

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF JANESVILLE

The VOTER

www.lwvjvl.org

May 2019

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Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

Our League has had a good year, and I hope we have a record turnout for our Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, May 22, at**

29 South Café beginning at 6:30 pm. Come at 6:00 so you'll have time to socialize and think about:

Will you choose to wear a PURPLE or GREEN sash on **Monday, June 10**, for the march and living history program that will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin becoming the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment? Marchers will begin to form at Janesville's new Town Square at 4:00 and march to the JPAC at 5:00 to see a program that celebrates the progress that women have made, but also reminds us of the work that has yet to be done to make our nation a more perfect union.

Which books will you vote to read for our **Back Porch** summer book discussions that we will schedule for the last week of June, July, and August?

In which **League activities** will you engage during 2019-2020? You have many to choose among: DEI, local study, natural resources, observer corps, Susan B. Anthony/Centennial Celebration, Voter Services, and more.

We're excited that **Erin Grunze, the Executive Director of the LWV WI**, will be our guest speaker for our Annual Meeting, so will begin our business meeting promptly at 6:30. Please review the materials that you received in the Annual Meeting packet BEFORE the meeting so we can conduct our business efficiently.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE JUNE 10 CELEBRATION.

As you have learned, the Women's Fund and the LWV Janesville are hosting the June 10 celebration of Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th Amendment. We are encouraging marchers to make a donation for a packet containing a purple or green scarf and a centennial badge created by the LWVWI that marchers can wear as a sash during the event. The purchase of those sashes will help defray the costs of the event, and any net proceeds will be divided between the two organizations.

We hope that most League members will participate in the march and attend the living history program at JPAC, but we also need **LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS ON THE DATE OF THE EVENT.**

We need League members to run a table or two for Voter Registration and for League Membership at the Town Square beginning at 4:00 pm when

★ See **PRESIDENT**, Page 2

★ President

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marchers will begin to gather, to make signs and banners, and don their sashes for the march.

We need FOUR persons to serve as ushers at JPAC to guide marchers into the auditorium so the program can begin on time at 6:00 pm. (These volunteers can participate in the march but need to be near the front of the line.)

Please contact Nancy Sonntag (ndsonntag@gmail.com) or me (lindacreinhardt@gmail.com) if you can help or if you have questions.

Race - The Power of an Illusion, part two

On Saturday, April 13th, our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee hosted the second part of the documentary, Race – The Power of an Illusion, in Basic's community room. Thirteen people attended, and twelve stayed for a great discussion led by Janet LaBrie.

This portion of the video, "The Story We Tell", addresses the history of how America justified the slavery of African Americans and the displacement and annihilation of Native Americans. Also, noting the experience of Cherokee Indians, the U.S. war against Mexico and annexation of the Philippines, the film shows how white men's definitions of race excluded from humanity not only Black people, but anyone who stood in the way of American expansion and profit. All this led to a full-blown ideology of white supremacy.

Saturday, May 11, the showing of the third and final segment of this provocative documentary, will be held at Basics from 10:00 – 11:00 with discussion from 11:00 – 12:00. Consider attending whether or not you viewed the first two parts.

Encourage your friends and family to join us in this celebration of our democracy.

Thank you!!
Linda

Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do, by Jennifer L. Eberhardt

Ethel Himmel
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Our brains are constantly bombarded with stimuli, so we unconsciously categorize to impose order and coherence on the chaos. We use selective attention to tune in to what seems most salient. We form biases based on personal experiences and centuries of "research" finding black people permanently inferior. So says Jennifer Eberhardt, a professor of social psychology at Stanford University and the recipient of a 2014 MacArthur "genius" grant.

"Marginalized groups in countries all over the world are often discredited through animal imagery. (black=apes) Disfavored immigrant groups—Mexicans in the U.S., Jews in Germany, the Roma in Italy, Muslims across the European continent—are frequently likened to insects, rodents, and other vermin known to invade spaces, spread disease, or breed rapidly. That has been a universal fixture of history.".... "over time (other groups) have been able to leave those ugly caricatures behind and become white. Blacks remain strapped to the ape association by a history of slavery, present-day disparities in almost every significant domain of life, and a collection of overlapping racial stereotypes that reinforce those inequities. In addition to being dark, blacks are seen as cognitively challenged, big, dangerous, aggressive, violent, unrestrained brutes—the very features that, unfortunately, many associates with apes."

