

## Calendar of Events

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webmaster@lwv-rma.org

September 5, 2025

**First Friday**

**I-Square**

**200 Bakers Square**

**Irondequoit, NY**

11:30 AM - 01:30 PM EST

*Join us for social time at I-Square. There's no agenda but we talk about everything League and have lots of political discussions. Many great ideas originate at First Fridays and a lot of work gets done. And we have a lot of fun. Come when you can, leave when you must. No need to register, just come!*

September 11, 2025

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

*Members are welcome to attend these zoom board meetings. Please request a link by emailing to [president@lwv-rma.org](mailto:president@lwv-rma.org).*

September 18, 2025

**Book Club: The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland**

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM EST

*The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland*

*Richmond, Virginia 1811. It's the height of the winter social season, the General Assembly is in session, and many of Virginia's gentleman planters, along with their wives and children, have made the long and arduous journey to the capital in hopes of whiling away the darkest days of the year. At the city's only theater, the Charleston-based Placide & Green Company puts on two plays a night to meet the demand of a populace that's done looking for enlightenment at the front of a church.*

*On the night after Christmas, the theater is packed with more than six hundred holiday revelers. In the third-floor boxes sits newly widowed Sally Henry Campbell, who is glad for any opportunity to relive the happy times she shared with her husband. One floor away, in the colored gallery, Cecily Patterson doesn't give a whit about the play but is grateful for a four-hour reprieve from a life that has recently gone from bad to worse. Backstage, young stagehand Jack Gibson hopes that, if he can impress the theater's managers, he'll be offered a permanent job with the company. And on the other side of town, blacksmith Gilbert Hunt dreams of one day being able to bring his wife to the theater, but he'll have to buy her freedom first.*

*When the theater goes up in flames in the middle of the performance, Sally, Cecily, Jack, and Gilbert make a series of split-second decisions that will not only affect their own lives but those of countless others. And in the days following the fire, as news of the disaster spreads across the United States, the paths of these four people will become forever intertwined.*

*Based on the true story of Richmond's theater fire, The House Is on Fire is a "stunning" (Jeannette Walls, New York Times bestselling author of The Glass Castle), "all-consuming exploration" (E! News) that offers proof that sometimes, in the midst of great tragedy, we are offered our most precious—and fleeting—chances at redemption.*

October 3, 2025

**First Friday**

**I-Square**

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**Irondequoit, NY**

11:30 AM - 01:30 PM EST

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October 9, 2025

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

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November 7, 2025

**First Friday**

**I-Square**

**200 Bakers Square**

**Irondequoit, NY**

11:30 AM - 01:30 PM EST

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November 13, 2025

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

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November 20, 2025

**Book Club: Abundance by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson**

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM EST

*Abundance by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson*

*To trace the history of the twenty-first century so far is to trace a history of unaffordability and shortage. After years of refusing to build sufficient housing, America has a national housing crisis. After years of limiting immigration, we don't have enough workers. Despite decades of being warned about the consequences of climate change, we haven't built anything close to the clean-energy infrastructure we need. Ambitious public projects are finished late and over budget—if they are ever finished at all. The crisis that's clicking into focus now has been building for decades—because we haven't been building enough.*

*Abundance explains that our problems today are not the results of yesteryear's villains. Rather, one generation's solutions have become the next generation's problems. Rules and regulations designed to solve the problems of the 1970s often prevent urban-density and green-energy projects that would help solve the problems of the 2020s. Laws meant to ensure that government considers the consequences of its actions have made it too difficult for government to act consequentially. In the last few decades, our capacity to see problems has sharpened while our ability to solve them has diminished.*

*Progress requires facing up to the institutions in life that are not working as they need to. It means, for liberals, recognizing when the government is failing. It means, for conservatives, recognizing when the government is needed. In a book exploring how we can move from a liberalism that not only protects and pre-serves but also builds, Klein and Thompson trace the political, economic, and cultural barriers to progress and propose a path toward a politics of abundance. At a time when movements of scarcity are gaining power in country after country, this is an answer that meets the challenges of the moment while grappling honestly with the fury so many rightfully feel.*

