



# The Voter

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## Democracy Is A Civil Rights Issue

The opening of the NM State Legislature coincides every year with the national celebration of the life of the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and the advent of Black History Month in February. And this is fitting as the purpose of a democratic government is to enact legislation for the benefit all the people and to protect their civil rights.

The League has a long history of legislative advocacy, and this year LWVNM's legislative priorities are focused on three main areas: tax reform, reproductive justice, and fair redistricting. (see pages 3-4). We also support HB81 "Requiring the New Mexico Sentencing Commission to Evaluate the Racial Impact of Certain Proposed Legislation".

The League has a long history of fighting for civil rights, starting over 100 years ago with the fight for women's suffrage and manifesting most recently in the adoption of its "Urgent Resolution for Racial Justice for Black People and All People of Color"

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in response to the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 and other events (see page 6).

The League’s activism has been criticized by some as partisanship. We are nonpartisan – we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We are *political* in that we take positions and advocate on issues. Our positions are derived from our core values. A speaker at the recent LWVUS Webinar on DEI and Nonpartisanship reminded us that “Democracy is a civil rights issue.” The League will continue to fight for both.

—*Judy Williams and Stephanie Schlanger, editors*

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**LWVSFC WANTS YOU  
For Our  
OBSERVER CORPS!**

Are you especially interested in schools, City Council, land use, the community college or something else? Is there a community organization you belong to and can provide feedback on? Are you able to be on call when important local issues are being considered?

**Join the Observer Corps!** You’ll simply attend your chosen organization’s meetings and report back to us periodically. You can also alert us to issues that need our advocacy.

Why is this important? Remember the proposal to build a Flying J truck stop on Highway 14? League members attended relevant Board of County Commission and Planning Commission meetings where we made public comments, always based on League positions, in opposition to the proposal. We’ve played an important role in many other local issues.

Contact Chris Furlanetto at [crfrwf@yahoo.com](mailto:crfrwf@yahoo.com) for more information. Thanks in advance!

## LWVNM Legislative Priorities for the 2021 Session

Dick Mason, LWVNM Action Chair, held a zoom meeting on January 14, 2021 to present the League's 2021 legislative priorities. The 60-day session began January 19; a large number of bills that the League supports was pre-filed. Current information can be found at: <https://www.lwvnm.org/Action/>. Many of the bills we're following are also priorities for organizations we work with, including the NAACP and the Sierra Club.

The League priorities fall into the following categories:

### Highest Priority

#### Education

- Allow withdrawals from the Permanent Fund for early childhood services and education.
- Bills to support and increase funding for general education such as the Grow Your Own Teachers Act, a Multicultural Education Advisory Council and bills such as prohibiting hair discrimination.

#### Tax reform

- Restore previous income tax rate for high earners. This would repeal tax cuts and eliminate the exemption for capital gains.
- Increase working families tax credit and low income tax rebate. This will be good for economic development.
- Review tax credits given to companies to create jobs to understand if they are working as designed.

#### Reproductive rights

- Repeal the law that criminalizes abortion. This bill finally has a good chance of passing this session.

#### Redistricting

The League strongly supports a bill that would create a seven-person redistricting commission to develop maps and present them to the legislature for an up or down vote. Four members would be legislators and three would be appointed by the Ethics Commission.

For more information see Fair Districts New Mexico: <http://fairdistrictsnm.org/>.

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## **Other Priorities**

### **Civil rights and Qualified Immunity**

LWVNM supports a bill to get rid of qualified immunity because it shields government officials from legal action for violating citizen's constitutional rights. National has approved our stance on this.

### **Environmental Protection**

- There will be a Senate Joint Resolution on the right to a clean environment and a stable climate. Also called the Green Bill of Rights.
- Bills to increase use of solar energy, such as requiring solar on new schools and housing.
- An electric vehicle tax credit. This would include a higher registration fee for road maintenance because most of this money currently comes from gasoline and diesel taxes.
- Prohibition of the use of fresh water for fracking.

### **Health Care**

- Comprehensive bills to protect health care consumers.
- A health care security act, if proposed.
- A health care affordability act that will make it more affordable for low income people.
- Paid family and medical leave.
- Nurses in all school districts

### **Voting Rights**

- Restore felon voting rights upon release from prison.

