



The Voter

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March 2021

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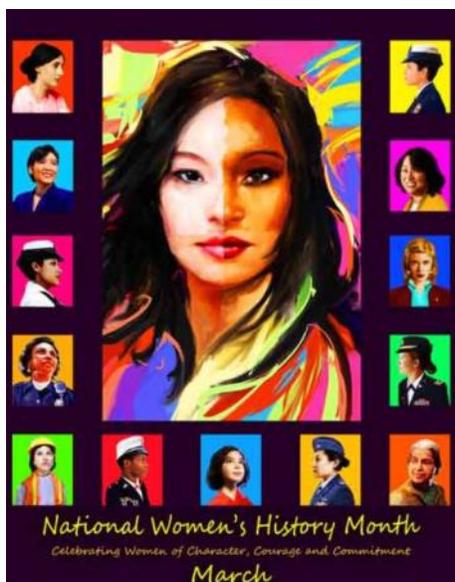
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**“Valiant Women of the Vote:
Refusing to Be Silenced.”***

*nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/

It's Been a Long Time Coming...



...and it just keeps getting better! Kamala Harris, a woman of color and the daughter of immigrants, has been elected Vice President, the second

highest position in our land. Deb Haaland will be our first Native American cabinet secretary. Janet Yellen will be our first woman Secretary of the Treasury. A record number of women are serving in this Congress. And the list goes on.

While much work remains to be done to achieve a just representation of our diverse nation in our government, there's also much to celebrate this year. As the late great Sam Cooke sang, “It's been a long time coming...but a change is gonna come.” Change is here—may it keep on coming.

I want to thank the many talented members of LWVSFC who contributed book reviews, profiles, commentaries and stories to this tribute to Women's History Month.

Enjoy!

—Stephanie Schlanger



**American Women
Were Denied The Right To Vote
For 144 Years.**

We Demand the Right to Vote: The Journey to the 19th Amendment is an illustrated, introductory overview of women’s 72-year struggle for social and political freedom—1848-1920.

**March 5th-31st — 15% Discount
Books, Notecards, & Signed Art Prints**
Great Gifts for Yourself & Others
Celebrate Women’s History Month
Visit - www.MeneeseWall.com

Winner of:
2020 Southwest Book Design
& Production Awards
• Best History Book • Best of Show
2020 NM Press Women
Zia Book Award • Finalist

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**WE’RE INVITING
YOU
to
JOIN OUR TEAMS!**

IF YOU ALREADY KNOW, OR ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING:

** How to use Publisher desktop publishing software and MS Word, and edit PDFs. (VOTER editorial staff).

IF YOU CAN LEND YOUR TALENTS TO:

** Researching, writing, editing, copyediting, and proofreading copy.

IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OR HAVE AN INTEREST IN:

** Creating and designing messaging for social media and managing media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter).

** Managing Websites.

IF YOU KNOW, OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN:

** How to create, edit, and upload Excel spreadsheets, work with GIS files and edit input (Vote411 online Voter Guide Team).

IF YOU CAN LEND YOUR TALENTS TO:

** Organizing and running the board meetings, and managing the budgeting and nominating processes (our VP/Admin position is vacant).

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN:

** Building and expanding on a successful Development/Fundraising program with room for growth.

Call: 505-629-0534
Email: LWVSFC@gmail.com

LWVNM 2021 Legislative Update

By March 1 there will be only two weeks left in this year's long session! Yet the majority of bills that have been introduced have not yet been scheduled for hearings. Most meetings are being held virtually, which may be a partial cause of the slow movement.

A few highlights so far, from our list of priorities:

- The bill repealing the antiquated abortion ban has been signed by the Governor.
- The House tax package (HB291) finally appeared on February 18. There are many good things in it (increase in the personal income tax for high earners, and more) but the bill is a moving target, so we'll have to wait and see what else gets put in – or taken out.
- The redistricting bill (SB199, HB211) is moving, slowly. The Senate Rules Committee unanimously approved SB199. The two drafters, Justice Edward Chavez and Judge Roderick Kennedy, held a press conference on February 18, responding to Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto's rival bill, which calls for the same

process as was used a decade ago. Current consensus is that some compromise will be worked out. Stay tuned to this exciting saga!

