



www.lwvjvl.org

March/April 2024

President's Information and Up-dates



Happy Easter & Passover League Members!

This is a belated Early Spring 2024 Edition of **The Voter!**

As many of you may know, I have been "under the weather" ---way ill for part of February and a good amount of time in March. I was a victim of the

dreaded influenza and happy to report, I am healed--or nearly healed and getting back to "my normal" ---finally! I don't know when I have been that sick in years!

But please allow me to get back to LWV business!

"In a nutshell" here is a summary of items events, thank you etc. from the last **Voter** edition! I am sorry this is late! I hate being late for anything. That is not my normal style as I work hard to meet deadlines in my business **and in LWV**---Often times, I may cut it close but getting to my notes for this edition had to wait just a little while longer than planned. Not that the newsletter is not important, but I have had to be careful on how I have been "unpacking" things that needed my attention from being ill and had to use careful prioritization.

Let me share a brief recap of our league's work since the last newsletter:

February 2024! Wow! What a Crazy busy month for our league! The **2024 Forward Together Event** on February 17 – joint event with the LWV Beloit was a great success. The program was recorded (Speaker Sara Finger's message was totally "on point" and the planning committee's work was "spot on". Thank you to Maryam Enterline, Heide Keith, Brad Munger, Linda Reinhardt and Beloit-Susan Adams & Bette Carr. Our planning meetings certainly paid off! The venue, food, decorations, publicity, and selection of the speaker were what we needed. It's always a challenge to decide on when and where to host an event, but the

selection of UW-Whitewater of Rock County (thank you Maryam) and a Saturday morning brunch- was very well received and the event attendance for our first in person event post Covid was great! If you are unable to attend, I would encourage you to watch the YouTube presentation produced by our great friends at JATV captured or produced. The message "A Closer Look at Being and Staying Wide Awake in Wisconsin"

Other notable work or projects: Rough draft of our **Land Acknowledgement** is moving forward. The Board of Directors approved the draft. The next step, is a review with Ho-Chunk and final draft ready for review at our local Annual Meeting. Thank you to the volunteer team that have been working to assemble a thoughtful and heartfelt draft, building on our DEI Committee excellent study on the subject. (Susan Johnson, Janet LaBrie, Linda Reinhardt). There will be a special presentation of the project at the JLV-Janesville annual meeting on May 22----which will be held in the lower level at the Premier Bank-May 22 at 6pm. The annual meeting packet will be distributed 30 days prior to the annual meeting with more information and materials. Please save the date for the meeting.

All the committees were busy with meetings and doing great work! We are growing in membership--and our next issue will contain more information on our newest members.

Thank you to everyone's participation and leadership of the chairs and to our members who are engaged in volunteering as poll workers! Thank you.

Voter Services is getting into full swing with voter registration in our schools and table events. Vote411 work is completed, and the site is "live and active" for the April 2 election. My thanks to **Eileen Newcomer** for assisting me with the that project.

Also, we hosted two candidate forums in March for the Janesville City Council and Janesville School Board. Huge thank you to the moderators – **Eileen Newcomer** and **Neil Dupree**, great job----and

* President's

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our volunteers who assisted with time keeping and audience questions etc. A huge thanks as always for the work of JATV and staff! We are so fortunate to have access to such skilled and professional support from **Alan Luckett** and his team! JATV and the Hedberg library really make our forums possible by providing a venue to assemble recordings to showcase for the candidates our work. There is a high degree of care with the recordings and are available on our website as well as linked in with Vote411.org. Thank you all!

Watch for details and an invitation for a more social event or gathering for **Voter Services** & the **DEI Committee** in April to do election planning as well as summer book discussion ideas for 2024; and updates on the **Land Acknowledgement** project and future studies. **Location and dates are in the works – Stay tuned.**

Thank you to Susan **Johnson's** excellent focus and tireless work in her planning organization of **“Earth Week 2024”** events and information and all things related to Sustainability! We could not do it without you Susan and I want to publicly thank you and recognize you and your knowledge in that space! Susan's experience, involvement and connections in local and state groups is extremely important and valuable! Mark your calendars for our fourth annual **Community Sustainability: Creating an Inclusive and Equitable Process for Building Sustainability Communities!** Thank you again, Susan! RSVP at on our own website at: lwjvjl.org ---- Date – April 18, 2024 Via Zoom – 6:30-8:00. Susan has assembled great speakers and information and will share how we can do more in that environmental and sustainability space!

Thank you to the Board of Directors who are working on 2024-25 Budgets (**Subcommittee Chair Renee Kalvestrand, Debby Griffith, Linda Reinhardt**), and suggested updates and review of our by-laws and positions for the annual meeting in May. Nominations are in full swing for the 2024-25 year and there are vacancies – Vice President, Treasurer and two directors. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or in any of these board positions, please contact **Debby Griffith or Nancy Stabb**. Also, we are in need of one more nominating committee member and let me know if you would serve.

