

Assemblymember

Ellen Jaffee

Assembly District 97

Dear Friends,

May is Mental Health Awareness Month <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may>. As a member of the Assembly Committee on Mental Health, I joined with NAMI Rockland <http://namirockland.org/index.html> to raise awareness and to support individuals and families living with mental illness. There are steps we can and must take as a community to address the stigma associated with mental illness, to promote compassion for those experiencing mental health problems and to ensure they have access to the programs and services that meet their unique needs. I am confident that together we can improve the lives of all those affected by mental illness.



~Ellen~

Presenting NYS State Flag to Blauvelt Lions Club



It is fitting that the flag I presented now flies in Lions Town Memorial Park <http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/blauvelt/page-7.php> where the Orangetown residents who died on 9/11 and our brave service men and women who gave up their lives for our freedom, are memorialized. The memory of each and every one of them is woven into the fabric of this community, this park and the New York State flag <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/emblems/flag.htm>, whose shield represents Liberty and Justice.

Increasing Voter Participation

Voter Day in Albany <http://www.votebetterny.org/> was May 3. This day of action called for legislators to modernize how New Yorkers vote by adopting Early Voting, the Voter Empowerment Act and the Voter Friendly Ballot Act. http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/election-law/2016/Jt-Policy-Statement-on-Voting-Reforms-NYSECA_0116.pdf These bills (A8582, A5972, A3389) that I co-sponsored, will reduce barriers and expand voting access for all New Yorkers, especially our working people, seniors, and the disabled. Voting is a fundamental right in our democracy. It's time for New York to do everything we can to encourage greater voter participation.

Nyack NAACP Freedomfund Dinner

The proceeds from the Freedomfund dinner assist the Nyack NAACP <https://nyacknaacp.wordpress.com/> in serving those in need of advocates for equal opportunity and justice throughout Rockland County. Guest Speaker, the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Barber_II is the architect of the Forward Together Moral Monday Movement. <https://www.youtube.com/user/RevBarber> president of the North Carolina NAACP and pastor of the Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro.



Water Task Force Conservation Event

I was proud to stand with the Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management at a press event to highlight the need for ongoing water conservation. The gathering was held at the Orangeburg Public Library, <http://www.orangeburg-library.org/> where a rain garden has been installed to capture water from the library roof and allowed to sit in the garden so it can percolate into the ground to help recharge the



aquifer. <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/rockland/2016/04/26/water-conservation-state-grant-rockland/83545752/>

Suffern Women's Club

It was a pleasure to welcome members of the Suffern Women's Club to Albany and to introduce them on the Assembly floor. Founded 80 years ago, the club moved to a building in 1920 and made a home there for Suffern's first library. To view the video click the link below. <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Ellen-Jaffee/video/7336/#videos>