- HJR1, tapping the Permanent Fund for Early Childhood (CA), has passed the house and is now in the Senate.
- SB304, which would centralize the GIS data files used to create county-level districts, such as county commissioners, is another League-sponsored bill. Sponsored by new Senator (and League member) Brenda McKenna, it was unanimously approved by the Senate Rules Committee.

League Day at the Legislature was unusual this year, but we had two excellent speakers. Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Edward Chavez spoke about the redistricting bill. Amber Wallin of NM Voices for Children gave a report on tax and revenue sources. The League is following many other elections, environmental health and education bills, which you can see on the state League website, www.LWVNM.org.

—Judy Williams

**Meet New
LWVSFC Member
Cynthia Shore**



Why did you join the League?

After Trump's election, I felt frustrated and wanted to somehow contribute to the voting and electoral process, but in a way that honors all voices and provides accurate information. It took me a while, but I finally took action last year during the general election cycle by joining the League, which I feel does promote a calm, educated voice in debates about current issues.

Tell us something about yourself:

I am a writer and editor in Santa Fe, and mother of two children, one of whom is out of the house, and the second is on her way. I now have more time and mental bandwidth to devote to causes that matter to me.

What do you think are the most pressing issues facing us today?

To me the most important thing is that we find a way to include the "other" while also being firm about decency, human rights and honoring individual self-determination. So I am excited by the League's Civil Discourse Project. We should not and cannot make the

"other side", whomever that may be, go away. We need to find a "third way", finding our way back to facts and a certain level of trust, building or restoring a system that functions well enough so that if we don't get everything we want, we, as a country, can move forward, rather than deciding we get to destroy everything in order to "win".

In Santa Fe, I think specifically, affordable housing, food security and healing ancient cultural wounds are at the top of the list.

What League activities are you involved in or would like to be involved in?

I really enjoy editing the LSVSFC newsletter and would like to do more writing and editing for the League. I don't know much about activism and would like to do more of that.

What is the best book you've read this year?

I'm so glad to be reading more! Well, last year, Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* blew me away, as did *Educated* by Tara Westover, and this year I just finished Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*.

Red or green chile? Red. Of course.

100 Years of Continual Working for Voting Rights

By Laurie Meininger

My friend Laurie Meininger, a Board member and Chair of the DEI Committee for the LWV La Plata County in southwestern Colorado, published a Guest Column in the Durango Herald for Black History Month. Part of that piece seemed perfect for the March Voter. Laurie's theme is "the 100 years of continual work that generations of women of color have contributed to the rights of all women to vote and more".

The column is succinct and highlights a couple of stand-outs not always recognized. I offer it to LWVSFC as one contribution to our March Women's History issue. Her theme segues into current history in the following article on the Georgia run-offs.

— Irene Epp

[They are] women like orator and abolitionist Frances Ellen Watkins Harper who, speaking at the 1866 National Women's Rights Convention, boldly called out racism.

"You white women speak here of rights", Harper told the crowd, calling them out for their lack of female solidarity across racial divides. "I speak of wrongs".

Or Mary Church Terrell, one of the first college-educated Black women in America and the daughter of formerly enslaved parents, who with Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin cofounded the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) in 1896. The NACW became instrumental in consolidating Black suffrage groups

across the country, greatly increasing the voice of the movement, and was instrumental in the successful passage of the 19th Amendment.

Or Ida B. Wells, owner of two newspapers, who was one of the most prominent anti-lynching activists and respected journalists of the early 20th century. Wells also was a strident supporter of women's voting rights and was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"There is no doubt that the road to true equal voting rights for women and people of color has been, and continues to be, long and challenging".

But even after the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919, which stated that, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex", Black and other marginalized women still had to fight to exercise those rights. (Native women, who at the time of the amendment's passage were not considered to be citizens, gained that right in 1924.)

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Efforts to suppress Black voters, such as poll taxes, literacy tests and other barriers, would spark a decades-long push in Black communities for equal access to the ballot, with civil rights activists making voting rights key to their fight for racial justice. And much as with the larger suffrage movement, Black women continued to take a leading role, pushing for unfettered access to the vote, with women like Amelia Boynton Robinson and Fannie Lou Hamer working alongside figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis to secure voting rights. Their efforts would culminate in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, legislation that finally secured the vote for Black people”.

There is no doubt that the road to true equal voting rights for women and people of color has been, and continues to be, long and challenging.”