Future dates of events and reminders to add to your calendar:

April 1 - Board of Directors Meeting – in person- Premier Bank Garden Level – 6:30-8pm with a focus on annual meeting planning and reviews. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Your input or suggestions are welcome!

April 2 - Spring Election! Thank you to all

that are involved as workers and for your vote! If you need information on the election – check out **Vote411.org** and **the LWV-WI** website for valuable information on candidates and the constitutional amendments. (My.lwv.org-Wisconsin)

Our state league leaders are also working hard and might add are doing exceptionally good work with remarkable wins in litigation, voter registration and education.

April 18 Fourth Annual Earth Week Event - Sustainability: Creating an Inclusive and Equitable Process for Building Sustainability Communities! RSVP on our own website at: lwjvjl.org ----Date – April 18, 2024 Via Zoom – 6:30-8:00.

April 30 – Speaker – **Stephen Kantrowitz, author of “Citizens of a Stolen Land”** – 6:00-7:50 at Hedberg Public Library. Professor Kantrowitz – professor of History from UW Madison will discuss the history of how the Ho-Chunk and how they resisted removal from Wisconsin in the 19th century. Timely subject and great speaker that will assist with our “Land Acknowledgement” project.

May 22 –LWV-Janesville Annual Meeting – 6-8pm Garden Level Premier Bank- You all will be receiving a meeting packet in April. We will be serving a lighter evening meal and it's a great opportunity to see everyone and meet our newer members and connect will your league friends as well as consider volunteering for our committees and learning more about future events.

May 31-June 1 – LWV-Wisconsin's convention in Green Bay. More details in the next issue. Let me know if you are interested in attending.

A huge shout out to **Linda Reinhardt, Heide Keith** and **Carol Herzig**. Linda is and has been doing an excellent job updating our website with key information! Heide keeps our press releases timely and in the hands of the appropriate sources! Carol is so patient and my getting my Voter articles to her! We are very lucky to have Carol with her graphic arts skills with the newsletter as well as “all things graphics arts”...for programs, brochures and various publications! Thank you for your skilled and professional service, ladies!!!

Hope to see you all soon and in will share more information in our next edition of **The Voter** that is right around the corner!!!

My absolute best warm wishes for Easter and Passover!

Lisa Johnson, President
608-333-8105

The Rock County Human Services Board

Kathy Holcombe
Observer Corp

February 22, 2024, The Rock County Human Services Board provides State and Federally mandated services to our County's most vulnerable and needy residents. Their programs serve abused and neglected children, adults and children with mental illness, children with physical, emotional, and developmental disabilities, juvenile offenders, adults and youth with alcohol and other drug problems; children, youth and adults in need of residential and institutional care, elderly and disabled through the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County and determining eligibility for a variety of assistance programs such as For Share and Badger Care. There are 9 members on the board led by the chairperson who is currently Brian

Knutson. This board meets twice a month. I have been observing these meetings for the League of Women Voters Observation Corp for several months. I have been impressed with members care for and knowledge of the variety of people for whom they are responsible, especially concern about meeting their needs. The meetings are open to the public and there is always a time for public comment. Also, the group approves contracts and bills as needed and approves resolutions relative to the various aspects of care. Reports are often presented by staff of one of the service providers. These are always interesting and a great way to find out more about services available to at risk populations. The meetings are always well organized and efficient. The board does a great job of facilitating and supporting services for the population they serve.

Do Not forget to VOTE on Tuesday!



BADGER TALKS presents

FOR ADULTS

HOW THE HO-CHUNK RESISTED REMOVAL

presented by Stephen Kantrowitz

in partnership with League of Women Voters of Janesville, League of Women Voters of Beloit, American Association of University Women - Janesville, and Allies of Native Nations

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 6 P.M.

PROGRAM ROOM

No registration necessary.

HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JANESVILLE

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BELOIT

AAUW

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

Each month we will be placing our position on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Voter, as a service to our members.

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.



There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender

identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

The Janesville LWV commits to the diversity of Janesville and fully endorses the LWV's DEI policy.

