

INSIDE THE LEAGUE



SPRING 2018

Looking to the Future

by Shea Donnelly, Spring 2018 Intern

On February 15th, the League hosted an event with the Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. The energy of the room was hopeful and inspired the whole way through. The Lieutenant Governor's statements on supporting and getting women into politics were powerful reminders of the influence of local politics. The audience's, as well as volunteers', response to the Lieutenant Governor's words were overwhelmingly positive. As an intern with the League, I think Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul is a wonderful advocate of the issues this organization cares most about. One volunteer, Sarah Murray, described the experience as "an honor to have participated in an event full of inspiring trailblazers."



Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul.

Politicians Inspiring Youth

by Sarah Richman, Spring 2018 Intern

On February 15th, I had the privilege of meeting Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and hearing her speak at the League's event at the New York Society For Ethical Culture. As a current high school senior interested in pursuing politics, it was truly life changing for me to see a successful female politician discussing her career and the important lessons she has learned along the way. The Lieutenant Governor spoke about the necessity of supporting and electing female candidates to political office, and she has provided resources and encouragement for so many women to follow in her lead. Even from my brief interaction with the Lieutenant Governor, her grace, kindness, and immense passion for her work were clear. By the end of the event, everyone left the room feeling inspired and empowered to take action.



L to R: 2018 Summer Intern Amelia Cotins, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, 2018 Summer Intern Sarah Richman

Women in Politics: Elected Office, Voting Booth, and on the Streets

Thursday, February 15th 2018

@ The New York Society for Ethical Culture



Kathy Hochul chats with audience members.



L to R: Ruth S. Altman, Cathy Gray, Carol Van Deusen, Kathy Hochul, Dare Thompson, Laura Bierman



The crowd is wowed.



LWVNYC member Carol Van Deusen (L) with Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul (R)

Many thanks to our event volunteers (L to R): LWVNYC Intern, Shea Donnelly, and her friends, Sarah Murray, Kathryn Allen



Women's March 2018

by Diane Burrows, Vice President

Wearing golden sashes, 60 LWWNYC members and friends, along with scores of members from area Leagues, proudly marched behind the LWWNYC banner at the Women's March on January 20, 2018. They carried signs and decorated their sashes with messages in support of women and voting rights. "VOTE LOUDER" banners and signs mingled with many others in support of immigrants and #MeToo.

The LWWNYC took a leadership role in this year's march. We joined the Women's March Alliance, whose goal is to raise women's voices through education and activism. We also worked with Bus for Progress, a grassroots organization in Central New Jersey, whose mission is to engage citizens to participate in government. Another partner, LiveOnNY, encourages voter registration and enrollment in the NYS Donate Life Registry, which promotes life-saving organ donations and transplantations. We joined forces with Dominicanos USA, who are dedicated to voter registration and Get Out the Vote efforts. Together, we trained and organized an army of 163 voter registration volunteers - 51 of which were League members! These volunteers registered 450 voters during the march, 129 of which were organ donors. We also registered voters at 72nd Street and Central Park West while stationed at the Bus for Progress. The registration forms were delivered to the LWWNYC office where they were checked, counted, and submitted to the Board of Elections by a committee of volunteers. A special thanks to Barbara Ettington, the Chair of our Voter Services Committee, for organizing, coordinating, and inspiring this successful effort. We would also like to thank Tiana Leonard for all her help and generosity in the process of making LWWNYC sashes.



LWWNYC stands up!

Countdown to the Census

by Tiana Leonard, LWVNYC member

The Census Bureau is gearing up for the 2020 census. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the Census has taken place every ten years since 1790. It counts everyone living in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Island areas, including people of all ages, races and ethnic groups, citizens, non-citizens and undocumented immigrants.

Accurate census data are critically important to the functioning of our democracy. The data are used to allocate the number of Congressional seats to States, make decisions about community services, and determine the distribution of the \$675 billion in federal funds to local, state, and tribal governments each year.

The Census Bureau is currently building a master list of every address in the United States. In early 2020, each household will receive a census notification that will offer the option of filling in a form online, calling a call center number or requesting a paper form. Census enumerators will visit households that do not respond. The Census Bureau expects to employ more than 500,000 temporary workers in 2020.

