When Seeds Become Flowers
by Suzanne Schmidt, President

By the time this issue of the Voter reaches your inbox, the election will be over. The League will have registered voters, I will have talked publicly and repeatedly to community groups about the research into why voters do not go to the polls. The office staff and Voter Services volunteers will have answered numerous questions via email, provided assistance to confused voters, and answered multiple phone calls. The Voter Guide will have informed hundreds if not thousands of Santa Fe voters. And many LWVSFC volunteers will have served as poll watchers for our frequent ally Common Cause.

Bottom line…the core mission of the League will have been addressed with flying colors and volunteers will be breathing a sigh of relief that the work has been accomplished.

And such is the story of the League in Santa Fe. Ongoing work to address ongoing goals and priorities. None of which could be accomplished if the League were not a financially viable organization.

When I first joined the LWVSFC Board, I heard a common refrain: “The League needs to do fundraising.” Not much was said about why or how, just that it needed to be done. Such was the tiny seed of an idea. An idea that would require great effort to bring to fruition.

Several members stepped up to form the LWVSFC Development Committee, which was charged with the responsibility of constructing a plan to “do fundraising.” Ably led by Janet Lincoln, the Development Committee took the seed of an idea and worked tirelessly to see that it did not get lost in the mass of other League operations and priorities. The ultimate outcome was the September fundraiser, “Wine, Women, and the Vote.” You are being treated to pictures of the event immediately following this column.

Hundreds of hours of volunteer time went into the planning and execution of this event. Ideas were considered, discarded, and...
amplified before the final version was accomplished. It was the best of all possible volunteer worlds. Collegiality, congeniality, brainstorming, and solution-finding. It was an undertaking that showcased the talents of many and a profound commitment to follow-through by all involved.

As you enjoy the pictures of the event, whether you attended or not, please thank the members of the committee for nurturing the seed of an idea until the flower blossomed beautifully under the Santa Fe sky at the National Park Service Old Santa Fe Trail building.

-Suzanne Schmidt

Photos by Nancy Baker
April Nonfiction Book Club Selection

*Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at Collected Works Bookstore, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The book selected to read and discuss is *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. A review from *Bookmarks Magazine* shares, “Although Ayaan Hirsi Ali remains Public Enemy #1 for radical Muslims, she refuses to be silenced. In this captivating memoir—an act of courage itself—she shares the evolution of her values, beliefs, and identity, all propelled by an urgent mission to educate Western countries about the bigotries of other nations. Set against a terrifying geopolitical landscape of African wars and Muslim fundamentalism, Hirsi Ali addresses timely topics: the plight of refugees and women; the Muslim clan system; forced marriage; political asylum; and, perhaps most significantly, her own personal religious crisis. Written in descriptive, clear prose, *Infidel*, with its radical feminist criticism of Islam, offers a disturbing view of the modern world—and inspired every critic who read it.” Get reading!

-Donna Reynolds

New Members

Dona Hoilman
Elisabeth Schneiders
Jane Tanner
LWVSFC Annual Holiday Luncheon
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
11:30 – 1:30

We will gather at 11:30 and have an opportunity to view Silent Auction items and visit with friends. A buffet lunch will begin “noonish,” followed by our guest speaker Lois Rudnick. The title of Lois’ presentation will be:

**City of Ladies:**
**Why Santa Fe Has Attracted More Than Its Fair Share of Amazing Women!**

Lois Rudnick, retired professor of American Studies, University of Massachusetts-Boston, makes her home in Santa Fe with her husband, Steven. She has devoted her scholarly work to the study of Mable Dodge Luhan, her life and work in the Taos area. This summer Lois co-curated an exhibit and lecture series at the Harwood Museum in Taos entitled “Mabel Dodge Luhan and Company: American Moderns and the West.” This exhibit moved to the Albuquerque Museum, where it can be viewed now through January 22, 2017.

Among Lois’ many publications are Mabel Dodge Luhan: New Woman, New Worlds; Utopian Vistas; and The Suppressed Memoirs of Mabel Dodge Luhan: Sex, Syphilis, and Psychoanalysis in the Making of Modern American Culture.

