.](#)

League Urges Support for HR1 Companion in U.S. Senate

The League recently [sent a memo](#) to the U.S. Senate urging members to support and co-sponsor a companion bill to HR1, the *For the People Act*. Complementary democracy reform proposals in both the House and Senate will show a unified approach in Congress and are an important step forward in repairing our broken political system and our destructive campaign finance system. The League supports legislation led by Senator Udall that mirrors provisions of this historic bill.

HR1 Moving to the Floor of the U.S. House

HR1 has been "marked-up" in the House Committee on Administration and is set to go to the floor of U.S. House next week. Now is the time to urge your Representative to vote for this historic legislation. This bill to fix our democracy deserves bipartisan support. [Contact your Representative today](#) via email or call the capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121 to leave a message for your Representative.



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF

The League depends on the work and financial support of its members to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men. 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

You're Invited


League of Women Voters' Annual Luncheon

Friday, April 12th, Noon
Orienta Beach Club
1094 Walton Avenue, Massaroneck, NY



Speaker: New York State Senator Shelley Mayer
"A New Day in Albany: How the 2018 Election has Changed State Government"

Opening Remarks by NYSLWV President Dare Thompson



Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Larchmont-Massaroneck, New Rochelle, Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester


To Reserve a Spot by Mail: RSVP by April 6
Or Purchase Tickets Online By April 7 Go To: lwvlm.org

Send Check Made to LWVNYSEF for \$60 to:
Or Click Below

LWV-LM
P.O. Box 811
Larchmont, NY 10558

\$20 of payment qualifies for a tax deduction. Credit card payments are not tax deductible.

[Buy Now](#)




Westchester County Legislator
Damon Maher
invites you to a
HOUSING SEMINAR

Wednesday, March 13 at 10 AM
and
Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 PM

New Rochelle Public Library
One Library Plaza
New Rochelle, NY 1080

TOPICS INCLUDE:
Federal, state, and county Fair Housing Protections for renters and buyers
What you need to know as a first time home buyer

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



ARIANA CALDERON
Program Manager:
Fair Housing Investigation & Education
Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc.

BARRY KRAMER
Principal Broker of:
Westchester Choice Realty, Inc. and 2018 President of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (HGAR)

TERRY FLEISCHMAN
Homeownership Director
Housing Action Council, Inc.

SHARENE LONG
Real Estate Agent
Bematch Real Estate

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

February's guest was Geena Gokey (right,) Claims Specialist at the New Rochelle Field Office of the Social Security Administration. Ms. Gokey discussed Retirement and Medicare on February 15th and took questions from the audience.



On **March 15th at 9:30 am**, for Women's History Month, City Historian Barbara Davis (left) will again present a digital slide presentation on some of New Rochelle notable women. This time, she will focus on individuals who are not so well-known to local residents, yet earned national prominence. The illustrious parade



will include artists, musicians, writers, philanthropists and activists, as well as an inventor of an important everyday item – and two women involved in presidential scandals New Rochelle's deep and wonderful history is bound to amaze and impress!

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.

NEW ROCHELLE NEWS

Spring is Coming - Plant a Tree!

New Rochelle has a Plant-a-Tree program and they need to hear from us! To request that a tree be planted, use New Rochelle's ["Plant-a-Tree" form](#).

CHANGES TO QUAKER RIDGE ROAD

With help from a New York State grant, New Rochelle is planning to make the biggest investment in Quaker Ridge Road since the street's initial construction decades ago. In addition to basic (and much-needed) resurfacing, the goals of the project are to Enhance safety and efficiency at intersections, maintain smooth traffic flow, curb excessive speeding, and Improve sidewalks and cycling options. A community meeting was held on 2/27 at Beth El Synagogue to explain the project and to answer questions from the community.

Metro-North To Run Line For L.I., Westchester, Penn Sta.

An underused rail line in the east Bronx could become Metro-North Railroad's newest line. It would also become a transit link between Westchester, Long Island, Boston and Washington, D.C.

The new commuter line would run between New Rochelle and Penn Station instead of Grand Central, Metro-North's home terminal. Four new train stations, at Hunt's Point, Parkchester/Van Nest, Morris Park and Co-op City, would be built on the line.

New Rochelle's Mayor Noam Bramson said that Penn Access is vital to the economy, environment and security of the region. "For New Rochelle, it is a potential game changer, giving us the closest station to Manhattan with direct access to the east and west sides" Bramson said. -Patch, 1/29/19

[READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE AT PENN](#)

BRENDAN CONROY TO CHALLENGE INCUMBENT MAYOR NOAM BRAMSON

Brendan Conroy has been nominated by the city's Republican party to challenge the Democratic Bramson, who has been in office since January 2006. Conroy is currently a real estate salesperson at Houlihan Lawrence. Bramson has been overwhelmingly elected three times since he initially took office and previously served a decade as a member of the New Rochelle City Council. --NEW ROCHELLE DAILY VOICE, 2/26/2019

New York Counts 2020 Lobby Day: March 5th

The League recently became a coalition partner with New York Counts 2020. New York Counts 2020 is a broad-based, statewide coalition composed of racial, ethnic, immigrant, religious, health, education, labor, housing, social services, and business groups working in partnership with state and local government officials. Their aim is to ensure that New Yorkers across the state - particularly marginalized communities in hard-to-count districts - can fully maximize their participation in the 2020 Census.

On March 5th they will hold a lobby day in Albany in support of funding for educational efforts surrounding the census question. You can learn more about New York Counts 2020 [here](#) and sign up for their lobby day [here](#).

No Funding For Early Voting in Governor's Amendments

In mid-February, the Governor released his 30 day budget amendments. These amendments made changes to the Governor's original state budget proposal. We had hoped to see funding for early voting included in these amendments. Unfortunately, the only major change in the proposal was to the Governor's congestion pricing plan.