There are significant obstacles that could preclude an accurate count and have a negative impact on New York City:

- In 2014, Congress passed a law limiting spending on the 2020 Census to what was spent on the 2010 Census, without adjusting for inflation.
- The Department of Justice proposed including a question on citizenship for the first time.
- The Census Bureau has cancelled a Spanish language census.
- The Bureau cancelled a test of local outreach and messaging strategies that might convince people to fill out the form.
- Recent publicity about security breaches, internet hacking and ID theft, together with increased deportations, have created a climate in which individuals may be reluctant to give the government their private information.

The Department of City Planning has established [CountNYC](#) to check the list provided by the Census Bureau. Staff will go to neighborhoods to confirm and add addresses. The League of Women Voters and other nonprofit organizations, city agencies, elected officials, and businesses will work together to promote public awareness about the benefits of responding to the Census and how we can work to overcome barriers mentioned above. It is important to remember that the Census Bureau is barred by federal law from releasing any respondent's personal information to any person, government, or private agency.

We will keep you informed of what's happening with the Census as the process evolves.

New York State Election Reform

Early Voting - Has the Time Come?

by Kate Doran, Elections Specialist

Early Voting is an election reform. It offers greater access to the political franchise, and reduces the stress of a one-day voting system. Since Election Law is State law, we in the City League are working closely with our State colleagues. The LWVNY has, in turn, linked up with LetNYVote.org, a coalition of "Legacy," and newer grassroots initiatives. This year Governor Cuomo included \$7 million in his budget, but the Assembly and the Senate have to agree, not only to include money in their budgets, but to pass Early Voting legislation as well. If passed, Early Voting would begin in 2019.



LWVNYC board member, Kate Doran (second from R), with members of the Let NY Vote Coalition.

As a League member your voice is respected and powerful. There are opportunities for small actions that will make a big difference. You could contact your Senator or the Governor. We've heard from legislators, "No one contacts us about voting." We can change that! With your outreach, this could be the year for election reform.

An easy way to get in touch with your representatives is through our app,Voices. The free app provides push alerts sent straight to your phone regarding issues on a city, state, and federal level. The app includes several response templates that allow users to reach their representatives via email, phone, Twitter or snailmail. For more information, visit tryvoices.com/lwv.

Voting Reform: In the News but Not in the Budget?

by Bella Wang, Chair of Voting Reform Initiative

Bella Wang, Chair of the Voting Reform Initiative at LWVNYC, appeared in late January alongside DeNora Getachew from Generation Citizen on Spectrum NY1's In Focus with Cheryl Wills to talk about how early voting would boost citizen participation in New York State. In this segment, Bella discussed the particular difficulty of inflexible election scheduling for residents of New York City, how early voting would alleviate the voting experience for many New Yorkers, and why early voting needs to be part of the state budget rather than a cost relegated to the county or local level.



L to R: Bella Wang, DeNora Getachew, Cheryl Wills

You can watch the full interview at <http://bit.ly/2s4HtK5>.

Reading Discussion Program on Votes for Women

by Crystal Joseph, Vice President

The LWVNYC is pleased to offer VOTES for WOMEN!, a reading and discussion series developed and sponsored by Humanities New York. At the LWVNYC, participants will come together over the course of six sessions in March and April, to discuss a variety of thematically linked texts with Crystal Joseph, Vice-President of LWVNYC. This program welcomes college students and the general public to explore our rich history and share in the League's continual commitment to an educated citizenry and participatory governance. It is free and open to the public.

Something special happens when we talk about what we read with others in our community. Humanities New York's Reading & Discussion programs are designed to foster active reading and thinking, incorporating texts that serve as catalysts for civic engagement, cultural understanding, and personal reflection. Reading & Discussion programs are held in communities across New York State.

The book selections — which include history, biography, and fiction — provide a window into the women's suffrage movement chapter of American social progress and a springboard into ongoing discussions of women's — and by extension, our society's — past, present, and future.

For more information about the series dates and acquiring books, please contact the coordinator, Crystal Joseph at campus@lwnyc.org.

The Program Committee Presents Lunch with The League

by Joanna R. Leefer, Chair of Program Committee

Every month, the Program Committee presents Lunch with the League, which offers our members and the community a time and place to come together for lunch with friends, and to hear a speaker discuss an important political topic. Some of our more exciting programs have included Errol Louis of NY One, Jesse McKinley, a reporter for the New York Times who discussed the IDC and its impact on the State Senate, and Mike Rebell, the attorney who sued New York State for underfunding NYC public schools.