### **Other Priority Bills**

- Publication of capital outlays
- Broadband expansion

The LWVNM Action Committee has begun attending legislative committee meetings on Zoom, and providing input to bills we support and oppose. Please see the Action Committee link for more information, including the bill-tracking sheet, which lists the bills we are currently tracking and updates on the status of these bills. If you are interesting in advocating for any of these bills, you can sign up for the Action Committee List at this link: <https://www.lwvnm.org/Action/>.

## Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rosa Parks started it. Martin Luther King made it matter. She was tired and just sat down on the bus, refusing to move to the back. It was 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, and Parks was arrested and jailed.

King led the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott that lasted 381 days and produced a Supreme Court ruling declaring segregated seating on public buses unconstitutional. Date: November 1956.

The march toward civil rights was on, with King very much in the lead and a target of hate. His home was firebombed by white supremacists two months after the 1956 Supreme Court ruling. In 1958, he was stabbed in an assassination attempt. In 1968, age 40, he was murdered by a sniper.

Murdered at 40, but not before leading marches and demonstrations attracting hundreds of thousands and the attention of the world. Not before being named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963 and receiving the



Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Not before seeing the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

An extraordinary man. A man whose speeches could be pure poetry and who was known to end some of them with lyrics listeners might sing together. His oratory was powerful and spoke to the core of our democratic institutions:

“...to deny a person the right to exercise his political freedom at the polls is no less dastardly an act as to deny a Christian the right to petition God in prayer.” (Letter to *New York Amsterdam News*, June 1965).

But, civil justice wasn't his only concern. Of the 10 demands in the 1963 March on Washington, No. 7 was a massive federal program to train and place all unemployed workers—Black and white—in meaningful and dignified jobs at decent wages, and No. 8 was a national minimum wage that will give Americans a decent standard of living. Sometimes we forget the 1963 march on Washington was called the “March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.”

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Vice President Kamala Harris remarked on January 18, “I think it’s important to remember that Dr. King was killed in large part, I believe, because he was on the verge of bringing together the civil rights movement around racial justice with the fight for economic justice.”

Indeed, only three weeks before he was assassinated, King addressed 15,000 people at rally in Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. “You are reminding the nation,” he told attendees, “that it is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages...working on a full-time basis and a full-time job getting part-time income.”

King wasn’t shifting his concern, but turning the national spotlight onto what would be even more uncomfortable for the populace in the 1960’s; asking not only that they open their eyes to racial injustice but open their bank accounts and state budgets to address the inequities that racial injustice had built.

He knew the difficulties he faced, now that the movement was struggling “for genuine equality.” In his 1967 speech at Stanford University entitled “The Other America,” he said, “It’s much easier to integrate a lunch counter

than it is to guarantee a livable income and a good, solid job. It’s much easier to guarantee the right to vote than it is to guarantee the right to live in sanitary, decent housing conditions. It is much easier to integrate a public park than it is to make genuine quality integrated education a reality.”

Regretfully, his words are no less true today than in the 60s. —*Susan Haase*

### **URGENT RESOLUTION: RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR**

This resolution addresses racial injustices experienced by Black People, Indigenous People, and all People of Color (BIPOC) in our country. Racism is at the core of the national upheaval following George Floyd’s death on May 25, therefore it is fitting that League of Women Voters members consider how to address racism while carrying out the public policies of LWV. We ask that delegates to the 54th Convention of the League of Women Voters resolve to advocate throughout our country for the eradication of systemic racism within every level of government; for the end of excessive force and brutality in law enforcement; and for equal protection under the law regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation.

This resolution is based on LWV positions found in the Impact on Issues 2018-2020, Individual Liberties (p.31), Equality of Opportunity (p.68), and in LWV’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy ([lwv.org/league-management](http://lwv.org/league-management)). Resolution approved LWVUS 2020

## **“Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion” Where We Were Then Where We Are Now**

This issue of *The Voter* has two themes: LWVSFC Legislative Advocacy in the state’s 60-day Legislative Session and Black History Month. I volunteered to write a short piece on how racial justice struggles have evolved over the years. Turns out this is no easy task. I’m an elderly white lady in Santa Fe and unqualified to say the least. I must rely other voices to explore the question.

April 4, 2021, will mark 53 years since the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. In this issue there is an article on Dr. King, beautifully recalling his wisdom and perceptions on American society. I’m using Dr. King’s nonviolent campaigns for justice as my benchmark. Here’s what he had to say in 1967 in his book, “Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?”