December 5, 2025

**First Friday**

**I-Square**

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December 11, 2025

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

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January 2, 2026

**First Friday**

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January 8, 2026

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

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January 15, 2026

**Book Club: Agent Josephine by Damien Lewis**

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM EST

*Agent Josephine by Damien Lewis*

*Prior to World War II, Josephine Baker was a music-hall diva renowned for her singing and dancing, her beauty and sexuality; she was the highest-paid female performer in Europe. When the Nazis seized her adopted city, Paris, she was banned from the stage, along with all "negroes and Jews." Yet instead of returning to America, she vowed to stay and to fight the Nazi evil. Overnight, she went from performer to Resistance spy.*

*In Agent Josephine, bestselling author Damien Lewis uncovers this little-known history of the famous singer's life. During the war years, as a member of the French Nurse paratroopers—a cover for her spying work—Baker participated in numerous clandestine activities and emerged as a formidable spy. In turn, she was a hero of the three countries in whose name she served—the US, France, and Britain.*

*Drawing on a plethora of new historical material and rigorous research, including previously undisclosed letters and journals, Lewis upends the conventional story of Josephine Baker, explaining why she fully deserves her unique place in the French Panthéon.*

February 6, 2026

**First Friday**

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February 12, 2026

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

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March 6, 2026

**First Friday**

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March 12, 2026

**Board meeting**

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March 19, 2026

**Book Club: How We Learn to be Brave by Mariann Edgar Budde**

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM EST

*How We Learn to be Brave by Mariann Edgar Budde*

*On January 21, 2025, many Americans were introduced to Bishop Mariann Budde thanks to what The New York Times called "an extraordinary act of public resistance." During her prayer service for Donald J. Trump's second inauguration, Bishop Budde addressed the president directly, imploring him "to have mercy on the people in our country who are scared now," from those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community to immigrants and refugees.*

*But for Bishop Budde, this moment was the culmination of a lifetime spent thinking about those pivot points when we're called on to push past our fears and act with strength. With How We Learn to Be Brave, she teaches us that being brave is not a singular occurrence; it's a journey that we can choose to undertake every day.*

*Here, Bishop Budde explores the full range of decisive moments, from the most visible and dramatic (the decision to go), to the internal and personal (the decision to stay), to brave choices made with an eye toward the future (the decision to start), those born of suffering (the decision to accept that which we did not choose), and those that come unexpectedly (the decision to step up to the plate). Drawing on examples ranging from Harry Potter to the Gospel According to Luke, she seamlessly weaves together personal experiences with stories from scripture, history, and pop culture to underscore both the universality of these moments and the particular call each one of us must heed when they arrive.*

*With Bishop Budde's wisdom, readers will learn to live and to respond according to their true beliefs and in ways that align with their best selves. How We Learn to Be Brave will provide much-needed fortitude and insight to anyone searching for answers in uncertain times.*

April 3, 2026

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April 9, 2026

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

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May 1, 2026

**First Friday**

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May 14, 2026

**Board meeting**

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST

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May 21, 2026

**Book Club: Children of the Land by Marcelo Hernandez Castillo**

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM EST

*Children of the Land by Marcelo Hernandez Castillo*

*When Marcelo Hernandez Castillo was five years old and his family was preparing to cross the border between Mexico and the United States, he suffered temporary, stress-induced blindness. Castillo regained his vision, but quickly understood that he had to move into a threshold of invisibility before settling in California with his parents and siblings. Thus began a new life of hiding in plain sight and of paying extraordinarily careful attention at all times for fear of being truly seen. Before Castillo was one of the most celebrated poets of a generation, he was a boy who perfected his English in the hopes that he might never seem extraordinary.*

*With beauty, grace, and honesty, Castillo recounts his and his family's encounters with a system that treats them as criminals for seeking safe, ordinary lives. He writes of the Sunday afternoon when he opened the door to an ICE officer who had one hand on his holster, of the hours he spent making a fake social security card so that he could work to support his family, of his father's deportation and the decade that he spent waiting to return to his wife and children only to be denied reentry, and of his mother's heartbreaking decision to leave her children and grandchildren so that she could be reunited with her estranged husband and retire from a life of hard labor.*

*Children of the Land distills the trauma of displacement, illuminates the human lives behind the headlines and serves as a stunning meditation on what it means to be a man and a citizen.*

June 5, 2026

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