

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County



The Voter

P.O. Box 31547, Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547
Phone: 505-982-9766

Vol. 69, No. 2

March 2020

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League Members Are Invited to a presentation of the City's "Good Governance Initiative"

Wednesday, March 4, 2020
11 am to 12:30 pm
Santa Fe New Mexican
Conference Room

Featuring: Mayor Alan Webber, City
Councilor Roman "Tiger" Abeyta and
Jennifer Fabian, Council Liaison

The event will begin with a
presentation on the initiative, followed
by a Q&A session.

Please RSVP if you plan to come so we
will know how many people to expect.

By email: lwvsfc.org (preferred)
By phone message: (505) 982-9766

Note: This is a members-only event

It's Women's History Month,

and we have two
historic milestones
to celebrate: the
100th anniversary
of the passage of
the 19th

Amendment to the Constitution and of the formation of
the League of Women Voters. Both events were
recognized at a jubilant ceremony at the Roundhouse on
February 6, with formal proclamations being read by
Governor Lujan Grisham and Senator Nancy Rodriguez
recognizing that day in perpetuity. Many thanks to
Centennial Committee Chair Meredith Machen for
organizing this day and to all who participated in this
momentous occasion.

The theme of the 2020 Women's History Month is
"Valiant Women of the Vote" and honors "the brave
women who fought to win suffrage rights for women, and
for the women who continue to fight for the voting rights
of others." It's this second group I'd like to shine the
spotlight on for a moment. At the Roundhouse ceremony,
we were awed by the creativity of a 9th grade student
from Santa Fe Prep, Fionnuala Moore, who, along with
several classmates, performed two songs from a musical
she herself had written entitled *The Right to Vote*. This
young woman and many others like her represent the
future of a struggle that must continue—not just for
women's rights but for all human rights.



*Santa Fe Prep 9th
Grader Fionnuala
Moore sings the title
song from her original
musical, The Right to
Vote.*

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This generation of women, most famously represented by the fierce climate activist Greta Thunberg, is on the march. Just Google “young women activists,” and you’ll find stories of dozens of girls as young as Fionnuala dedicated to making the world better.



From l-r) Santa Fe Prep students Parker Hailey and Campbell Leonard and TMP student Delia Moon at League Day.

Think of activist Malala Yousafzai, who at age 15 was shot in the head for insisting on girls’ right to an education in Pakistan. Or Emma Gonzales, survivor of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, who at age 18 became a national voice for gun control. Or Iris Gillingham, a teen climate activist from New York whose family farm was destroyed in three successive “500 year” floods. Right here at home, Malina Brannen, a recent high school graduate and the first LWVSCF student member, is at American University in DC, preparing for a career as an advocate for social justice. A dozen more Santa Fe high school students, women and men, have joined the League of Women Voters this year and are registering voters for the upcoming elections.

It’s both humbling and heartening to see these young citizens commit themselves to the future with such passionate energy. So here’s to Fionnuala Moore and all those marching with her for their message of hope and progress on this the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. —Stephanie Schlanger



March 2020 General Meeting with Guest NM Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
11:30 am—1 pm
Santa Fe New Mexican
202 East Marcy Street

In honor of Women's History Month, New Mexico Secretary of State, Maggie Toulouse Oliver, will speak about her experience running and serving as a woman for elected office.

Please register online by March 9 at <https://www.lwvsfc.org/events.html>

Or mail a check to the LWVSFC Office, P.O. Box 31547, SF, NM 87594-1547 before March 9 and note your lunch option.*

*The cost of lunch is \$10.00, with lunch provided by Firehouse Subs. If you do not want lunch, register online so we know you plan to attend and choose “no lunch” in the lunch options.

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Centennial Celebration
and League Day
at the
Roundhouse
February 6, 2020



An Unconventional Life: Neva Van Peski

Neva Van Peski didn't set out to be unconventional. In her recollection of events she just "went with the flow, you know, went to college, got a job, had a career—what you do." But that's not what most woman sixty years ago were doing.

Born during the depression, Neva grew up in a working-class family with leftist political views. Her parents supported the Progressive Party candidate Henry Wallace in the 1948 presidential campaign, and Neva came of age in a culture of political engagement.