Laurie Meininger is a retired diplomat and civic volunteer. She is on the board of La Plata County League of Women Voters.



Image credit: ABC News: [Black women finally getting their due for their work to secure women's right to vote - ABC News](#)

A Renaissance, yes... but for whom?



Italy Tour Director Linda Sassano Higgins

At the invitation of Membership Chair Debbie Helper, tour director Linda Sassano Higgins gave a fascinating presentation last month to the LWVSFC about women’s lives in the Florentine Renaissance. (Spoiler: It was not the birth of a new era for them.)

Using paintings and documents from the period, Linda explained how Renaissance women’s choices were limited and circumscribed by their class. Working class women labored in the textile industry or as prostitutes. Women born to wealthy families served as assets for political and economic unions with other prestigious families. Their main function after marriage was to bear children (preferably male) for continuing a lineage.

To learn more, or perhaps book your own tour when we can again be human (and not virtual), contact Linda at Discover Hidden Florence Tours (Discoverhft.com); Linda@Discoverhft.com

History Right Now: The Georgia Senate Run-off

Stacey Abrams (Fair Fight), LaTosha Brown (Black Votes Matter), and Nse Ufot (The New Georgia Project) are three leaders among hundreds if not thousands of grassroots workers, mainly women, and mostly Black, who produced unprecedented voter turnout among normally marginalized or apathetic voters in Georgia, not once but twice: first in the presidential election in November that drove the victory of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, and second in the January 2021 run-off Senate election that carried the Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff to the Senate.

Reawakening the grassroots movements that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, these women demonstrated that the attacks on that Act are no match for the huge grassroots force mobilized by these fiercely determined and powerfully organized women. We were privileged to witness and be inspired by history as it was made.

Here are statements by Brown and Abrams quoted in *The Guardian* January 6, 2021.

“Across our state, we roared”, Abrams [tweeted](#) as votes were counted, calling on Georgians to

“celebrate the extraordinary organizers, volunteers, canvassers & tireless groups that haven’t stopped going”.

Adopting a strategy that Brown called “meeting voters where they are”, voting rights activists spent the last weeks traveling to typically low-turnout areas to knock on doors, register voters and combat an onslaught of conservative disinformation attempts.

In going back to hands on grassroots methods, Brown and Abrams, and hundreds more organizers, empowered even more voters for the run-off than they had for the presidential election. Turn-out was 88%, and more than 100,00 Georgians of all racial groups who did not vote in the presidential election requested mail-in ballots for the run-off. Women all over Georgia did this. They kept the 100 years of past effort going, and they made history.



Click image above to hear Stacy Abrams talk about the effort to get out the vote in Georgia.

Women and the 2021 Election

On December 14, we witnessed the Electoral College calmly and clearly certify the Biden-Harris win six weeks after one of the most contentious elections and challenging years in the history of our democracy. On January 20, we celebrated our first female vice-president, breaking a major glass ceiling. By electing a woman of color to the second highest position in the country, we have reached a significant milestone. Across America, more women are in elected office than ever before.

Women's issues need to be front and center, and only through focused, collaborative efforts, will we make progress.

Effectively handling the pandemic's disproportionate impact on women and low-income Americans, especially people of color, will only be possible if we stand together and insist that governments commit to doing more than ever before. For even partial economic and societal recovery, we urge the new Congress to come together and support much of the Biden-Harris administration's plan.

“By electing a woman of color to the second highest position in the country, we have reached a significant milestone”.

It builds on the successful precedents that FDR, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Frances Perkins set with the New Deal (social security, work programs fair labor laws and other policies).

Most people recognize the vital need for significantly greater investments if we want improvements in education, healthcare, better working conditions, the environment, and justice. Many of these issues were the primary reasons women organized the suffrage movement 150 years ago. Look, for example, at the striking parallels to a hundred years ago with the pandemic

raging and the devastating effects of the world war. The League opposed the war and supported the League of Nations knowing that precious dollars were far better spent on initiatives that improve living

conditions and promote positive relationships across the globe.

So, too, we must invest more in the United Nations, the Paris Accord, humanitarian efforts and peace initiatives. We have the money if we stop funding the military-industrial complex, which is exacerbating the

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immigration crisis and squandering our tax dollars. We recognize the results of autocracy and oppression in other countries and in our own history.