In the next three months, the committee is presenting three stimulating topics:

- **March 20:** two grandes dames of Women Rights, Ronnie Eldridge and Letty Cottin Pogrebin, will discuss the #MeToo Movement. Ronnie Eldridge is a political activist who served under Governor Cuomo and Mayor Lindsay. Letty Cottin Pogrebin was a founding editor and contributor to Ms. Magazine.
- **April 24:** Zephyr Teachout, a former Democratic candidate for New York Governor, and Amy Loprest, Executive Director of the New York City Campaign Finance Board, will speak on the rampant campaign finance corruption in Albany.
- **May 15:** the program committee has arranged an evening meeting covering the controversial issue of New York as a sanctuary city and the encroachment of the Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents who are threatening immigrant safety.

The Program Committee invites League members to join us and help us develop more exciting programs. We encourage members to suggest programs and speakers for the upcoming fall programs. For questions or to join us please contact Joanna Leefer at programs@lwnyc.org.

Intern Corner

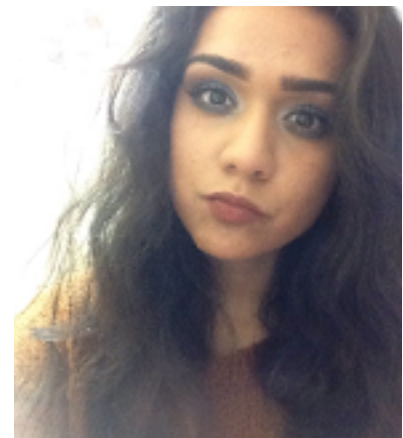
Meet Shea Donnelly, Spring 2018 Intern

I'm a new intern here at the League. I go to Pace University and am a Women's and Gender Studies major. Although I haven't been here for long, I've learned a lot. My knowledge of New York politics was slim, given I'm not originally from here so I'm grateful for the guidance of the women at the League. Recently I've been working on a project for Barbara Ettington, the Chair of the Voter Information Services Committee, researching other groups with similar goals to LWVNYC. This project has really opened my eyes to just how powerful the current political climate has been in fueling grassroots movements. I'm really proud to be working for a group that has been working for political activism for so long. I've still got a lot to learn, but the League has been such a great place to intern.



Meet Tasnia Tahsa (Tasha), Spring 2018 Intern

Tasha is a Sadie Nash CAP intern, Bengali American Muslim, and high school Senior at Queens Gateway to the Health Sciences Secondary School. With a love for running, writing, and representation, the LWVNYC has given her a stellar opportunity to work after school - she is able to exercise all these passions. Learning hands-on about voting registration (including registering herself to vote for her upcoming 18th birthday) has opened her rabble-rouser eyes to the gritty work involved in revolution. Her affinity for history has inspired her to become a person that makes history. Being an intern at the LWVNYC has made her realize we are given a chance to do this with every election.



100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in New York State by Amelia Cotins, Summer 2018 Intern

On Monday, November 7, 2017, I attended a celebration put on by the League of Women Voters of the City of New York (LWVNYC) to honor the Women's Suffrage Movement and to acknowledge the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote in the State of New York. The November 7th event had inspirational speakers, such as the current Co-President of the LWVNYC, Catherine Gray, as well as motivational presentations. They covered how the LWVNYC has encouraged its members for nearly 100 years to participate in politics and be active citizens. The League of Women Voters is a local, state, and national organization that focuses on women's rights and equality for women. The LWVNYC publishes voter information guides, hosts debates, and promotes educational issues such as pay equity, child care, reproductive rights and paid leave. If you would like to learn more, become a member, register to vote, or hear about internship opportunities, visit their website: lwvyc.org.

Rockaway Women Making Progress adapted, with permission of The Rockaway Times

Rockaway Women for Progress (RWP) held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 19 at the Belle Harbor Yacht Club. It was a unique event, as they hosted two special guest speakers. Ruth Altman, Co-President of the of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, spoke along with her colleague, Fannie Conner. The two women traveled to Rockaway from Manhattan and Brooklyn to lead a session on how to conduct voter registration drives.

LWVNYC, which was founded in 1919, is a non-partisan group dedicated to promoting informed and active civic participation in government.