Neva's father had only completed the 8th grade in Europe before emigrating to America, but her mother was a college graduate, and both parents expected Neva and her brother to go to college. The bad news was there wasn't much money in the family; the good news was there were scholarships available, and Neva was an excellent student. She applied to her local college, Reed, and to the University of Chicago. She followed the money to Chicago, where she graduated in an astoundingly short time.

"At that time," Neva explained, "you took a battery of tests when you got there, and that determined which courses you had to take and which you could pass out of. I passed out of almost everything, so I got through college in one year."

So it was on to graduate school in the economics department, which was then under the leadership of Milton Friedman (but that's another story...). After getting her master's degree, she went to work as an analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago and then transferred to the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C.



Neva Van Peski

While living as a single working woman in D.C., Neva met her life's companion, Norman Mauskopf. Norman was then a researcher at the Federal Reserve, but he eventually left economics for a career as a photographer. Neva laughs at the memory: "Norman always said economics was a *career* for me; for him, it was a *mistake*." Norman went off to California and became a photographer; Neva stayed with the Reserve Board. They never married, but when Neva was ready to retire, they decided to settle together in Santa Fe.

Pondering where to direct her energies during retirement, Neva one day saw an ad in the paper about a League of Women Voters unit meeting studying natural resources. She decided to attend: "It was like coming home. I thought, 'This is my group.'"

"They were interested in water, and I became interested in water," she continued. "We did a number of studies, and I

served on the Metropolitan Water Board before it became defunct."

One of the most significant studies Neva was involved in concerned water use at Las Campanas. Las Campanas was served by water from the Buckman pipeline; they offset the effect of their water use on the Rio Grande by leasing part of Albuquerque's share of San Juan-Chama water. Every year, Las Campanas sent a letter to Albuquerque asking them to release not just the water required to offset the effects on the Rio Grande of water delivered to Las Campanas, but all the water Las Campanas had used that year. Neva's group discovered that Albuquerque had never released any water—it was all coming out of reserves of Santa Fe's share of San Juan-Chama water.

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“We got that fixed by taking this information to the Santa Fe city manager—and I thought that was one of the most amazing things the League did,” she acknowledged, remembering her first big success.

The study that made headlines was the League’s study of the Community College budget. “We found that the Commission on Higher Education, which calculates the property tax mil rates that form a large part of the college’s budget, had made two mistakes in the most recent 5 years, so the college wasn’t getting the revenue they were due,” Neva explained. “The League got that fixed by contacting the Community College and the Commission on Higher Education.”

“Citizenship is about paying attention to what our government is doing.”

Though not actively involved in a League study at this time, Neva continues to closely follow issues involving city finances and resource management. At several League meetings this year, she could be observed gently but determinedly quizzing guest city officials and experts about how they derived their numbers and arrived at their conclusions. (Take note: Your numbers had better add up when Neva is listening!)

Reflecting on her work with the League, Neva observed, “I like digging into things and dealing with figures, so it’s an interest and not a hardship to do these studies.” She added, “Citizenship is about paying attention to what our government is doing. New Mexico is a poor state, and we don’t have the personnel to monitor everything our government is doing. A lot of the League’s

studies have turned up things that need to be fixed.”

While not herself particularly interested in the issue of women’s rights as such, Neva acknowledges that she was able to live independently and pursue a career of her choice at a time when many women didn’t have that option. She also remembers that while the research department at the Federal Reserve Bank did employ women like herself, women did not enjoy all the privileges of their male colleagues.

“When I went to work for the Bank, there was a really high-class dining room for the executives. Some women in the research department had men reporting to them, so the head of the research department called them in one day and told them that if they had male guests, they could use the executive dining room—but it was hoped they would not abuse the privilege.”

—Stephanie Schlanger



**Volunteers
are needed to
help with the
2020 census!**

This is a national, state and local priority. An accurate count has an enormous financial impact on New Mexico. The county of Santa Fe has asked the LWVSFC to:

- Assist with getting the word out on the census (late March).
- Help at senior centers with information and filling out census forms. Seniors are an undercounted population. (April)
- Assist with phone banks (May)

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Hannah Burling hannahburling@gmail.com

“Stand Up and Stay Strong”: Introducing Irene Epp

One of the Santa Fe League’s newest members is Irene Epp. Irene has followed a love of life learning, international travel and adventure throughout her life.