“The majority of white Americans consider themselves sincerely committed to justice for the Negro. They believe that American society is essentially hospitable to fair play and to

steady growth toward a middle-class Utopia embodying racial harmony. But unfortunately, this is a fantasy of self-deception and comfortable vanity....Laws are passed in a crisis mood after a Birmingham or a Selma, but no substantial fervor survives the formal signing of legislation. The recording of the law in itself is treated as the reality of the reform.”

More recently, we can look to the extensive current data on poverty, education, incarceration, health, voter suppression, segregation, mortality rates, and policing. Mississippi formally ratified the 13th Amendment banning slavery on February 7, 2013.

The Black Lives Matter movement was founded in 2013 as a hashtag during protests after the acquittal of the man who murdered Trayvon Martin, a boy President Obama said “could have been my son.”

In the interests of brevity, we’ll move right to the present.

Isabel Wilkerson, author of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, offered a powerful insight during a podcast interview with *Sway* on January 21, 2021. She’s talking about the immediate aftermath of the violent attack on the US Capitol on January 6:

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So, among the many scenes that struck me to my core was after the rampage had been quelled and it was later into the night, and the cleaning crew is brought in to clean up after the damage that had been done. It fell to them in order to do that. And there they were, laboring in their uniforms, bent over with mops and brooms and with masks over their faces. And I saw instantly the people assigned to the subordinated caste for 400 years, since before there was the United States, still consigned to their historic role of serving and cleaning up after those who had been programmed to see themselves as dominant and superior and supreme. And we know that, had people who looked like those janitors in that crew that we saw working late into the night, if they had deigned to burst into the Capitol like that, we know what would have come of that. They wouldn't have lived to tell.

Ibram X. Kendi, author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, published an article in the *Atlantic* online shortly after the Capitol attack. The title reveals his view: "Denial: The Heartbeat of America." In conclusion he offers this:

We must stop the heartbeat of denial and revive America to the thumping beat of truth. The carnage has no chance of stopping until the denial stops. *This is not who we are* must become, in the aftermath of the attack on the U.S. Capitol: *This is precisely who we are. And we are ashamed. And we are aggrieved at what we've done, at how we let this happen. But we will change. We will hold the perpetrators accountable. We will change policy and practices. We will radically root out this problem. It will be painful. But without pain there is no healing.*

I'll conclude with two Black voices on the struggle. May they inspire courage and motivation at last to shake off the lies and face the light.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." (1967)

And Amanda Gorman, with an excerpt from "The Hill We Climb" (January 20, 2021):

We will rebuild, reconcile and recover  
and every known nook of our nation and  
every corner called our country,  
our people diverse and beautiful  
will emerge,  
battered and beautiful

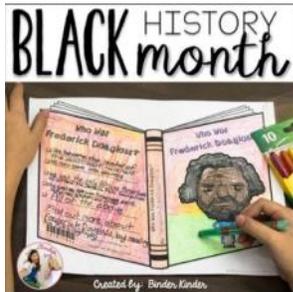
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When day comes we step out of  
the shade,  
aflame and unafraid  
The new dawn blooms as we free it  
For there is always light,  
If only we're brave enough to see it  
if only we're brave enough to be it.

It's our task to work honestly to ensure  
that the climb does not continue  
endlessly like Sisyphus pushing  
the rock.

—*Irene Epp*



**Santa Fe  
NAACP  
ReadAthon  
Celebrates  
Black History**

The NAACP ReadAthon program brings books by African heritage authors to K-12 students in Santa Fe. The reading sessions include background on the authors and an overview of Black history. In addition, the program teaches students about the NAACP—why it was formed, what it does today and why it is important.

The ReadAthon was started 10 years ago by a Santa Fe High School teacher to highlight February's Black History Month. She reached out to the teachers at her school and promoted the reading of Black authors by NAACP volunteers. After she retired, NAACP member Bo Keppel took the it over. Originally the program featured African American authors, and Bo expanded the program to include Black authors from Africa and other countries.

Over the 10 years that this unique program has been in existence, ReadAthon has worked with many Santa Fe Public Schools from kindergarten through Grade 12.