Hope to see you at the Holiday Luncheon and do bring a friend to share in the festivities. Go online to [lvwsfc.org](http://lvwsfc.org) to purchase lunch tickets for $25.00 or mail a check to the office at 1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, December 7th.

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**Action and Advocacy Committee, LWVSFC**
**November 3, 2016, Meeting Minutes**


Previous minutes were approved.

**County:** Chris Furlanetto reported she has filed the 2016 actions under “Speeches & Testimony” in “Advocacy” on the League website. Upcoming events will be listed under “Events.” Any further commentary will be heard at the BCC meeting Nov. 29th and a final vote is planned for Dec. 13th.

**Education:** Mary Ellen Gonzales passed print copies from the Board of Education regarding bond funds and Board expenditures. This will be sent to the Citizens Review Committee. The next election is February 7 and will not combine with any other election. Suzanne Ronneau will create a Voters Guide for this election. Linda Trujillo plans to stay on
the Board of Education. New Superintendent Garcia is “taking hold” and involved in active planning and restructuring. High schools will be redistricted. Mary Ellen will discontinue attending the Citizens Review Committee and will continue going to SFCC Board meetings. She will write a letter to the School Board regarding transparency and the need for the availability of the Board’s packets before their meetings.

**Legislature:** Judy Williams mentioned League Day on Feb. 9th, with the reception on the evening of Feb. 8th.

**City Council:** Jody Larson reported a complaint was put forward by a citizens group about the city website and how difficult it is to find essential information needed. Discussion evolved a suggested plan to put forth the League's experiences with the website.

Motion: John moved and Jody seconded that the League send a group of members to meet with Renee Martinez, city CIO, on website navigation.

The motion passed and will go to the Board meeting next week. Three members were suggested (John Hufnagle, Jody Larson and Karen Heldmeyer) to offer their critique of the city website on specific problems and solutions.

No further information has appeared about the St Michaels Boulevard. No public hearings. Jody advises follow up.

**Finance:** John Hufnagle announced he will reduce the material he has been sending and discontinue the drop box. Rather he will send out the meeting agenda and the summary he prepares. For those wanting more details, he will send the packet of information. Briefly the city’s GRT is good, higher than anticipated, government grants are not good. There will be job cuts to preserve the savings.

**A&A Matrix 2016-17:** Ann Coulston solicited changes for a revision of the matrix to be done by Susan Mertes. Various changes were made. Susan requested that the Matrix be finished at the December meeting.

**Sunshine Week:** Suzanne Schmidt has secured Mayor Gonzalez and former Lt. Gov. Diane Denish to speak at Sunshine Week activity on March 16th. There is the possibility of Thornburg Foundation support. Suzanne requested a leader for this activity. No one stepped forward at this meeting.

**State League Conference:** Pat Hawkins is still seeking speakers for the LWVNM Convention to be held in Santa Fe. She has some suggestions and would like more. League does not reimburse speakers for travel expenses nor does it provide honorarium. Suggestions included the newly elected Secretary of State and an officer of the LWVUS, such as Henrietta Saunders (Illinois), Treasurer, LWVUS.

**Next meeting:** December 1, 2016, at Rio Chama.

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*Ann Coulston*
President Suzanne Schmidt reported that she recently spoke on behalf of the League at Transitions Network and Journey Santa Fe on the topic, “Why People Don’t Vote;” and Civitan, “The Gift That is the Right to Vote.”

Board actions:

1. To provide liability insurance for Board members.
2. To establish a separate position for Voter Registration. A committee will discuss and make recommendations regarding this change. Members of this committee are Donna Reynolds, chair; Suzanne Ronneau, Marcy Litzenberg, Ann Coulston, and Sharon Starkey.
3. To approve the appointment of two Board members, Marcy Litzenberg and Janet Lincoln to the Nominating Committee.
4. To decline a seat on the City of Santa Fe Independent Salary Commission on the grounds that our positions do not address the mayor’s salary.

