
LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
Fredonia, New York 14063

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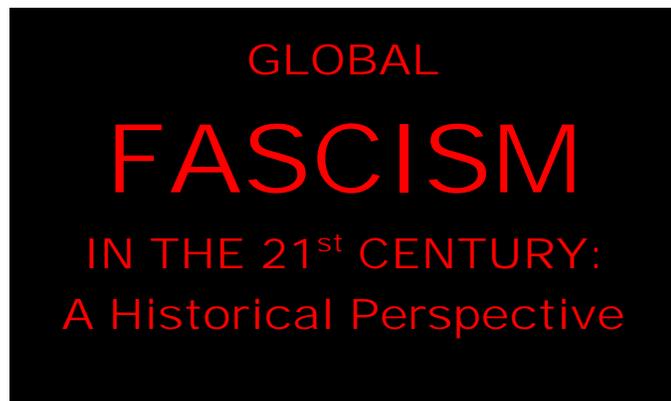
The Leaguer

Volume 24, Issue 5
Jan. – Feb., 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
lww@lwwchautauqua.org, 672-4275

February 18th
Hot Topic Luncheon
Clarion Hotel
30 Lake Shore Dr. E, Dunkirk, NY.

We meet at 11:30 AM, serve lunch at 12 Noon and start the program at 12:30 PM. If you prefer, you may come for the speaker at 12:30.



Professor Sasha Pack
University at Buffalo, Department of History

About Our Program...

On February 18, 2020, the League of Women Voters will host Dr. Sasha D. Pack who will discuss **“Fascism for the 21st Century: A Historical Perspective.”** Sasha D. Pack is Professor of History at the University at Buffalo (SUNY), where he teaches courses in modern political and international history. He received his PhD in Modern European History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2004 with a specialty in modern Spain, especially the period of the dictatorship of Francisco Franco. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including, most recently, *The Deepest Border: The Strait of Gibraltar and the Making of the Modern Hispano-African Borderland* (Stanford University Press, 2019).

Fascism is a political philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition.

In 2011 Anders Behring Breivik, who described himself as a Nazi, killed 77 people in Norway, most of them children. On August 11, 2017 a few hundred neo-Nazis marched on the University of Virginia chanting Nazi slogans such as “Jews will not replace us” and “blood and soil.” The next day a self-professed Nazi sympathizer drove into a crowd, killing one and injuring nineteen others. Earlier this year, another neo-Nazi killed 51 and injured 49 at two different mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. These are just a few examples of attacks world-wide by self-professed Nazis. Anti-semitism is on the rise in Europe and America, with fire bombings, vandalism and desecration of religious sites.

GLOBAL FASCISM IN THE 21st CENTURY: A Historical Perspective

February 18th at the Clarion Hotel, 30 Lake Shore Dr. E, Dunkirk, NY.

_____ Beef on Weck

_____ Meatless Pasta Primavera

The cost is \$15.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

To make reservations please call Peggy Tiffany (716) 785-1948 or send a check to her at 12 Bernett Dr, Fredonia NY 14063 by February 10, 2020.

From the President

I would like to start my message with legislative issues. The state LWV asked the local Leagues to prioritize their top three legislative issues. Our board decided on the following:

1. Energy and Climate Change with an emphasis on the *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act*.
2. Good government highlighting *Campaign Finance Reform*.
3. *Fair and Independent Redistricting*. It is important to elaborate on this issue. We support an independent redistricting process that takes legislators out of the process of drawing the lines and allows for citizen input, transparency, and accountability throughout the map making process. We believe there should be representation from all factions of the district.

It was hard for us to prioritize these issues as we feel that they have equal weight. We also included in our discussion health care concerns.

We will be voting on the Constitutional Convention issue at our next hot topic luncheon on agriculture. I will report the results in the March Leaguer. The issue is whether or not to delete the first sentence; "The League of Women Voters of New York State does not support or oppose the holding of a constitutional convention". A YES vote will delete the first sentence and confirm the authority of the state Board to either support or oppose a future referendum for a state constitutional convention. A NO vote will leave the position as it is currently written. Local Leagues may suggest a future update to this position.

You may remember that we had a "hot topic luncheon" on human trafficking last year. The board voted this month to support the **Survivors of Trafficking Attaining Relief Together (START) Act**, SO4981 (Ramos)/ AO6983 (Gottfried). This is a critical bill that will help survivors of human trafficking get a fresh start.

Gail Crowe and I met with students from FSU and they were enthusiastic about helping with our numerous Voter Services initiatives. On February 14th the board asks that you support our efforts to register voters and help inform them about primary dates.

Our League is also looking at registering students in the public schools in our area since the Board of Elections will not be taking this on. Students from the FSU Democracy Initiative will be willing to support us in this endeavor.

