



Happy Valentine's Day to all our friends! And a very happy 103rd birthday to us! 🎂

Did you know the League was founded on V-day in 1920 ahead of the imminent passage of the 19th Amendment? Ours has been a "mighty political experiment" born to help those first 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters! Learn more on [LWV.org's](https://www.lwv.org) [informative timeline](#).

Our **Volunteer Fair** was a HUGE success! Let us know what you thought if you stopped by! What would you do differently next time? The **Civics Bee** and **Candidates Night** are fast approaching! We also hope to see many of you at the events listed below!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

- **Civic Engagement Subcommittee: Civics Bee Planning & Volunteer Fair Recap** Thursday, February 16, 9:00 AM, Panera Bread, North Beverly
- **Walk & Talk Saturday, February 18, 10:30 AM**, Bradley Palmer State Park (main parking lot, 40 Asbury St, Topsfield). Call or text **Dacia Rubel** with questions (978.500.9986)

MARCH

- **Steering Committee Meeting Tuesday, March 14, 6-8:00 PM**, The Community House, Hamilton
- **Civics Bee Thursday, March 16, 7-9:00 PM**, Miles River Middle School Multipurpose Room, Hamilton.
- **Walk & Talk Saturday, March 18, 10:30 AM**, Location and contact TBD, but mark your calendars!
- **Candidates Night Wednesday, March 29** - Location/format TBD, but save the date!

APRIL

- **Town Meetings Saturday, April 1** - Hamilton meets at 9:30 AM at HWRHS Auditorium; Wenham meets at 1:00 PM at Buker Elementary.
 - **Town Elections Thursday, April 6, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM**
 - **Steering Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 11, 6-8:00 PM**, The Community House, Hamilton
 - **Walk & Talk Saturday, April 15, 10:30 AM**, Location and contact TBD, but mark your calendars!
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WHAT'S NEWS:

 **CIVICS BEE 2023!** - We are so excited to bring this event back to the community after a too-long COVID-induced hiatus! Tons of fun to be had on Thursday, March 16th starting at 7 PM in the Multipurpose Room at Miles River Middle School, and tons of opportunities to be part of making this awesome event happen!

We are meeting on Thursday of this week – **February 16th – at 9:00 AM at Panera** to dive in, but if you can't make that, let [MJ Brown](#) know if you want in!



We'll need volunteers to:

- Help **organize player teams** & even play on a team if there is a need!
- **Hang posters** around town
- **Solicit and organize prizes** from local businesses
- **Coordinate refreshments** with MRMS parent rep
- **Set up & break down** the room on the day
- **Staff** our League table at the event
- **Spread the word!** Tell your friends, neighbors and colleagues. Use your social media presence. Every bit of awareness spread will help our event be a success!

 **VOLUNTEER FAIR** - WOW! ★ ★ The reviews are in and we couldn't be happier! We had a blast and learned a ton about the amazing organizations that work to make our community stronger across so many areas: civic, cultural, environmental, social justice, education, recreation, local business, and more!



“Fabulous!”
-Acord Food
Pantry

**“Love it!
AGAIN!”**
-HWHRC

“Wonderful!”
-HW Garden
Club

“Great! Memberships AND volunteers!”
-HW Library and Friends of the Library

“Amazing! Sign us up next year!”
-The Trustees of Reservations



“Big success! [We recruited a] Board volunteer!!”

-WISSH

“We made lots of good connections!”

-Essex County Habitat for Humanity

“Left filled with a sense of hope and community. This event brought out the best in our towns!”

-HW School Committee

“It really was a splendid evening”

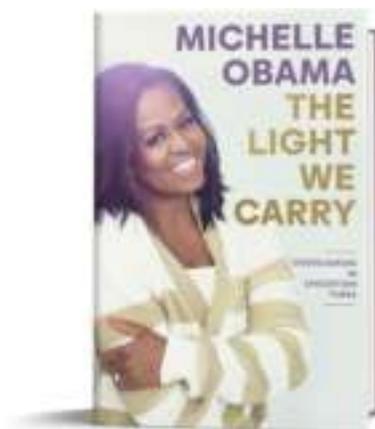
-Hamilton Council on Aging



Thanks to everyone who made this event a success, especially members **Max King, Stephanie MacLeod,** and **Susie Jostyn** for their collaboration on materials for the event, the **nearly 50 organizations** we hosted, the **more than 250 folks** who came to check it out, and Steering Committee members **MJ Brown** and **Dacia Rubel** for pulling together people and funding to carry out a community-building vision conceived 4 short months ago over coffee!

A special thank you to long-time Leaguer **Gretel Clark** who, together with her spouse Peter, made a generous donation to LWVHW last year and whose living legacy of volunteerism and service to our community made this a perfect use for those funds!

 **BOOK GROUP** - Our next selection is Michelle Obama's *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times*. Grab a copy and watch for a date to be set in April or May for our next meet up!



#1 BESTSELLER - NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY

In an inspiring follow-up to her memoir *Becoming*, former First Lady Michelle Obama shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world.

There may be no tidy solutions or pithy answers to life's big challenges, but Michelle Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux. How do we build enduring and honest relationships? **How can we discover strength and community inside our differences?** What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much?

ONE OF *TIME'S* 100 MUST-READ
BOOKS OF 2022

"When we are able to recognize our own light, we become empowered to use it," writes Michelle Obama. A rewarding blend of powerful stories and profound advice that will ignite conversation, *The Light We Carry* inspires readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world.

Learn more at [Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com) (**where there is a giveaway running until February 15th!**)

NEW AND ONGOING INITIATIVES:

There are ways to get involved with the League that fit every schedule – for members and non-members alike! If you want to be a part of any upcoming efforts, please let us know. **You can reply to this email, or contact us at LeagueHW@gmail.com.**

→ **Speaker/Forum Series** - This is such an exciting initiative and a chance to get in on the ground floor of something we really hope has a long life in the community! We have been awarded a generous grant by the Local Cultural Council and are working in partnership with the HW Library to create a speaker series on topics of local interest including:

- Water Resources & Conservation
- Media Literacy
- Affordable Housing
- Civics 101
- Local Print Journalism (as a cornerstone of democracy)
- Sustainability

Have ideas? Potential speaker contacts? Want to help organize or take the lead on an event? Let us [know your thoughts](#).

→ **Voter Registration** - Interested in helping at future drives? Have a location or event idea where we can register voters? [Drop us a line!](#)

→ **Book Group** - Have a good read you'd like to share and discuss with a group of smart, friendly, and engaged Leaguers? [Let us know](#). We'd love to crowd-source our next reads!

→ **Walk & Talk** - We usually meet at 10:30 on the third Saturday of the month and walk for about an hour, enjoying some of the natural beauty around the area as well as each others' company! Our next walk is Saturday, February 18, at Bradley Palmer. Have a favorite walk location? [Share it with us](#) and maybe we can enjoy it together.

We'd love to have you consider becoming a member! This is truly a member-run organization and we could not do it without support from the community. **We think it's more fun with friends!** Grab one or two and [join online](#) together!

Find these updates useful? Tell folks in your circles to [sign up for our periodic email updates](#).
Thanks for helping build a stronger community!