These lessons confirm the importance of every person's vote and voice in advocating for policies in the public interest. Future generations of Americans will learn valuable lessons from this election just as we have through studying history. The uncivil partisan muck this year confirms the importance of our non-partisan efforts to get out the vote and improve government and society.

What a way to celebrate the suffrage centennial and our 100th anniversary! My respect for the power of boldness, persistence and vision keeps deepening through my ongoing research of women's community service through civic organizations and their unrelenting policy advocacy.

Contact me at projects@lwvnm.org if you want to join the LWVNM History Committee. Best wishes to all!

—*Meredith Machen, LWVNM History Committee Chair/Special Projects Director*



Women on the March—Again!

The Virtual Women's March held January 23 was a rousing success, with appearances by U.S. Representative **Deb Haaland**, State Representative **Linda Serrato**, U.S. Representative **Teresa Leger Fernandez**, and many representatives of organizations by and for women of color. The League of Women Voters was acknowledged and thanked early on by our very own governor and surprise guest, **Michelle Lujan Grisham**. League members and friends from all over New Mexico sent in their march videos so that all could participate.

Samia Assad of the NM Women's March organization and the national Women's March organization took part in a Q&A session with League JEDI organizer **Katie Christianson**. Navajo Nation member **Kansas Begaye** of Santa Fe's Changing Woman Initiative initiated the event with a blessing and performed at intervals throughout. Most importantly, the chat bar provided participants with the opportunity to contact one another and network with activists and community members.

The recording is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKnvwBuDkxA>

—*Rebecca Álvarez, March organizer and JEDI Committee member*

New Mexico Women in the Arts

I have spent most of my columns sharing on the performing arts. For the March issue, in honor of National Women’s Month celebrations, I want to turn your attention to *The New Mexico State Committee National Museum of Women in the Arts*. The *NMCA* supports and promotes women artists from all over the state, through special events, art shows, lectures, education programs as well as scholarships and curated focus events. They are an outreach organization for the *National Museum of Women in the Arts* in Washington, D.C.

The *NMWA* website is dense and rich. Worth an afternoon’s exploration. Four women artists presenting *Paper Routes: New Mexico Women to Watch 2020* are introduced in a digital studio tour (click below to watch).



The *NMWA* blog presents these four finalist’s bios here: <https://newmexicowomeninthearts.org/blog/women-to-watch-2020>



Mira Burack, one of the four, whose photocollage “Sun” is pictured above, was selected to present New Mexico at the *National Museum of Women in the Arts* show from October 2020 through mid-January, 2021.

The *Paper Routes* finalists, featured in the video, work in various paper media ranging from Mexican American mythic cutouts by Catalina Delgado-Trunk (“in my work everything has to be connected”); to personal scrapbook/clothing tag collage by Kate Rivers; breathing through newspapers with Alison Keogh (“I uncover things by asking questions”); bed linen collages transformed through photographic sculpting by Mira Burack; to earth harvesting book-making from the garden of Katya Reka. They invite us to see the world as open, united, paradoxical and engaging; to re-view ordinary materials as transformed expression.

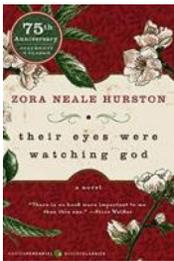
—Kristina Flanagan

Recommended Reading

In honor of Women's History Month, I have selected books by female authors whose stories are about girls and women finding their identity as their values are tested in the context of their unique circumstances.

I hope you find reading these novels as enjoyable as I found writing about them.

—Kelly Davis



Their Eyes Were Watching God by anthropologist and Harlem Renaissance writer **Zora Neale Hurston** was published

over 80 years ago. It is considered a classic. Eve Dunbar, an Associate Professor of English at Vassar College, observes the book “centers a Black heroine’s sensuality in a way that was uncommon in American literature at the time of its publication”. It has been over 80 years since it was published, but its message still resonates today.

The protagonist, Janie Crawford, is a young black woman coming of age in rural Florida. The book explores the

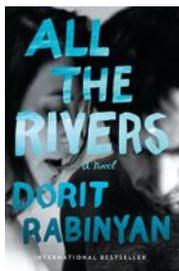
generational shift between Janie, the “New Negro” women, and her grandmother, Nanny, the “Old Negro” woman born into slavery. Janie’s desire to find love on her own terms is unrealistic to Nanny, who tells her to find an older man to take care of her. Janie finds love in her forties in Tea Cake, a man a decade younger. Her love of Tea Cake is built on partnership not ownership, but it comes at a cost.