For 2021, there are 31 teachers who have requested an NAACP volunteer to come read to their class. The grades range from PreK-6 and one 11th grade high school class. The volunteer and the teacher select the reading material and can access the NAACP library organized by Bo if they need some guidance. The background on the authors and the information on NAACP are given to the volunteers to use, or they can create their own materials.

For more information, contact Bo Keppel at [bokeppel@netzero.net](mailto:bokeppel@netzero.net).

—*Kelly Davis*

## RECOMMENDED READING

Since February is Black History Month, the reader recommendations focus on Black writers. The Black authors represented address a variety of topics, with recommendations ranging from Barack Obama's *The Promised Land* to Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* and Ruby Bridges' *This is Your Time*. I hope you enjoy the books and video as much as I did. I found that each had a message that provided me with tools to evaluate my role in our democracy.



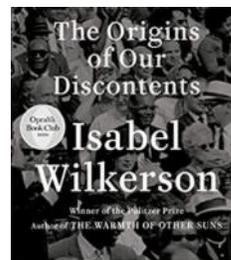
***The Promised Land*** is the first of two volumes of Obama's presidential memoirs. The book starts with his early years, as he is raised by his

mother and grandparents in Indonesia and Hawaii, presenting the backdrop of who he became.

Continuing on to his years as student and a community organizer, Harvard law school, and then president, Obama tells the inside story of what happened during the eight years he was in office. He provides a frank assessment of the people he interacted with both domestic and foreign, and explains his decision-making process, his

evaluation of the country's progress under his terms in office, and what his thoughts are for its future.

I enjoyed all 700 pages of this book. It provided me with a deeper understanding of the office of the president, its processes and challenges, and its limited powers, as well as insight into recent political events.



In ***Caste***, Isabel Wilkerson describes our "original sin" of racism and its history that supported dis-

criminating practices and laws as a caste system based on race.

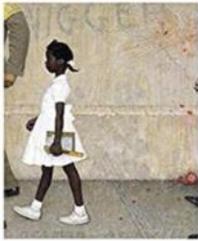
Wilkerson defines a caste system as "an artificial construction, a fixed and embedded ranking of human value that sets the presumed supremacy of one group against the presumed inferiority of other groups..." She compares the caste system in India towards the untouchables and Nazi Germany's treatment of Jews to American treatment of African-Americans. Wilkerson uses many examples to support her theory but one that stood out to me was the use by Nazi Germany of our laws when creating the foundation for their genocide against the Jews.

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*Caste* provides the basis for a frank and truthful discussion on race, and the American institutions and people that support the discrimination. The book left me with feeling the enormous mountain we must climb to finally and completely eradicate this original sin that has never been fully addressed.

RUBY BRIDGES  
THIS IS YOUR TIME



***This is Your Time*** by Ruby Bridges is written for children age 10 and up for sharing with your children and grandchildren. It is

the story of Ruby Bridges and her experiences being the first black girl at age six integrating the Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in November 1960.

Bridges along with two other black children passed an entrance exam designed to prevent the integration of Black students in the white school system. The other two students decided not to attend. For her safety, she was accompanied to class by federal officers and was taught by a teacher recruited from Boston, since none of the white teachers at the school would teach her.

Bridges became an activist, creating the Ruby Bridges Foundation that promotes “the values of tolerance, respect and appreciation of all differences.”

This is a story written for children, but it contains an important message for adults. It is an American story of our abiding sin and the message we are sending our children.

**“Civil Rights Pioneer Ruby Bridges on Activism in the Modern Era”** is an interview with Ruby Bridges by journalist and activist Charlayne Hunter-Gault. In the interview Bridges discusses her journey from age six to adulthood, talking about the role adults play in the continuation of the racism that plagues our country stating: “racism is a grown-up disease and we must stop using our children to spread it.” Click [HERE](#) to access the interview.



*Documentary footage from the interview with Ruby Bridges (see above)*

—Kelly Davis

## **Music connects. But not all music is heard.**

**IndigenousWays** is a 501©-3 organization connecting Indigenous voices, LGBTQIA2+, music, and wisdom teachings, offering full inclusion for deaf and hard of hearing audiences via ASL interpreters. The mission of Indigenous Ways, “to promote living in balance for diverse communities through music, arts, outreach, and events,” is medicine for our times.