Suzanne Schmidt announced a website update team and the possibility for organizing a Facebook Workshop.

Patricia Hawkins discussed the upcoming State League convention to be held in Santa Fe, May 15-16, 2017. Board members considered topics and speakers for the convention.

Janet Lincoln, Membership, noted that the new League website is now being used for new League applications as well as for renewing League memberships.

Susan Mertes summarized a discussion at the Action & Advocacy Committee regarding poor attendance at candidate forums.

Ann Coulston, Arrangements, discussed plans for the October 18th buffet luncheon.

Laurie Glaze described the LWVSFC conversion to 501(c)(3) status, a recommendation of the Budget Committee. She proposed a future workshop to educate League members about how this change will affect donations and other business matters.

The League held a number of voter registration events. Ann Coulston arranged for six League volunteer voter registrars to provide voter registration opportunities at senior facilities, hospitals, schools, and public libraries in Santa Fe County, as well as at a Women’s Health Fair.

League Office Liaison, Barbara Conroy described how the number of telephone inquiries at the League office has increased in complexity and volume. President Suzanne Schmidt commended Barbara Conroy and Patricia Victour for their invaluable service at the League office. She called them, “The Face of the League.” The League is recruiting and training members for support in the League office.

-Rosemary Greenlee
Santa Fe League President Suzanne Schmidt has described Barbara and Patricia as “The Face of the League.”

**Immigrants, Refugees, Strangers Among Us**

*By Maj-Britt Eagle*

A lovely moment from the Morgan Neville documentary *The Music of Strangers*, which features Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble, happens when a Syrian clarinet player visits Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan, and he gives reed instruments to the children to play in their tent school. The aerial photograph shows us 200,000 refugees crunched into two square miles: this is the same camp Amnesty International photojournalist, Tony O’Brien, described to us at a screening of the film this past February. The time is ripe—thirty-five families are to come to Santa Fe—to share some of what I learned with you.

Camps turn into cities with enclaves, (shops, school, gangs, etc.), a breeding ground for terrorists. Youth have “nothing to do,” and when short-term becomes long-term, forever, the despair leads to criminality.

At first they live in tents 10’ x 12’, and water is always an issue. Trucks fill the water tanks all day long. Time drags, and after eight months, the “go home” is “never” — although, once inside the camp the refugees cannot leave without forfeiting medical care and rationed food allowance.

Education for the kids, every parent’s worry, at first means the child is a year behind; soon, he is too far behind to catch up; finally, he can’t “regroup.” On his face, read despair. Inside the tent-school, Relief International provides chairs, tables, paper/crayons for children’s education. (Recall in the film, the Syrian clarinetist? “They’re stopping aid, for ‘it costs too much’.”) Yet to see the face of the child who gets a notebook or a pencil!

And, families may not send their kids to the school within the camp, for they are mistrustful. Nobody knows anyone else in the camp—fear, on a scale which made many flee.

That fear is heightened by instances of abduction/kidnapping. Kids are stolen within the camp, but it is most difficult for women. This war in Syria for O’Brien had been going on for five years; now, in 2016, it will have been eight years many are in camps. Visualize, if you will, some of what I saw:
An image of water running in gutters alongside the tents, for both waste and cooking.

There’s no shade within the camp, for there are no trees, and it is too hot.

Sand flies bite and scar the faces of the kids. There are no showers, but there are sewers.

Fear prevails: Women are trafficked, children are kidnapped, and there is no “911” to call. A person in the camp becomes dependent on the militia that arises within the camp, the “bullies.”

And the effect of attention in the press? Consider who is the “most” vulnerable. A political refugee’s photographic image must be protected; it is not a fault to have been born with an identity that now puts your life at risk.

When media descend upon the persons in the camp, it is poignant, but then the media “abandon” the refugees. ANGER.

For us, in Santa Fe, soon to receive Syrian refugees, this may be a lesson. As Germany accepts and resettles Syrian refugees, Chancellor Angela Merkel noted, “This will change us,” she said. “So let us do it in such a way that it changes us for the better.”