Zora Neale Hurston wrote, “Love, I find, is like singing. Everybody can do enough to satisfy themselves, though it may not impress the neighbors as doing very much”. In that sense, Hurston offers her readers the chance to consider the difference between romance and reality. The latter has the responsibility of reckoning with life and death.

Their Eyes Were Watching God was not widely recognized until 1975, when Alice Walker published in *Ms Magazine* her article “In Search of Zora Neale Hurston”. That same year, Alice Walker was asked to present the Hurston article to Barnard College. The presentation was videotaped, and you can access portions of it by clicking on the following link: http://sfoonline.barnard.edu/hurston/walker_01.htm

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All the Rivers

by **Dorit Rabinyan**

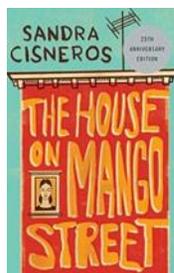
is, according to one reviewer, a “controversial, award-winning story about the passionate but untenable affair between an Israeli women, Liat, and a Palestinian man, Hilmi”. According to another, it is “a love story and a war story, a New York story and a Middle East Story, an unflinching foray into the forces that bind us and divide us”. The Israeli Ministry of Education banned it for “fear that it could encourage inter-marriage between Jews and Arabs therefore threatening their separate identities” censored the book.

The book takes us through Liat’s internal battle between her love for Hilmi and her Israeli roots. Her time with Hilmi is both joyous and agonizing; ultimately, they recognize their relationship is possible in New York but forbidden in their own countries.

In empathizing with Liat and Hilmi one asks what or who is worth sacrificing our values and cultural identity for. The converse is to ask the question: Does one become richer by mixing the values of each person in the

relationship? Or, is the sacrifice too great to survive?

Dorit Rabinyan is an award-winning author from a family that immigrated to Israel from Iran. To learn more about Rabinyan and her thoughts on *All the Rivers*, click on the following link: <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/pb-daily/interview-dorit-rabinyan>



Sandra Cisneros’s

House on Mango

Street is written from the point of view of a young Chicano girl, Esperanza Cordero,

growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago. The book is composed of a series of vignettes, told in 12 year-old Esperanza’s own words and unedited for grammar. It does not follow a story line but conveys Esperanza’s thoughts and experiences in a true-to-life fashion.

Esperanza is pained by her childhood experiences seeing the good, the bad and the evil of life on Mango Street. Dual forces pull her: to stay rooted in her cultural traditions or to pursue a better way of life outside the barrio. In *Mango Street*, Cisneros draws from her experiences as a young Mexican American girl living in the U.S.

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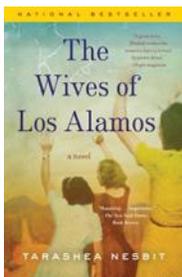
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This is a book aimed at adolescents but has a message for older readers as well.

Even with commercial success the book was originally banned by school systems because of its violence and sexual overtones. Eventually the ban was lifted, and the book now appears regularly on high school and college reading lists. It is not a book for everyone—but I encourage you to give it a try

If you are interested in knowing more about Sandra Cisneros, you can hear her interview by clicking on the following link: [The Adelante Movement](#)

Briefly Mentioned



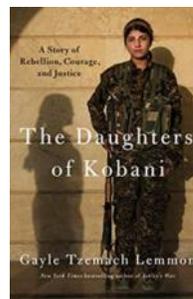
In spite of the title, *The Wives of Los Alamos* by Tara Shea Nesbit is not, as Stephanie Schlanger reports, a “House-wives of Orange County”-type book; instead, it is a research-based, beautifully imagined story of the wives who moved to the desert of New Mexico to be with their

scientist husbands who were hired to work on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos.

They came from all parts of the country to live in an unknown town on an unknown project. It was not the life that they envisioned when they married, their experience in Los Alamos changed their lives profoundly.