Every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m., IndigenousWays presents a Wisdom Circle teacher or musician on their free website, opening new worlds to those of us removed from knowing the power of ancestral communities. Playwrights, poets, performing artists, and recovery specialists are all participants in this rich collection of voices.

IndigenousWays Co-Founder, Tash Terry learned ASL at 12, on the Navajo Reservation and saw the need for ASL interpreters for her deaf friends for ceremonies, chapter house gatherings, etc.... Her commitment now has a very broad reach. ASL culturally competent and conceptually accurate interpreters serve as

communication anchors to wisdom and art circles produced here in Santa Fe. Click [HERE](#) for a sample of events.

IndigenousWays also coordinates sustained efforts to support the Native communities in our current health and safety crisis. Their program to get fresh water to the Navajo Nation, Black Mountain Relief Runs, inspires support and action. Click on the video to watch:



It’s a fair question to ask how being nonpartisan squares up with gender and racial identity. Can the parts honor the whole? IndigenousWays celebrates proudly held multiple voices; more of a chorus than a particular tribe. A world voice, old and wise and heart felt. Healing. Listening. Inspiring.

Click [HERE](#) to follow their work celebrating Black History Month, Women’s History Month, or past work.

*—Kristina Flanagan*

## ***Our Common Purpose and Civil Rights***

*Our Common Purpose* is a two-year study by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences that “lays out a case for renewed civic faith.” They conclude that there needs to be a commitment by our institutions to be responsive to the needs of citizens resulting in a better democracy with fairness and equity for all.

Democracy and civil rights are one of the same. Without a realization of the need to strengthen people’s civil rights, the work of reinvention cannot be done. People need to feel they are respected and their voices are heard regardless of their race, culture, religion, or sex.

The report provides recommendations and strategies to reinvent our democracy that supports present-day citizens so we can be better prepared to meet today’s challenges. Here are a few of them:

### **Strategy 2: Empower Voters**

#### **Recommendation 2.2**

Change federal Election Day to Veterans Day to honor the service of veterans and the sacrifices they have made in defense of our constitutional democracy, and to ensure that voting can occur on a day that many people have off from work. Align state election calendars with this new federal Election Day.

### **Strategy 3: Ensure the Responsiveness of Government Institutions**

#### **Recommendation 4.2**

Activate a range of funders to invest in the leadership capacity of the so-called civic one million: the catalytic leaders who drive civic renewal in communities around the country. Use this funding to encourage these leaders to support innovation in bridge-building and participatory constitutional democracy.

#### **Recommendation 3.2**

Design structured and engaging mechanisms for every member of Congress to interact directly and regularly with a random sample of their constituents in an informed and substantive conversation about policy areas under consideration.

### **Strategy 6: Inspire a Culture of Commitment to American Constitutional Democracy and One Another**

#### **Recommendation 6.1**

Establish a universal expectation of a year of national service and dramatically expand funding for service programs or fellowship that would offer young people paid service opportunities. Such opportunities should be made available not only in AmeriCorps or the military but also local programs offered by municipal governments, local news outlets, and nonprofit organizations.

#### **Recommendation 6.5**

Invest in civic educators and civic education for all ages and in all communities through curricula, ongoing program evaluations, professional development for teachers, and a federal award program that recognizes civic-learning achievements. These measures should encompass lifelong (K-12 and adult) civic learning experiences with the full community in mind.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full report, download it or order a hard copy.

—*Kelly Davis*

## Coming Events

**February 13, 3-5 p.m.**

### **New Member Welcome via Zoom**

We'll introduce new members to each other and to members of the board, with discussions on how to become involved in League activities. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **February 18, starting at 10:30 am League Day at the Legislature Via Zoom**

Opening remarks by LWVNM President Hannah Burling followed by presentations from various legislators. Zoom link to come

### **February 25, 5:30-7:30 pm League Libations Is Back via Zoom!**

*(And continuing every 4th Thursday of the month.)*

Check the website [lwvsfc.org](http://lwvsfc.org) for Zoom link and details.

**Check out LWVSFC'S  
DISCUSSION FORUM for postings  
and commentary about current  
events and issues.**

Go to [lwvsfc.org](http://lwvsfc.org).

Also posting on Facebook  
and  
Twitter: (@lwvsantafe!



## Membership News

This year so far we welcomed new members **Ricann Bock**, **Patricia Mason** and **Victoria Park** along with 142 renewals. We are now 145 members strong!