Photos from the Forward Together gathering



Carol Herzig photos

A lovely crowd enjoyed themselves

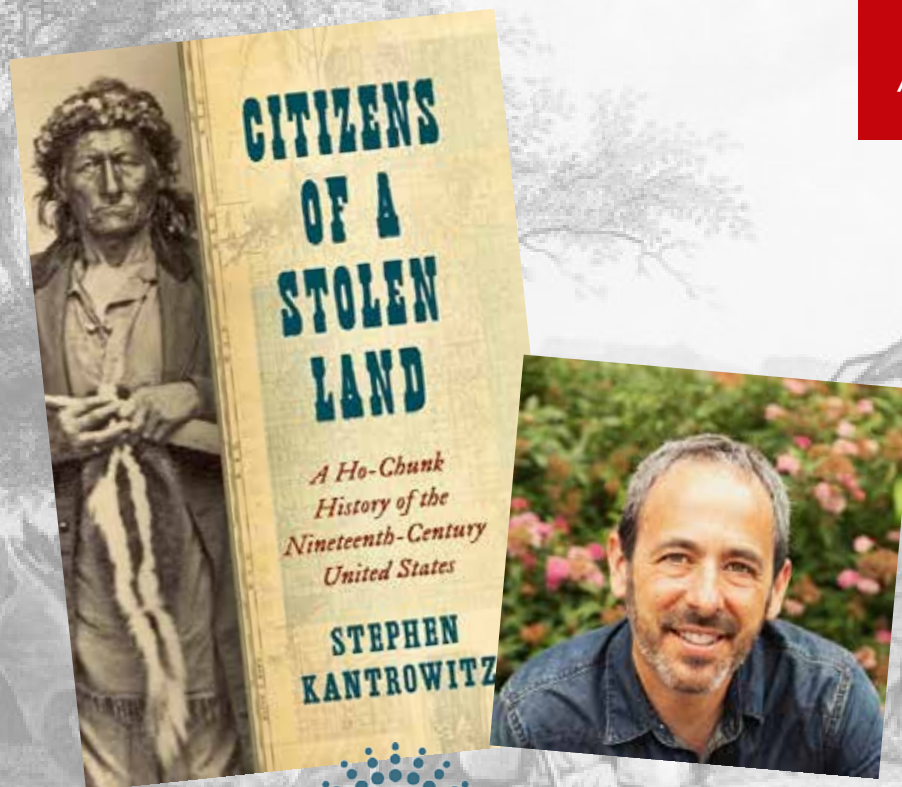




The candidates, elected officials, and representatives on all levels of government



FOR
ADULTS



BADGER  **TALKS** presents

HOW THE HO-CHUNK RESISTED REMOVAL

with Professor Stephen Kantrowitz

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 6 P.M.

PROGRAM ROOM

Learn how the Ho-Chunk people resisted and defied the government's policies when the U.S. seized their Wisconsin homeland in the 1830s. Professor Kantrowitz will share the long and difficult history of U.S. policy towards the Ho-Chunk nation.

No registration necessary.

in partnership with League of Women Voters of Janesville, League of Women Voters of Beloit,
American Association of University Women - Janesville, and Allies of Native Nations



316 South Main Street • Janesville, WI 53545 • 608-758-6600

HedbergPublicLibrary.org

Upcoming Lecture on Ho-Chunk Resistance to Removal

Stephen Kantrowitz, Plaenert-Bascom Professor of History at UW-Madison, and author of the recently published book *Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the 19th Century United States* will present

“How the Ho-Chunk Resisted Removal”

April 30, 2024 • Hedberg Public Library • 6:00 p.m.

LWV of Janesville is a co-sponsor of the event along with the Hedberg Public Library, League of Women Voters of Beloit, and the Janesville AAUW and Badger Talks.

Preparing for Kantrowitz talk and for Land Acknowledgment

As the LWV-Janesville develops its Land Acknowledgement statement(s) of the Native People who inhabited and still live in this area, we encourage League members to read Professor Stephen Kantrowitz’s book *Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the 19th Century United States* before his presentation in April

Unlimited copies of the book are available in electronic format from the Hedberg Public Library as a Hoopla E Book. Hard copies of the book are on order by the library. You can also purchase Kindle, paperback and hardcover editions of the book.

Professor Kantrowitz has participated in programs and interviews regarding the Ho-Chunk people’s resistance to removal by the US Government from Wisconsin. See

“The Ho-Chunk Struggle Against Removal, 1828-1875” on the “University Place” of PBS Wisconsin, that aired on 06/29/2022

<https://www.pbs.org/video/the-ho-chunk-struggle-against-removal-1828-1875-ywwksf/> (1:07:39)

Stu Levitan interviewed Stephen Kantrowitz for the Madison Bookbeat and the WORT Radio News Department on November 27, 2023

<https://www.wortfm.org/prof-stephen-kantrowitzcitizens-of-a-stolen-land-a-ho-chunk-history-of-the-19th-century-united-states/>



Janesville League of Women Voters Board • 2023-2024

President: Lisa Johnson (2023-2025)

Vice President: Brad Munger (2023-2024)

Secretary: Renee Kalvestrand (2023-2025)

Treasurer: Linda Reinhardt (2023-2024)

Directors:

Maryam Enterline (2023-2025)

Heide Keith (2023-2025)

Debra Griffith

(completing her 2022-2024 term)