Click on the following link to read the book review by The Atomic Heritage Foundation:

<https://www.atomicheritage.org/article/wives-los-alamos-review>



The Daughters of Kobani by Gayle Tzemack Lemmon

is the story of a group of Kurdish women who created a militia to attack

ISIS and fight against the men that raped and enslaved their compatriots. Click on the link to listen to the NPR interview by Mary Louise Kelly with Gayle Tzemack Lemmon:

<https://www.npr.org/2021/02/16/968424630/women-take-the-lead-in-fighting-isis-in-daughters-of-kobani>

Committee and Project Reports February 2021

Action and Advocacy

Midtown Campus Project

Please see article on pages 15-16.

Bond Issues

Continuing our discussions from January A&A and Program Planning meetings, the group gave feedback on ideas presented by Renny Ashleman and Susan Haase concerning how the League can provide education on bond issues to voters. The discussion continued at the February Leadership Team meeting.

Observer Corps

LWVSFC continues to ask for volunteers to monitor City and County meetings. 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?

Please contact Chris Furlanetto at crfrwf@yahoo.com for more information on becoming an observer or if you'd like to join our A&A distribution list. We meet via Zoom on the 1st Thursday of each month at 1pm. —Chris Furlanetto

Voter Services:

Registration and Education

Voter Services nominated two teachers to attend the David Moss Case Study Method Workshop on April 7. The workshop's case method curriculum focuses on civics education. The Moss Curriculum is part of the League's High School Civic Project's effort to encourage the teaching of civics in our high schools.

A Community Discussion Event based on the Case Study Method is planned for June 17. The Equal Rights Amendment will be the case under discussion. —Kelly Davis

Civil Discourse Project (CDP)

CDP had an outstanding listening session with historian, scholar, archivist and strategic planner Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez on February 9. The CDP's open follow-up conversation on "Democracy is a Civil Right" had a small number of participants but engendered a deep and meaningful conversation. CDP will host future conversations. —Irene Epp

CDP Recommends watching *The Reunited States*



“At a time when America is ripping apart at the seams, *The Reunited States* is a powerful and urgent documentary that follows the unsung heroes on the difficult journey of bridging our political and racial divides. Susan Bro, who lost her daughter when a car drove through a group of counter-protestors in Charlottesville, and David and Erin Leaverton, a Republican couple who travel to all fifty states in an RV to find out what divides us, are just a few of the characters profiled in the film. Each of these bridge-builders have realized that while our divides run deeper than they ever could have imagined, so does the love and hope to bring our country back together” (LWV National Institute of Civil Discourse). The film urges us to consider that everyone has a role to play in reuniting the country.

Click link for viewing options: <https://reunitedstates.tv/watch>

LWVSFC and the Midtown Campus Project: A Brief History

The College of Santa Fe, formerly St. Michael's College, occupied the site off St. Michael's Drive for nearly 70 years. In 2009, when the College closed, the City purchased the land and leased it to Laureate Education, Inc., which then opened the Santa Fe University of Art and Design (SFUAD). When that institution closed in 2018, the City purchased the 64+ acre site for which it pays about \$2.2 million annually (through 2036) in interest on the bond debt. The intention is to develop, with community input, a mixed-use site potentially including market rate and affordable housing; higher education; arts and culture; technology start-ups; film and digital entertainment businesses; and programmed open space.

Current Status

The City conducted an extensive search for a master developer through a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) process and entered into an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) with KDC Cienda in May 2020. In early December 2020, halfway through the ENA term, the project team held a 3-day Charrette and predevelopment update with KDC Cienda. After the Charette, the

developer asked for the termination of the ENA. Primary reasons given were the condition of the buildings and infrastructure as well as the impact of the pandemic. The Governing Body voted to approve the mutual termination of the ENA with KDC Cienda at its Jan. 28 regular meeting.

The project team has created seven Strategy Tactics Teams to develop options for going forward after the split with KDC Cienda. At the January 28 meeting the team committed to present the options to the Governing Body on Feb. 24.

The seven teams include:

- Land Use Zoning
- Development Planning
- Infrastructure and Utilities
- Existing Buildings and Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment
- Public Finance
- Procurement & RFEI (Request for Expressions of Interest)
- Public Engagement.

The team will provide regular updates in the interim. The most recent updates and presentation to the Governing Body at its Feb. 10 meeting can be found at <https://midtowndistrictsantafe.com/midtown-update-february-19-2021>.

