Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

April 2022

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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **The Seventh Generation Principle: Why We Do What We Do**  The Seventh Generation Principle is based on the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy philosophy: today’s decisions must ensure a sustainable world for the next seven generations. To make this more concrete, you would be the midpoint of seven generations between your great-grandparents and your great-grandchildren. The Iroquois Confederacy philosophy [influenced the US Constitution](https://www.fieldmuseum.org/blog/democracy-and-iroquois-constitution). And while no political party strictly adheres to that principle, clearly the Republicans’ vision is antithetical to it and is a threat to future generations. Environmental degradation for the sake of profit; voter suppression for the sake of political power; abolition of civil and reproductive rights for the sake of dominance; disinformation for the sake of social division.    What can we do for a sustainable world where we move forward rather than backward? We can join like-minded people to create, protect and expand Democratic majorities on the local, state and federal levels. Don’t sit on the sidelines. [Volunteer locally](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/we-need-you-in-22) with the SDC and actively support [Antonio Delgado](https://delgado.house.gov/), [Michelle Hinchey](https://michellehinchey.com/), [Juan Figueroa](https://www.juanforulster.com/) and other NY Democrats. Nationally, help Democratic candidates in [Georgia](https://staceyabrams.com/), Pennsylvania, [Florida](https://valdemings.com/), [Texas](https://betoorourke.com/) and all the other states where Republicans are embracing the politics of hate and division. Make [phone calls](https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/442246/?referring_vol=877269&rname=Lin&timeslot=3086734&referring_participation=18678883&referring_data_signature=v1-926c8b36e4c19145&share_medium=copy_link&share_context=signup-form-modal&fbclid=IwAR297DdXpghaYK9h9krUUYrNTEvfCQl27BjR3IIDgFrkNdUfROxYb9Ytzsg), send [postcards](https://reclaim-our-vote.webflow.io/), do whatever it takes to get out the vote. Please stay [informed](https://ulstercountydemocrats.com/).    **Assembly District 103: Who Are the Candidates**  The NYS legislative maps, based on the 2020 census, changed the political landscape for Ulster County. Here in Saugerties, we moved from Assembly District 102 to 103. Not only will we have a new Assembly District, we will also have a choice between incumbent [Kevin Cahill](https://cahillforassembly.org/) and challenger [Sarahana Shrestha](https://sarahanaforassembly.com/) in the June Democratic primary. To help voters make an informed decision, the SDC will sponsor a Candidates Forum, moderated by journalists Mariel Fiori and Dan Barton, on Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center and also online. Register and submit questions [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFp3faTcmgKblAJazBDkR1lOQzukRB_FioXf8UY5IIrS9v4w/viewform). More details will follow in the coming weeks.    **School Boards Matter**  Public schools are the linchpins of communities, often a determining factor for where families choose to live, work and invest. The quality of our schools determines the quality of our town. Educating all children so they can flourish in an ever-changing world and succeed in a more globally-connected and diverse world is the main purpose of public schools. Local public schools must be about children, not scoring points in a culture war. This year, there are three openings on the Saugerties School Board. Petitions to run for the Board can be picked up between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the Superintendent’s Office in the Hildebrandt Building (behind the Jr./Sr. High School) or downloaded at this [link](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY24000038/Centricity/Domain/1/BOARD%20MEMBER%20PETITION%20Combined%203%2029%202022%20updated.pdf). Petitions are due no later than April 18 for the Tuesday, May 17, election. More information can be found [here](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY24000038/Centricity/Domain/1/Get%20On%20Board.pdf). Learn about the candidates and vote! |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **March SDC Meeting**\*  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, March 22, via Zoom. The meeting began with a short, fun “get to know” your committee members segment, focusing on Cara Stammler, Pam Ross and Anna Markowitz. Other members will be spotlighted in the future.    In more serious business, Bill Barr reviewed the candidates petitioning process for this year’s elections. Additionally, Town Justice Chris Kraft, who is running for re-election, spoke to the committee and was later endorsed. After a discussion, the committee approved a change to the bylaws. The committee reviewed its strategy organization, GEM—Grow the party; Engage with the community; Monitor our town and county government. Before adjourning, the committee voted to allocate funds for the May 12 Candidates Forum (*see Assembly District 103: Who Are The Candidates*).    \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/).  The 2022 SDC monthly meeting are April 26, May 25 (note: changed to Wednesday because of Town Grievance Day), June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, and November 2.  All welcome! |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| An [article](https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/ketanji-brown-jackson-pause/?fbclid=IwAR1xJWKeWuSPtYRAQD8KWLcJV9uMWLznFOEvGx1r1JRK6F2YT1ygheJ0mN4&utm_campaign=SproutSocial&utm_content=thenation&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter) in *The Nation* reflected on a long pause by Ketanji Brown Jackson during the **Supreme Court confirmation hearings** and how it underscored power and privilege in the United States. We need to cast our minds back to the Brett Kavanaugh hearings, where we witnessed a nominee crying and yelling that he likes beer, and compare that to the calm, dignified responses of Brown Jackson to understand the prevalence of racism and sexism. Hopefully the spectacle created by Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham and Josh Hawley will motivate Democrats to go to the polls in November.    In another **Supreme Court bombshell**, to the surprise of no one, we [learned](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/03/ginni-thomas-mark-meadows-republican-religion/629415/) that Virginia (Ginni) Thomas, who has a [history of being in cults](https://mobile.twitter.com/cultexpert/status/1509602849763778561?s=21&t=-Vl9KqvnIBZcMCUM_wdZDA), is steeped in QAnon conspiracies and played a prominent role in efforts to overturn the 2020 election. This has raised scrutiny on how her husband, Clarence Thomas, has voted on cases tied to the January 6 insurrection and the 2020 election, where Thomas has been the lone dissent on several occasions.    Sheriff Juan Figueroa [jumped in the lake](https://youtu.be/27jpRoyvjVQ) to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s Disease. Our sheriff participated in the [**Subzero Hero’s Plunge**](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/ActiveEvents/NY-HudsonValleyChapter?pg=entry&fr_id=15264) in Highland on March 13. The daytime temperature was 19 degrees. [Donations](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/ActiveEvents/NY-HudsonValleyChapter?team_id=726336&pg=team&fr_id=15264) to the cause are still being accepted.    The Woodstock Democratic Committee is sponsoring Civics Teach-Ins to educate voters about local, county, state, and federal government and its leadership. The sessions take place every Thursday at 7:00 PM through May 5 at the Woodstock Community Center on Rock City Road. Check the [schedule](https://woodstockdems.org/civics-teach-ins) for topics and speakers. |