Starting college in a small university in upstate New York in the 1960s, she was told that young ladies only become teachers, but Irene charted her own course, majoring in English and continuing to graduate school at the University of Colorado. Again she was told her options were limited. And again she proved them wrong, graduating with a Masters in Medieval Literature with a focus on Chaucer and a PhD in English focusing on an American poet, Wallace Stevens. She moved to Silverton, Colorado to write her dissertation and worked at the Pickle Barrel as a waitress (“a girl has to eat!”). After completing her doctorate she took the job of town librarian, and with the support of an all-female working crew, they restored the town’s original Carnegie Public Library.

In 1976, Irene moved to New Mexico to take a job at Santa Fe Prep. During her time at Prep, Irene transitioned from librarian to English instructor and then to Deputy Head of School responsible for the high school 9-12 program and TAP, Prep’s community outreach. About her 17 years at Prep, Irene says she “loved the time at Santa Fe Prep—especially the students”. Students were so uniquely themselves in the early ’80s. “There was a lot of independence for teachers to be creative.”

In the mid 1990s Irene felt she needed a change. Taking a year sabbatical, she traveled to Asia and knew she wanted to return there. A friend told her about the global system of international schools, serving both expatriate and host country students. Just before departing for her first international post in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Irene adopted an African American infant through Rainbow House International, an



(From r-l): Irene Epp with former Santa Fe Prep Head Steve Machen and NOW President Janet Williams serving “birthday” cake at the Suffrage Centennial at the Roundhouse on February 6, 2020.

adoption agency in Albuquerque. Daughter Shanti, aged 10 weeks, and mom Irene were off on an international adventure that lasted more than two decades.

Irene taught in Bangladesh, and served as a high school administrator in Malaysia and Egypt. But the little family was still seeking “their place.” They found it in Africa. After Egypt Irene accepted a post as Head of School in Bamako, Mali. It was a perfect introduction to the best of Africa, a proud, traditional culture where life was so welcoming and safe that you never locked your door and Shanti could ride her bike around Badalabougou every day, knowing the neighborhood folks were watching out for her. Mali will always hold a special place in their hearts.

Irene continued her nomadic life as a head of school, from Mali to Lusaka, Zambia, Kinshasa in Democratic Republic of the Congo and finally to Freetown, Sierra Leone. All four schools were members of AISA (the Association of International Schools in Africa). The school in Mali was small (barely 100 students) and floundering. A PhD in poetry and past work at a fine prep school were not quite a match for facility building, curriculum design, faculty hiring and training and managing the local Malian staff, but Irene discovered her passion: creating an integrated, inclusive learning environment

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for students, staff and families. In Africa, Irene became a member of the governing board of AISA and went on to head three more schools, equipped with the education she'd acquired in Mali, learning more at every post. Irene discovered her strengths, skills and a determination she hadn't known before. Each school had its unique, seemingly insurmountable challenges, but all four are now strong, resilient and still improving. Shanti had an unforgettable African childhood. She and mom climbed Kilimanjaro. Shanti graduated from the American School of Kinshasa and did volunteer work in Congo in villages.



Irene Epp (second from right) receives an award for her work for AISA (the Association of International Schools in Africa).

In her last years on the AISA Board, Irene was appointed as the head of the small schools initiative and formed a working group of school heads in Africa to develop guidelines and resources for strengthening smaller schools' educational programs in a comprehensive way that included every aspect of the schools from curriculum to pedagogy, finance to facilities. The group and the initiative continue.

At the AISA 50th Gala Dinner in November 2019, in Cape Town, South Africa, Irene was given the Outstanding Contributor Award for her years of work with the AISA schools in Africa. To her great pleasure, her successor as the head in Kinshasa, Simon Gillespie, introduced her. "Irene it is an honor to have learned from and

together with you. AISA and our schools are stronger because of you, and we appreciate the outstanding contributions you have made. AISA is 50 years strong because of your support and commitment."

Irene responded in her acceptance speech: "The AISA Board is now highly technical and innovative, willing to take risks and unafraid of change. Most importantly, AISA has turned its attention to the special issues facing small schools, now getting them the attention they deserve and giving them a voice in AISA." She closed by saying, "Through many challenges, AISA has maintained its human connection, its innovative spirit and its strong sense of identity. The challenge going forward will be to stride boldly into the future with its great heart."