This month we also celebrate **Neva Van Peski's** involvement in the League for over 50 years with a Life Membership. Click [HERE](#) to read *The Voter's* March 2020 interview with Neva about her life and contributions to the League.

### **In Memoriam**

Sadly, in 2020 the LWVSFC lost two members.

Life member **Marian Graves** was a resident at El Castillo. During Marian's Life Membership induction ceremony, one member recalls her expressing delight that the local League was taking on local issues rather than simply serving as a branch of the national League.

**Claire Weiner** died suddenly and unexpectedly in December. She was born in Los Alamos at the time of the Manhattan Project and was a lifelong New Mexico resident. Click [HERE](#) to read her obituary.

## Committee and Project Reports January 2020

### Action and Advocacy

#### Midtown Campus Project

Committee members met (via Zoom) with the Midtown Campus Project's consultant for community engagement and the overall project consultant in December. We participated in an online survey offered to multiple community groups; the survey is intended to give direction for community engagement activities. With the current turmoil about the future of the project, we're in a wait-and-see mode but will continue to follow the project status.

—Chris Furlanetto

### Civil Discourse Project

CDP has confirmed a session with Estevan Rael-Gálvez on Tuesday, February 9. CDP will invite Dr. Rael-Gálvez to do a more formal presentation for the full LWVSFC. Inspired by the urgent need for civil communication, CDP is now preparing to organize a civil discourse presentation for all of the LWVSFC in the near future.

—Irene Epp

### Voter Registration and Education

The David Moss Case Study Workshop continues to be offered to high school teachers teaching history, civics and social studies. Voter Services is recruiting teachers to attend the April 3 workshop via Zoom. To date two teachers have said they want to attend.

—Kelly Davis

### Election Information

The Who's Who Guide to elected officials in Santa Fe County has been updated with the currently available information and is posted on the website. The Guide will continue to be updated as government offices update their websites. Many thanks to **Cynthia Shore** for researching these updates to the Guide!

—Pat Hawkins

### Fundraising Committee

I am excited to report on the fundraising results for Calendar Year 2020. The total amount we raised in 2020 is \$22,185. For tax purposes, the calendar year is more significant than the LWVSFC's Fiscal Year (May 1 through April 30). We still have time for more fundraising in 2021, but we have already exceeded our Annual Goal for FY 2020/21, which was \$13,000. We plan to apply for some grants this spring and also solicit businesses to sponsor our activities between now and May 1.

—Marcy Litzenberg

### Thank You for Your Support!

**Liz Stefanics & Linda Siegle**  
**Carol Johnson**  
**Randi Lowenthal**  
**Myk Pizzagalli**  
**Roger Peterson**  
**Alan Webber & Frances Diemoz**  
**Lynn Gary**  
**Anne Culp**  
**Anne D'Alessandro & Lawrence Lyons**



## Calendar of Events Spring 2021

### February

February 4, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee  
 February 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting  
*February 18, 10:30-12:30: League Day at the Legislature*  
 February 25, 5:30-7: League Libations on Zoom

### March

March 4, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee  
 March 17, 11:30-1: General Meeting, Sunshine Week, Our Common Purpose  
 March 16, 10-11:30: LWVSFC Board Meeting  
 March 20: Legislative session last day  
 March 24, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader: Midtown Campus project  
 March 25, 5:30-7: League Libations on Zoom

### April

April 1, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee  
 April 14, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader: Early Childhood Education, Jennifer Sallee,  
 April 20, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting  
 April 29, 5:30-7: League Libations on Zoom

### May

May 6, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee  
 May 12, 11:30-1: Annual Meeting  
 May 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting  
 May 27, :30-7: League Libations on zoom

*\*LWVNM and other organization functions in italics.*

*\*Unconfirmed events are in blue; check website for more current information.*

#### Monthly Meetings/Events:

- **Action & Advocacy Committee:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month on Zoom until further notice
- **LWVSFC Board Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 10-12
- **League Libations:** Last Thursday; now on hold but may resume on Zoom

## League Libations Is Back ! (via Zoom for now)

Join us for conversation  
and good cheer  
with friends old and new!