Thank you to all who renewed their membership and also those that have just joined. Our membership count was sent to LWVNYS. We welcome you if you just want to support us in our efforts or take an active role in our undertakings to inform and promote active participation in public policy through advocacy and education.

I also welcome any suggestions for a fun annual meeting in May. The board has some ideas but we would love to hear any that you may have.

Warm Regards,
Mary Croxton
President LWV Chautauqua
679-1774

One Thing We Can Do: Fix Recycling By Eduardo Garcia, NYT 1/17/2020

Recycling in the United States is broken. For years, we relied heavily on recycling operations in China to take our waste. But that came to an end in 2018, when Beijing barred the import of recycling materials. The result is a waste crisis that has caused at least dozens of municipalities to cancel curbside recycling programs, with many more implementing partial cuts. Huge amounts of recyclables are now going to landfills.

“When the biggest export market is no longer willing to accept your material, there’s an imbalance between supply and demand,” said David Biderman, the executive director of the Solid Waste Association of North America. “That’s just Economics 101.”



So, how can we fix the system?

Experts say that we would need to implement changes across the board. Legislators may need to pass laws requiring manufacturers to use more recyclable materials, companies would need to build much-needed recycling infrastructure and people would need to recycle properly. Cities can’t do all that. But they can play an important role.

For a possible model, consider San Francisco, which runs one of the most successful waste-management programs in the United States. Through recycling and composting, the city manages to keep around 80 percent of its waste out of landfills.

That’s much higher than the American average. In 2017, the year before the Chinese ban, American cities were recycling and composting about 35 percent of their waste. Europeans do a bit better, keeping almost half of their municipal trash out of landfills on average.

San Francisco’s program has been years in the making. In 2000, it introduced the “fantastic three” citywide curbside collection program with separate, color-coded bins for recyclables, compost and trash. In 2009, it passed a law requiring residents and businesses to separate their waste.

City inspectors monitor bins to ensure that residents sort their waste correctly and leave tags if materials are found in the wrong bin. They can impose fines if they find repeat offenders.

Other policies include bans on hard-to-recycle items including single-use plastic bags and polystyrene packaging and an ordinance requiring food vendors to use compostable or recyclable food containers.

San Francisco’s system is built on a highly unusual partnership with a single waste company. That company, Recology, has had a monopoly on handling San Francisco’s waste for almost 90 years. That no-bid, no-franchise-fee concession has come under harsh criticism over the years.

Critics say that the city could save tens of millions of dollars if it were to break up Recology’s monopoly and award waste collection and processing contracts separately.

Supporters say, why mess with a system that gets results? Having a monopoly avoids a “race to the bottom,” said Robert Haley, zero-waste manager at the San Francisco Department of the Environment, as companies cut corners to win short-term contracts instead of focusing on broader waste reduction goals.

No matter where you stand on issues like regulation and market competition, the Chinese ban means that the United States recycling system needs an overhaul. But that might not be as bad as it sounds, Mr. Biderman said. “The ban is a challenge for recycling programs in the United States,” he said. “But it also creates huge opportunities to invest in domestic infrastructure to receive recovered material.”

LWV of Chautauqua County Participates in Nationwide Day of Action for 100th Birthday

The League of Women Voters turns 100 years old on February 14, 2020, and to celebrate, local and state Leagues around the country are taking to the streets for a nationwide day of action called “Women Power the Vote.”

“The League was founded by suffrage leaders 100 years ago to help American women exercise their new right to vote,” said Mary Croxton, President of the League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County. “So we’re celebrating by joining Leagues across the country in demonstrating the power of women to achieve a more perfect democracy.”

“Women Power the Vote” celebrates the League’s 100-year milestone by bringing together Leagues in over 750 communities across the country with one unified day of action.

“For 100 years, Leagues have registered voters, informed their communities on the issues, advocated in their legislatures, and helped shape their communities and this country,” said Chris Carson, president of the board of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “We only saw it fitting that we should celebrate this milestone with a coordinated day of the kind of grassroots activism our members and supporters have embraced for an entire century.”

On February 14th, local Leaguers will connect with the community to register voters, get out the vote, share information about voting reforms, and celebrate women’s fundamental role in shaping an inclusive and active electorate. Women have powered – and continue to power – the vote. At the same time, the league appreciates the male membership which stands, and has stood, beside us.

“We’re celebrating our history by taking action for our future,” said Mary Croxton. Our founders achieved the impossible by getting the 19th Amendment passed 100 years ago, so today we honor their fight by continuing to push our democracy forward so that every voter can play a critical role in shaping our country.”