As Irene reflects on her time on a continent that she loves, she is reminded of Chinua Achebe's words: "Africa goads us to remember who we are."

Irene returned to the US in July 2019 after 26 years abroad. She "didn't know the home to which I was coming." The Santa Fe she'd first met in the '70s was full of young people. It was fashionable to be a "hippy." The Santa Fe of today is segmented. Many Anglo residents are wealthy, conservative and aging. The other Santa Fe is a more multi-cultural community, with many young Hispanic residents. Young residents are dynamic and concerned with cultural and race diversity.

Irene says she joined the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County hoping to make a difference in creating a strong and more involved community. The League's nonpartisan position provides a potential platform to bring together diverse groups. Diversity inevitably brings strength. Irene counsels that we need to "stand up for what is right and stay strong."

The League is fortunate to have someone like Irene as a member. What next from this remarkable and dynamic woman? Anything is possible. As Irene says, "Its all a work in progress. What we do matters."

—Kelly Davis



League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County Voter Services Report

February 2020

HARVARD CASE STUDY PROJECT

Harvard Case Method Workshop-Grant Opportunity

The Harvard Case Study Workshop will be offered again in 2020. Leagues, including those currently participating, are invited to nominate teachers. All expenses are paid by the Workshop. Applications are due April 15. Contact Kelly at kdavis466@gmail.com by April 1 if you have a nominee in mind.

HIGH SCHOOL CIVIC PROJECT

Voter Services High School Registration Chairs met with Santa Fe Prep, Capital and Monte del Sol lead teachers on January 30 to discuss strategies for student VRAs to promote the importance of voting.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

100th Anniversary Celebration at the Capitol
Voter Services had a table at the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, highlighting the High School Civic Project (HSCP).

Site Development

Some voter registration sites will open in mid-March with the remaining opening the first part of April. Some League members are developing their own sites, but the bulk of the sites will be developed by and overseen by Voter Services. If you are interested in providing voter registration services, please contact Kelly Davis at kdavis466@gmail.com.

Voter Guide To Go Online— Volunteers Needed!

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County publishes non-partisan voter guides before primary and general elections. In the past, we have relied on League volunteers to compile the guide, and *The Santa Fe New Mexican* to print and distribute it. This year, we will use the National League's VOTE 411 to do the guide online. The guide will be posted on the LWVSFC website, be available for downloading and be made available to public media.

All four local leagues in New Mexico will use VOTE411 this year. The state league will cover the state-wide races, and the local leagues will collaborate to cover races specific to their areas, i.e., Santa Fe will cooperate with Central New Mexico and Los Alamos to cover all races that touch on these areas. In the primary election in June, Santa Fe voters will have 27 races to decide. Luckily, many of these races will be covered in collaboration, but specific to Santa Fe will be County Clerk, County Treasurer and three County Commission seats.

I am assembling a team to help me with the voter guides. Up-front efforts entail a certain amount of information gathering (candidate addresses and contact info, who is running for what, etc.) and data entry in VOTE 411. If you are interested in being part of this critical effort, please contact me, Pat Hawkins, at pathawkins@aol.com or 505-428-0560.

The lead member at LWVUS, Megan Brown, is holding a webinar on VOTE411 on March 3 at 9 am. If you are interested in helping, or if you would like to know more, please let me know and contact Diane Goldfarb, State Voter Information Chair, at dgoldfarb1@comcast.net to be included in the webinar.

—Pat Hawkins, Chair,
Voter Information



**League of Women
Voters of Santa Fe
County
Action and
Advocacy Report
February 2020**

The NW Quadrant transaction was approved a month ago. Jody Larson will investigate and find out more. Rich Brown of Economic Development was suggested as a possible speaker at a “Lunch with a Leader” event.

Santa Fe Clay Building: The city council followed the procedures in the contract with Santa Fe Railyard Corporation for disposition of the building and lease of the land. The city will no longer have to pay for demolition.

Census: We will need volunteers to be at the county and city senior centers to help people fill out census forms, both paper and online, and to hand out the county census brochures. Some senior centers will need five volunteers per event and some only two or three. We will also need op-eds and letters to the editor for the three newspapers in Santa Fe County. The effort will begin at the end of March. In May we will need volunteers to phone bank with Somos un Pueblo Unidos.