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| **April Community Happenings** |
| **April 2:** Saugerties Outdoor Market; 11:00 AM-4:00 PM; music & vendors; 27 Market St.  **April 2:** [Family Films](https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2022/03/22/saugerties-organization-host-series-of-reading-screening-events/?fbclid=IwAR33nnTp4kW8bHO6ATXdOu3XKPZ2xXKUjUNMOVoJDcWW4CU7z5cWOXfltZ8); 11:00 AM Orpheum; 15 free books, first come, first served basis.  **April 3:** VFW Breakfast Buffet; 8:00 AM-11:00 AM; American Legion Post 72, 30 John St; Info: [kpendergast@hvc.rr.com](mailto:kpendergast@hvc.rr.com).  **April 4:** Village Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM; Fire Department, 43 Partition Street.  **April 4:** [Town Zoning Board](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/161); 7:00 PM; Webex meeting; info: [kfreeman@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:kfreeman@saugerties.ny.us).  **April 6:** [Town Board Meeting](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/294); 7:00 PM; Webex and in-person; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us).  **April 9:** [Green & Clean Day](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/52); sign-up sheet & orange trash bags at the Town Hall, 4 High St.  **April 9:** Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Induction & Dinner; @ 5:30 PM; Diamond Mills; Tickets: [mikehasenbalg@yahoo.com](mailto:mikehasenbalg@yahoo.com).  **April 9:** ShoutOut Saugerties, What’s Bugging Greg; 1:00 PM-2:30 PM; Orpheum Theater.  **April 10:** [Green & Clean Day](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/52) (*see above*).  **April 12:** Saugerties School District Board of Education meeting @ 6:30 PM; Riccardi School.  **April 13:** Village Planning Board meeting @ 6:30 PM; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.  **April 13:** Saugerties Village/[Hudson Valley Community Power](https://www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/); 7:00 PM; 43 Partition St.  **April 14:** Public Library Board of Trustees meeting @ 6:00 PM; Library, 91 Washington Ave.  **April 16:** Harambee Gala from 6:00 PM-11:00 PM at Diamond Mills; Tickets [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harambee-presents-the-5th-annual-bhm-kingston-gala-coming-to-america-tickets-193071932347)  **April 18:** Historic Preservation Committee meeting @ 5:30 PM via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9699878583)  **April 18:** Village Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM at the Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.  **April 20:** Ulster County Chamber of Commerce breakfast @ 7:30 AM at Diamond Mills  **April 20**: Town Board Meeting; 7:00 PM; Webex and in-person; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us)  **April 21:** Climate Smart Task Force meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM via Zoom. To attend, email [climatesmartsaugerties@gmail.com](mailto:climatesmartsaugerties@gmail.com).  **April 21:** American Legion Post 72 meeting @ 7:00 PM; 30 John St. Open to all veterans.  **April 21:** Orpheum Theater; all profits from popcorn sales go to [Esopus Creek Conservancy](https://www.esopuscreekconservancy.org/).  **April 22:** Community Action Farm Stand @ 10:00 AM; Senior Ctr Parking Lot, 207 Market St.  **April 23**: [Green & Clean Day](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/52) (*see above*)  **April 24:** [Green & Clean Day](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/52) (*see above*)  **April 24:** Pro Musica, [Cuatro Puntos Ensemble](https://www.cuatropuntos.org/) @ 3:00 PM; Saugerties United Methodist Church, 67 Washington Ave.  **April 26:** Town Parks/Recreation Advisory Committee @ 6:30 PM; Kiwanis Ice Arena.  **April 26:** [Village Zoning Board Meeting](https://villagesaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10064/content/Generic/View/125) @ 7:00 PM; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.  **April 27**: Memorial VFW Post 5034 Meeting @ 7:00 PM, 30 John St., open to all veterans.  **April 27:** Village Historic Review Board @ 7:00 PM; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.  **April 29:** Comprehensive Planning Board @ 6:30; Senior Ctr, 207 Market St.  **Ryan House** [Support Group Meeting Schedule](https://www.raisingawarenessrun.com/r-y-a-n-house-schedule/) at 19 Barclay Street, Saugerties (ongoing). |