More information on the history and progress of the project can be found at https://www.santafenm.gov/midtown_site. *(Continued on next page)*

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LWVSFC has expressed its interest since the project's inception in participating in the public engagement process. Action & Advocacy members met via Zoom with Daniel Hernandez, the Midtown Campus Project lead consultant, and Michaele Pride, the public engagement consultant for the project, in December and then completed a survey distributed to local community organizations. We hope to continue to be involved in this vital project.

—Chris Furlanetto

Upcoming Member Event

**Zoom “Lunch with a Leader”
presentation by Daniel Hernandez
March 24 at 11:30.
Registration details to come.**

LWVSFC Proposal to Amend LWVNM’s Election Procedures Position – Spring 2021

Delegates to the 2019 LWVNM Convention considered adopting the following Board-recommended statement in the Election Procedures position: *Ranked-choice voting in all elections*. This was to replace the existing statement: *Amending the State Constitution to allow run-off elections in the case of non-partisan elections*.

Delegates voted to reject the ranked-choice voting statement and to retain the run-off statement. Reasons given centered around lack of understanding of the ranked-choice process among League members and concerns about whether ranked-choice voting (RCV, also called instant-runoffs) has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions. (See <https://www.lwvnm.org/BDocs/Minutes/2019/Convention2019.html>)

At its Program Planning meeting on Jan. 27, LWVSFC members asked that the ranked-choice voting statement be reconsidered at the 2021 Convention. To that end, LWVSFC plans to make a motion at the March 6 LWVNM Board meeting to adopt the ranked-choice statement in place of the current run-off statement and to include it as a recommended item at Convention in April.

To help League members understand RCV, LWVNM can distribute information to local Leagues using materials from Common Cause if requested. In addition, Mario Jimenez at Common Cause has offered to talk to the League(s) on RCV.

To read LWVNM’s current full Election Procedures Provision, go to: <https://www.lwvnm.org/positions.html#election>.

—Chris Furlanetto



Calendar of Events Spring 2021

March

March 4, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
 March 8, 1-2:30, CHART Presentation with Mayor Webber
 March 16, 10-11:30: LWVSFC Board Meeting
 March 17, 11:30-1: General Meeting: Sunshine Week, "Our Common Purpose"
 March 20: Legislative Session Last Day
 March 24, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader: Midtown Campus Project with Daniel Hernandez
 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 22, 5:30-7: League Libations on Zoom
 April 24-25: LWVNM Biennial Convention

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
 Events in blue are unconfirmed; check the website
 calendar at lwvsfc.org.*

Monthly Meetings/Events:

- **Action & Advocacy Committee:** 1st Thursday of each month on Zoom until further notice
- **LWVSFC Board Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, 10-12
- **League Libations:** 4th Thursday; now on Zoom

Next Nonfiction Book Club

March 18 at 10:30 a.m.

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 to join the discussion.**

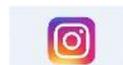
League Libations Social Hour Is Back ! (via Zoom for now)

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

**The 4th Thursday of the month
 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

Click [HERE](#) to join Zoom

Like and follow us! Share with friends!





MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Renew- al

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

Individual membership: \$60

Household membership (*two family members at the same address*): \$100

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 for more info.*)

Member Information:

Name (first and last): _____

Address: (*include zip code*)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please include information about the second household member here, if appropriate:

Name (first and last): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 \$250 \$500 other \$ _____

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

Ada McPherson Morley: New Mexico Suffragist

By Meredith Machen

Ada McPherson was born on August 26, 1852, in Winterset, Iowa. Growing up, she was a voracious reader of the classics and her father's law books. In 1872, she earned a degree in English Literature, one of two women in the inaugural class of the first co-ed land grant college, now called Iowa State University.

She married William Raymond Morley, whom she had met in college, and moved to Cimarron, New Mexico Territory, where he was working as general manager, surveyor, and chief engineer of the Maxwell Land Grant and Railway Company. The Company had claimed 1.7 million acres without regard to Native American and Hispanic land rights.

Thomas B. Catron, who would become Ada's nemesis, the most powerful of the company's owners, was at one time the largest private

landholder in the United States. Catron served as US Attorney for the New Mexico Territory from 1872-78, and his name was associated with many of the land swindles, murders, crimes, and disappearances that led to the bloody Colfax County War (1873-1888).

The Morleys covered some of these stories in the *Cimarron News*, which



Ada McPherson Morley

they co-edited. Ada was arrested at the post office after stealing and attempting to mail to Congress incriminating evidence about Catron. He accused her of mail fraud and filed legal charges that took years to resolve.