Now more than ever it is important to lobby your state Senators and Assembly Members to remind them that without funding, localities will be fronting the cost of early voting. The Senate and Assembly each craft their own budget proposals. Their one-house budgets are released in early March. Once the budgets are released the two houses and executive negotiate. We want to make sure that the Senate and Assembly include funding for early voting in their budgets.

The state League has created a budget lobby packet, available on our website [here](#).

Voter Friendly Ballot Act Passes in Assembly

It wasn't all bad news. Recently, the Assembly passed the Voter Friendly Ballot Act. This legislation would make comprehensive changes to the formatting of voting ballots in New York State. Changes include instituting a uniform font size, removing party emblems, and making a clear delineation between candidate names.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD
UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 Census Jobs

Earn extra income while helping your community.

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count.

 **APPLY NOW**



**NY Election Law Reform:
Unfinished Business**

**Hot Topics Breakfast
Tuesday, March 19*
8:30-10:00 am**

**Jazz Forum Club
1 Dixon Lane, Tarrytown
Parking: Municipal lots - McKeel Ave.
& S. Washington St.**

Speaker: John Nonna

New York ranks near the bottom of states for voter turnout. Not because New Yorkers don't care, but because of barriers to voting. That should change with new election laws. Learn how these new laws will affect you, and what we still need to do so all NY citizens can exercise their right to vote.

***After the presentation, go vote! March 19 is
Election Day for some of our villages.**

Free Continental breakfast served; \$10 donation optional


Questions? - info@lwv-rivertowns.org

In case of bad weather, cancellation posted at:
lwv-rivertowns.org

**DAY OF
ACTION
2019**

March 12 | Albany, NY

Sign up at: bit.ly/2019PP_REG



**A
Collective
Ribbon**

Making the Triangle Fire Memorial

The Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition invites the public to participate in the making of the permanent memorial to the Triangle Fire.

Join us at the Fashion Institute of Technology for two days of events and discussions, free and open to all, about the fire and its memory.

The centerpiece of the event will be the collective creation of a ribbon, formed together from smaller individual pieces of fabric brought by the participants. This ribbon will be used to cast the main element of the memorial, which will be mounted on the facade of the Brown Building in Manhattan, where the fire took place on March 25, 1911.

You are invited to embed your personal contribution in the body of the future memorial and to share with us why the story of the Triangle Fire and the memory of those who perished matters to you.

When: Saturday March 16 and Sunday March 17, 2019, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Fashion Institute of Technology, John E. Rarick Great Hall, Enter on the north west corner of Seventh Avenue and 27th Street, Manhattan.

More info: www.rememberthetrianglefire.org
RSVP: info@rememberthetrianglefire.org

This event is sponsored by a Humanities New York Action Grant, the United College Endowment of the Fashion Institute of Technology and the School of Liberal Arts at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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NEW YORK



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science to medicine[®]



THE 39TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARDS

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019 • BREAKFAST BENEFIT • TARRYTOWN, NY



You're invited to join us Friday, April 5 for the largest celebration of volunteerism in our region.

Breakfast & Awards: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Networking Reception: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

For more info, please visit

volunteernewyork.org/awards

or call 914-227-9307.

DO YOU CARE ABOUT RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT?

Join SWAC Pac for a forum on
COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS
and how they can create:

- SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT •
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING •
- HIGH QUALITY JOBS FOR WESTCHESTER RESIDENTS •
- OTHER BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY •

Together we can demand more from Developers and build a stronger and better Westchester!

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH @ 7PM

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 456 HALL • 160 S. CENTRAL AVE • ELMSFORD NY

SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER ACTION PAC



Fostering Workshop
Saturday, March 16th 10:30am to 11:30 am

Humane Society of Westchester
AT NEW ROCHELLE
from our home to yours

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
TROLLEY TOUR**

WOODLAWNTOURS.ORG

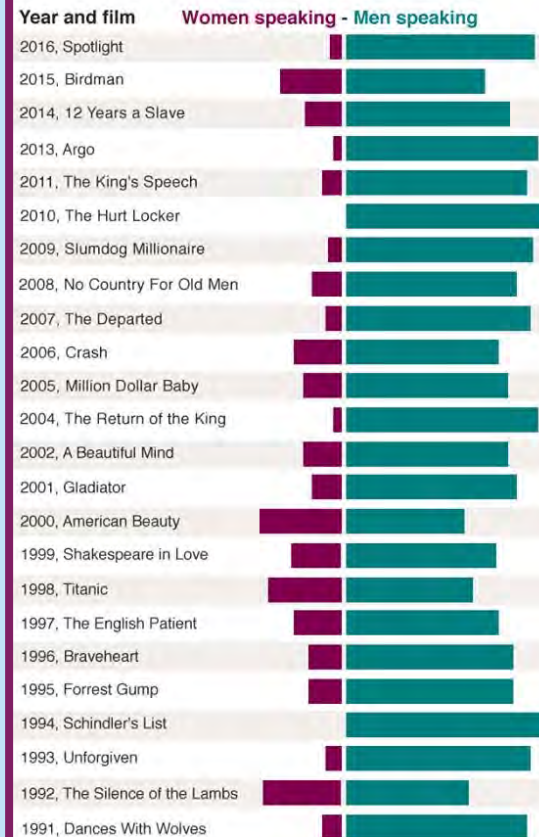
Sunday, March 3rd

2 pm - 4 pm

Register HERE

Men speak most in best picture winning films

Proportion of words spoken by characters with more than 100 words



Source: Hanah Anderson, The Pudding

BIBI