**Can You Help Us ?
.....on the League Day of Action on
February 14th.**

**We are registering people to vote at two
locations.
We ask that you give us one hour of
your valuable time.**

**If you are interested please contact:
Mary Croxton mcroxton51@gmail.com
Gail Crowe gailcrowe14063@yahoo.com**

Governor Releases Executive Budget Proposal

On January 24th, the Governor released his executive budget proposal. The proposal includes several progressive reforms such as court consolidation, an Equal Rights Amendment, and funding for voting reforms. The Governor has proposed \$10 million in funds for early voting, \$15 million in for the purchase of electronic poll books, and \$16 million to the completion of an online voter registration system.

LWVNYS is pleased that the Governor has included these funding items but are concerned that this funding will not be enough to cover the cost of early voting in 2020. The State League has requested to testify before the Joint Committee on Public Protection on February 12th in favor of increased funding for both early voting and general operations for the State Board of Elections.



Lucy Stone was a leading activist and pioneer of the abolitionist and women's rights movements. Born in Massachusetts in 1818, Lucy dedicated her life to improving the rights of American women. One of nine children, she was steeped in the virtues of fighting against slavery from her parents, both committed abolitionists. Smart and clearly driven, Stone was unafraid to rebel against her parents' wishes. Having watched her older brothers attend college, the 16-year-old Stone defied her parents and pursued a higher education. She enrolled at Oberlin College which touted itself as a progressive institution but did not offer a level playing field for women. The college denied Stone the opportunity to pursue her passion in public speaking. Undeterred, Lucy paid her way through school, graduated with honors, and became the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a bachelor's degree.

Stone found work with the American Anti-Slavery Society. Her work with the organization tapped into her continued and heightened passion to eradicate slavery. It also launched her career as a public speaker. She was regularly heckled by opponents (she was even ex-communicated by the Congregational Church, the religion of her parents); nevertheless, Stone emerged as an outspoken voice in the anti-slavery movement and the women's rights cause.

Stone wrote extensively about a wide range of women's rights. In the long-running and influential

Woman's Journal, a weekly periodical that she founded and promoted, Stone aired views about women's rights. Called "the orator," and the "heart and soul" of the women's rights movement, Stone influenced Susan B. Anthony to take up the cause of women's suffrage. Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote that "Lucy Stone was the first person by whom the heart of the American public was deeply stirred on the woman question." Together, Anthony, Stanton, and Stone have been called the 19th-century "triumvirate" of women's suffrage and feminism.

In 1850 the pioneering Stone convened the first national Women's Rights Convention. Held in Worcester, Massachusetts, the event was hailed as a significant moment for American women. Her speech at the convention was reprinted in newspapers nationwide. For the next few years, Stone, who was paid well for her speeches, kept up a relentless schedule, traveling throughout North America to lecture about women's rights while continuing to hold her annual convention.

She co-founded and became president of the State Woman's Suffrage Association of New Jersey, which would later be succeeded by the League of Women Voters of New Jersey in 1920. She also launched a New England chapter of the association and had helped found the American Equal Rights Association. From the examples of her mother, her aunt, and a neighbor neglected by her husband and left destitute, Stone learned early that women were at the mercy of their husbands' good will. When she came across the biblical passage, "and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee", she was distraught over what appeared to be divine sanction of women's subjugation; she then reasoned that the injunction applied only to wives. Resolving to "call no man my master", she had determined early to keep control over her own life by never marrying, obtaining the highest education she could, and earning her own livelihood.

But In 1855, Stone married Henry Blackwell, a committed abolitionist who spent two long years wooing Lucy Stone. Lucy initially took on her husband's last name, but then opted to go back to her maiden name a year after their marriage. "A wife should no more take her husband's name than he should hers," she explained in a letter to her spouse. "My name is my identity and must not be lost." At their actual wedding, both she and Henry signed a document protesting the idea that a husband has legal dominion over his wife.

While Stone did live to see the end of slavery, she died on October 18, 1883, thirty years before women were finally permitted to vote. Her ashes are held at a columbarium within Boston's Forest Hill Cemetery.

(This year marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County has compiled a series of articles commemorating the brave suffragists who fought for this right. The following article highlights Lucy Stone, the "Heart and Soul" of the Women's Rights Movement.)



February 18 Luncheon – “Global Fascism in the 21st Century: A Historical Perspective”
 Professor Sasha Pack, University at Buffalo, Department of History. Clarion Hotel

March TBA Luncheon – “Healthcare: Single-Payer Medicare for All”, Linda Andrei, MD

April 20 Luncheon – “Fair Housing”, Jill Casey, HUD, and Jessica Mallon, Chicago, Doubletree, Jamestown

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard!
Join Us Today!

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County

Mary Croxton, President
Nancy Boynton
Gail Crowe
Marcia Johnson
Pat Kirell
Marcia Merrins
Lisa Mertz

Membership Form

Mail to:

LWV Chautauqua

P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2020 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

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I would like to get involved with:

_____ Local Issues _____ Voter Service _____ State/National Issues

_____ Local Newsletter

_____ Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: _____