The Morleys moved to Las Vegas, NM, out of fear for their

daughter's lives and their own, and then to Datil, 140 miles south of Albuquerque and 80 miles west of Socorro.

**“No more brainy idealist
ever lived than this
Tolstoi of the Datils”.**

Ray Morley died in 1883 under mysterious circumstances while doing engineering work in Mexico. Family members were convinced that he had been murdered at the behest of the Santa Fe Ring, which Catron still controlled. Ada's second husband, Floyd Jarrett, a cattle investor, persuaded her to spend her inheritance on a vast cattle ranch in the remote Datil Mountains. Six years later, after he had squandered most of her money, Jarrett disappeared.

Ada continued her activism while raising her three children and managing the ranch and cattle business. She hosted many visitors working on women's rights and other causes at the "White House of Datil Canyon", her two-story house with many bedrooms. Suffrage leaders came to New Mexico to speak about discriminatory property laws and voting rights for women, with a goal of improving governmental policies and rectifying societal ills.

Ada kept in touch with suffragists in Iowa, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. As a member of the National Woman Suffrage Association, she worked with Carrie Chapman Catt, who also graduated from Iowa Agricultural College, Ada's *alma mater*. By the 1890's, Ada was very active in the Women's Christian

Temperance Union, the largest women's organization in the world, and served as Superintendent of Franchise of the New Mexico chapter. Later as NMWCTU state president, Ada epitomized WCTU leader Frances Willard's "Do Everything" philosophy, developing women's leadership skills through women's clubs, literary societies, and church groups.

Despite the vast distances, she traveled frequently throughout New Mexico advocating for improvements in public health, education, and funding for libraries. She was successful in campaigning for laws to protect children from dangerous working conditions and sexual exploitation. She fought for the vote as the only way to advance women's rights and enlightened policies.

Though blind from 1905 on, Ada organized and led the NMWCTU's debate on women's suffrage at the Chautauqua held in Mountainair, NM, in August 1910. Her efforts, along with those of Nina Otero-Warren, Julia Brown Asplund, and others, were instrumental in getting very limited school suffrage into the New Mexico's 1910 Constitution. After the New Mexico legislators failed to include full suffrage in the constitution, Ada ramped up efforts to get the federal amendment passed. She assisted

suffragists, writers, and leaders around the country in promoting the women's vote as a means of making social and moral reforms.

Ada joined the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage in 1914 and collaborated with national leaders on strategies to get Congress to pass the 19th Amendment. Declaring that "Disenfranchisement is a disgrace," she organized suffragists from around the country to "bombard" Catron (NM's senator 1912-17) who headed the Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage. He sabotaged all efforts to let legislation advance out of his committee the Senate floor. Catron argued that women were too delicate and sensitive to be capable of handling politics and duties outside of the home.

Over thirty-five years, Ada Morley wrote hundreds of letters to Congress advocating for the women's vote. By the 1916 election, both parties in New Mexico were pro-suffrage, so Catron's obstruction of the women's vote lost him the primary. Undaunted, just days before leaving office, Catron railed on the Senate floor about the immense dangers to family life and societal norms if women were granted the vote.

Fortunately, Ada lived long enough to see Senator Andrieus A. Jones of Las Vegas, NM, replace Catron as

Chair of the Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage.

Ada McPherson Morley died on December 9, 1917 and is buried in Datil, Catron County. She would have exulted in Jones's success in getting the 19th Amendment to the Senate floor in 1919, earning him Catt's praise as the most important member in Congress for advancing women's suffrage. August 26, 1920, the official date of the Amendment's ratification, enfranchising 27 million women, would have been Ada's 68th birthday.

The 15 December 1917 *Evening Herald* declared Ada Morley's death a major loss to New Mexico, California, and Colorado. "The blind author, lecturer, philanthropist, suffragist" always used "her trenchant pen...for uplift and reforms". "No more brainy idealist ever lived than this Tolstoi of the Datils". "The emancipation of women by enfranchisement" was her life's work. Even after becoming blind, "she continued writing and distributing crates of literature for the advancement of the equal suffrage cause". Her daughters and granddaughters carried on her legacy and her interests in women's rights, civic participation, history, and literature. Her granddaughter Lorraine Lavender was the first president of the LWVSFC.