**Thursday, February 25**  
**5:30 to 7:30 pm**  
(and the 4th Thursday of every month)

Click [HERE](#) to join Zoom

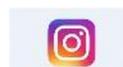
## Nonfiction Book Club Selection for March

**Irony and Outrage: The Polarized Landscape of Rage, Fear and Laughter in the United States, by Dannagal Goldthwaite Young**

From a review on Amazon "In *Irony and Outrage*, political and media psychologist Dannagal Goldthwaite Young explores the aesthetics, underlying logics, and histories of these two seemingly distinct genres, making the case that they should be thought of as the logical extensions of the psychology of the left and right, respectively"

**March 18, 10:30 via Zoom.**  
Contact Donna Reynolds at [donnamr@me.com](mailto:donnamr@me.com) to join the discussion.

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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member  Renew-  al

**Please check box of the membership you wish to start or renew:**

Individual membership: \$60

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Student membership: \$30 (*for students 16-25 years old currently enrolled; **scholarships are available** to students wishing to be active members; email [lwvsfc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsfc@gmail.com) for more info.*)

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**Donation - I would also like to donate (circle one):**

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**Make check for dues and donation payable to "LWVSFC" and mail the check with this form to the address below.**

**Thank you for joining! As soon as we receive your membership registration form and payment, we will send you a confirmation and welcome letter by email.**

**The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.**

**Mail to: League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County**

**P.O. Box 31547**

**Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547**

## Rosa Parks

By Nikki Giovanni

This is for the Pullman Porters who organized when people said they couldn't. And carried the Pittsburgh Courier and the Chicago Defender to the Black Americans in the South so they would know they were not alone. This is for the Pullman Porters who helped Thurgood Marshall go south and come back north to fight the fight that resulted in *Brown v. Board of Education* because even though Kansas is west and even though Topeka is the birthplace of Gwendolyn Brooks, who wrote the powerful "The Chicago Defender Sends a Man to Little Rock," it was the Pullman Porters who whispered to the traveling men both the Blues Men and the "Race" Men so that they both would know what was going on. This is for the Pullman Porters who smiled as if they were happy and laughed like they were tickled when some folks were around and who silently rejoiced in 1954 when the Supreme Court announced its 9—0 decision that "separate is inherently unequal." This is for the Pullman Porters who smiled and welcomed a fourteen-year-old boy onto their train in 1955. They noticed his slight limp that he tried to disguise with a doo-wop walk; they noticed his stutter and probably understood why his mother wanted him out of Chicago during the summer when school was out. Fourteen-year-old Black boys with limps and stutters are apt to try to prove themselves in dangerous ways when mothers aren't around to look after them. So this is for the Pullman Porters who looked over that fourteen-year-old while the train rolled the reverse of the Blues Highway from Chicago to St. Louis to Memphis to Mississippi. This is for the men who kept him safe; and if Emmett Till had been able to stay on a train all summer he would have maybe grown a bit of a paunch, certainly lost his hair, probably have worn bifocals and bounced his grandchildren on his knee telling them about his summer riding the rails. But he had to get off the train. And ended up in Money, Mississippi. And was horribly, brutally, inexcusably, and unacceptably murdered. This is for the Pullman Porters who, when the sheriff was trying to get the body secretly buried, got Emmett's body on the northbound train, got his body home to Chicago, where his mother said: I want the world to see what they did to my boy. And this is for all the mothers who cried. And this is for all the people who said Never Again. And this is about Rosa Parks whose feet were not so tired, it had been, after all, an ordinary day, until the bus driver gave her the opportunity to make history. This is about Mrs. Rosa Parks from Tuskegee, Alabama, who was also the field secretary of the NAACP. This is about the moment Rosa Parks shouldered her cross, put her worldly goods aside, was willing to sacrifice her life, so that that young man in Money, Mississippi, who had been so well protected by the Pullman Porters, would not have died in vain. When Mrs. Parks said "NO" a passionate movement was begun. No longer would there be a reliance on the law; there was a higher law. When Mrs. Parks brought that light of hers to expose the evil of the system, the sun came and rested on her shoulders bringing the heat and the light of truth. Others would follow Mrs. Parks. Four young men in Greensboro, North Carolina, would also say No. Great voices would be raised singing the praises of God and exhorting us "to forgive those who trespass against us." But it was the Pullman Porters who safely got Emmett to his granduncle and it was Mrs. Rosa Parks who could not stand that death. And in not being able to stand it. She sat back down.