If we can do this, if we are kind in our welcome, can there be any better vaccination against terrorism than a refugee whom we have made to feel at home?

-Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan

- Maj-Brit Eagle

Editor’s Note: Special thanks to Maj-Brit for answering my appeal for member’s articles. The invitation is still open and will continue to be open. -MAR
Calendar 2016-2017

December
December 10, Time TBD: LWVNM Citizen Advocate Workshop, Santa Fe, NM Roundhouse
December 14, 11:30-1:30: Holiday Luncheon – Author Lois Rudnick, Hilton

January
January 11, 11:30-1:30: General Meeting Legislative Preview, Hilton
January 17, noon: New Mexico Legislature convenes
January 21, 11-2:30: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
January XX or XX, SFPS School Board and SFCC Board Candidate Forum(s)
January 31, 10-12: Unit Meeting-Program Planning

February
February 7, SFPS School & SFCC Boards Election Day
February 8, 5:30-7:30: Legislative Reception, Garrett’s Desert Inn
February 8, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
February 9, League Day at the Legislature

March – Women’s History Month
March 8, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
March 11, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
March 16: Sunshine Week Event
March 18, noon: New Mexico Legislature ends
TBD: Women’s History Month Event
March 29, 10-12 PM: New Mexico History Museum Tour

April
April 4 or 5, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVSFC Economic Development Study Consensus meeting (Jody Larson)
April 12, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
April 20, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works, 202 Galisteo

May
May 5, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting, Hilton
May 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 20-21, LWVNM Convention – Santa Fe, Hilton

Regular meetings:
Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month, Rio Chama (Susan Mertes)
LWVSFC Board meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, NM Bank & Trust, St. Michael’s Drive
Unit Meetings are only for League members

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

*LWVNM and other organization functions in italics*
NEW MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM
(Please complete fully even if renewing.)

Date: _______________   Name: (please print) ________________________________

Address: (please include zip) ________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________  Email: __________________________________

____ DO NOT include my contact information in the annual Membership Handbook Directory listing.

Membership checks made payable to LWVSFC: (Please mail form with check to Attn: Membership Chair at address at bottom.)

____ Individual and Associate membership: $54 (Voting members are citizens at least 18 years of age; Associate members - all others.)

____ Family membership: $80 (Individual plus one family member) Family member name: ____________________________________________

• For separate listing of Family member in Handbook directory, please list phone and email: Family member phone: _____________________ Family member email: ______________________

____ Student membership: $30 (For students 18-25 years and currently enrolled in accredited institution.)

(Membership is paid annually) for the term September 1 through the following August 31. It includes state (LWVNM) and national (LWVUS) dues. If you are joining between April and August of any year, your membership will extend through the following year to September 1.)

• Donation check payable to LWVSFC - (Please note “General Fund” on your check.)

  ____ Unrestricted general fund contribution (not tax deductible): $ _________ Check # __________

• Donation check payable to LWVSFC - (Please note “Education Fund” on your check.)

  ____ Education Fund (tax deductible): $ _________ Check # __________

• Can you attend mid-day meetings, luncheons and other activities during the week? Yes ___ No ___

Volunteer Interests - LWVSFC success is based on the assistance of member volunteers. We welcome and encourage your help! (Circle all that apply):

Voter Services:

• Voter registration  • H.S. voter registration  • Info tables

  (Are you a trained Voter Registrar? Yes ___ No ___) (If No, walk-in training is available at County Clerk office downtown.)

• Monitor public meetings  • Candidate forums/meetings  • Lobby government officials (w/LWVNM)

Organizational Support:

Help at events  • Development/fundraising  • Membership  • VOTER content  • Website  • Staff League office  • Board member

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE LWVSFC, 1472 ST. FRANCIS DR., SANTA FE NM 87505
505-982-9766 ● www.lwvsfc.org 18-April-2016
America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.

*Abraham Lincoln*