SFPS: The school board is beginning to look at upcoming GO bond elections. There will be a committee with a hired architect to look at every single facility and make a list of what needs to be done. Then the list will be thinned.

SFCC: The community college continues to have funding and enrollment issues. The college has not reckoned with being a Hispanic serving institution. There is a new marketing approach: they now have meta-majors in the medical and trades areas.



Greetings Members!

Our membership is now 133 strong. So far 70% of our membership from last year have renewed and we have 11 new members since the first of the year. In January and February we welcomed new members **Brad Holman, Letitia Montoya, Patricia Lenihan, Shelly Felt, Lauren Colvin, Rikki Westerschulte, Nancy Avedisian, Carol Ashcraft, Aimee Gwynn Franklyn, Jane Brennan and Claudia Velasquez.**

The Diversity Fund continues to sponsor and support those who are active in the League, offering useful skill-sets and/or a unique perspective due to background, orientation, culture or age. Right now we have 17 members sponsored by the Diversity Fund of whom 13 are high school students, one is a college student, and two are educators. They are involved in Voter registration, the Civics Project and establishing a program to expand diversity within the League state-wide. If you know someone who wishes to be active in the League and who you think might qualify for sponsorship through the Diversity Fund, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Leadership Team.

Locally, we'd like to get to know all of our members better. If you would like to be featured with a short bio and picture on the website and/or in a future issue of *The Voter*, please contact me or a member of the Leadership Team.

Finally, we are planning a New Member Event for early summer. Anyone who has joined since summer of last year will be invited. Other members certainly will be welcome to attend as well. The date will be posted on the calendar on our website www.lwvsfc.org

Thank you for your membership and activity in the League!

—Debbie Helper, VP Membership
lwvsfc@gmail.com
(317) 432-1101



MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Renewal

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](#)**



2020 Calendar

March

March 4, Good Governance Meeting with Mayor Webber, 11 am-12:30 pm, Santa Fe New Mexican Conference Room (members only)
 March 5, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
March 7, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
 March 11, 11:30-1: General Meeting: NM Sec'y of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver on "Women in Politics," Santa Fe New Mexican Conference Room
 March 17, 10-11:30: LWVSFC Board Meeting
 March 19, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club
 March 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

April

April 2, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
 April 21, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
April 25: LWVNM Council, Santa Fe
 April 30, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

May

May 7, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
 May 13, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting; TBA
 May 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
 May 28, 5-30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

Please note: Events in blue are only tentatively scheduled at this time. Check later for the final dates, times and locations of those events. LWVNM and other organization functions in italics

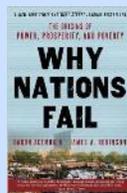
Monthly Meetings/Events

Action & Advocacy Committee:

1st Thursday of each month, 12-2,
 Rio Chama, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail

LWVSFC Board Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10-12, at NM Bank & Trust, 1592 St. Michael's Dr.

League Libations: Last Thursday of each month unless it's a holiday, 5:30-7, Ortiz Café & Bar, Hilton Hotel



Nonfiction Book Club

Why Nations Fail by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson

The League will hold its Nonfiction Book Club meeting on **March 19, 2020 at DeVargas Mall (meet near Starbucks) beginning at 10:30 am.** A *Washington Post* review shared, *Why Nations Fail* is a sweeping attempt to explain the gut-wrenching poverty that leaves 1.29 billion people in the developing world struggling to live on less than \$1.25 a day. You might expect it to be a bleak, numbing read. It's not. It's bracing, garrulous, wildly ambitious and ultimately hopeful. It may, in fact, be a bit of a masterpiece." **Even if you haven't read the whole book, or have read only one chapter, or even just the blurbs on the back—please join us!**

Want to Keep Receiving The Voter? Renew now!

Memberships renewals are past due for 2019-2020, so if you haven't renewed your membership, this will be your LAST issue of *The Voter* newsletter. Your membership, involvement and ongoing support of the League's work will help increase voter registration, fight voter suppression and help address issues like climate change, reproductive health, and environmental protection—just to name a few benefits. Please renew your membership today! Go to

www.lwvsfc.org/membership

Follow us!





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