Altman and Conner provided information about different ways to effectively advocate for issues directly affecting the Rockaway community. Most important, they described a political advocacy tool that the League recently developed. "Voices" is a free app, which allows you to instantly communicate with your elected officials. The app is available for download at www.tryvoices.com

To help promote education and boost participation in their political process, RWP plans on utilizing the information learned at this session to hold various voter registration drives around the peninsula.

The mission of Rockaway Women for Progress is to develop and implement strategies that uphold democracy and protect human rights. Any women in the Rockaway/ Breezy Point/ Broad Channel areas, who are interested in joining, should email rockawaywomenforprogress@gmail.com.



Fannie Connor and Ruth S. Altman with Rockaway Women for Progress

Lobbying and Rallying with Let NY Vote by Bella Wang, Chair of Voting Reform Committee

In January, the NYC chapter of the League sent representatives to Albany as part of a statewide action day with Let NY Vote, a coalition of organizations with an interest in election reform. The day kicked off with a rally at the Million Dollar Staircase in the Capitol and was followed by visits to elected officials and their staff.

Accompanied by Jennifer Wilson, the Director of Program and Policy of LWVNYC, members of the League's Voting Reform Initiative met with the staff of Senator José Peralta of Queens to discuss the urgency of getting early voting into the state budget, as well as other voting reforms. The League is hoping to follow up on this visit with an in-district lobbying visit by NYC chapter members in the spring.



L to R: Bella Wang, Alexander Flood from Senator Peralta's Office, Aimee Rosato

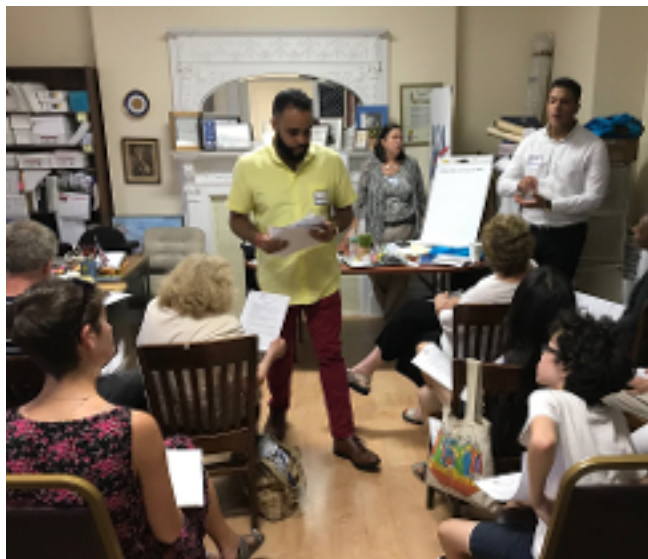
Where We've Been



Aimee Rosato and Committee Members of Voter Reform Initiative Flyering for Early Voting in Jackson Heights



LWVNYC at January 2018 Women's March



Austine Martinez and Omar Suarez of Dominicanos USA and Barbara Ettington of LWVNYC, preparing for the 2018 Women's March



LWVNYC supporting early voting legislation in New York State in conjunction with Let NY Vote

A Special Thank You

Our League event with Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul on February 15 would not have been possible without the help of some special people. We would like to thank:

- **Barbara Williams at the Women's Suffrage Commission** and her most helpful staff - for their guidance and generosity.
- **The New York Society for Ethical Culture Ethical, their Leader Anne Klaeyen** and her amazing staff for the use of a beautiful venue and setting it up to our specifications.



Upcoming Events

- **April 24th:** Lunch with the League presents Zephyr Teachout @ The New York Society for Ethical Culture. Lunch will begin at noon.
- **May 6th and May 12th:** In collaboration with NYC Discovery, The League has scheduled two walking tours for Spring 2018 titled *Suffrage and Beyond: Women of the American Century*. This tour includes two new sites, in addition to the other locations included in the Winter 2017 tours. This new tour will be held on 2 different dates: Sunday, May 6, and Saturday, May 12. More details will be posted on our website in the near future.
- **May 15th:** Lunch with the League.

Openings at LWVNYC

The Membership Committee is seeking a Co-Chair. Needed: new ideas for reaching out and increasing membership among a diverse population. Interested? Please contact Mary Jenkins, Chair of the Committee at, mljenkins50@gmail.com.

Newsletter Staff and Acknowledgements

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