The book touches on many topics that we saw in the video "Race:" 'science,' housing, jobs, and schools. There are also sections on the impact of incarceration and on the impact of school desegregation.

Her writing style incorporates research findings that

★ See **BOOK DISCUSSION**, Page 3

— A MARCH TO HONOR THE PROGRESS OF WOMEN —

★ 100 YEARS
Votes for Women ★

JUNE 10TH
Starting at the
Town Square, 5 pm

Join us for a march to JPAC for a fabulous
LIVING-HISTORY SHOW
celebrating the progress of women in Janesville
and the nation over the past 100 years!

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Women's
FUND
of the Community Foundation of
Southern Wisconsin

★ Book Discussion

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support the point(s) she is making without making the research itself the focus. (If you want that level of detail there is an extensive bibliography included.) She is also the mother of a black son and has been a trainer in helping the Oakland police recognize the implicit bias in their work in the African American community following the federal investigation that found extensive civil rights violations by members of that police department. She includes many examples of implicit bias from her own experiences and research as well as the research of others.

In offering a positive approach, she shares the platform of Nextdoor, an online social networking service that serves as a sort of giant chat room for individual neighborhoods enabling neighbors to communicate more easily. Before we let our implicit bias take con-

trol in a suspicious encounter, we need to 1) focus on behavior. What was the person doing that concerned you, and how does it relate to a possible crime? 2) Give a full description, including clothing, to distinguish between similar people. (Read this as all people of a race look alike! Skin color is a sorting tool.) Consider unintended consequences if the description is so vague that an innocent person could be targeted. 3) Don't assume criminality based on someone's race or ethnicity. Racial profiling is expressly prohibited.

This is the best book I've read thus far on our hidden prejudices. We can all be offended by blatant racism, but it's harder to see ourselves as racist. While I'd like more guidance on how to address our biases, this book let me see we've had generations to get to the place we are currently. The first step is recognizing our own biases and the impact they have on the people around us.



Photos by Linda Reinhardt

Pathways to Citizenship: Processes, historical and present, of becoming a citizen of the United States

Beloit College History Professor Beatrice McKenzie explained how the system has worked. The event which was open to the public and was held on the UWW at Rock County Campus. on Wednesday, April 10. Co-sponsored by League and the Diversity Action Team of Rock County.

Community Film Discussion

Race - The Power of an Illusion

Basics Cooperative Community Room

Film viewing: 10:00-11:00
Discussion: 11:00-12:00



The Difference Between Us ... Saturday March 9, 2019

Episode 1 surveys the scientific findings - including genetics - that suggest that the concept of race has no biological basis.

The Story We Tell.....Saturday April 13, 2019

Episode 2 provides the historical context for race in North America, including when and how the idea got started and why it took such a hold over our minds.

The House We Live In..... Saturday May 11, 2019

Episode 3 spotlights how our social institutions “make” race by providing different groups vastly different life chances even today.

Questions? contact Mary Buelow at buelow_m@msn.com



CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2018-19*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwwjvl.org/calendar

May 2019

May 6 Board Meeting
May 22 Annual Meeting, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. @ 29 South

June 2019

June 8 LWVWI Annual Meeting @ Green Lake
June 10 @ 5:00 p.m. downtown Janesville **Parade of Progress**

Summer 2019 "Back Porch" LWV Events

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Phone number: _____



The League is considering holding a series of "Back Porch" get-togethers again this Summer.

The purpose of these gatherings is to give members an opportunity to get to know each other better and to help members become more informed about policy issues of interest to the League. We propose to do this through book discussions.

Would you be interested in getting together with a group of League friends for socializing and book discussions this summer? YES
NO

Indicate which of the following books you would find interesting to read and discuss. Rate them if you choose. (1=Most Preferred)

_____ *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

_____ *The Broken Ladder: How Inequality Affects the Way We Think, Live, and Die* by Keith Payne

_____ *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life* by David Treuer

_____ *Them: Why We Hate Each Other—and How to Heal* by Ben Sasse (US Senator)

_____ *Unsheltered: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver

Your book suggestion: _____

We propose to hold these gatherings during the FOURTH weeks of June, July, and August

Best time(s) of day for you? 1:30-3:00 3:00-4:30 6:30-8:00 Saturday AM 9:30-11:00

Best day(s) are best for you? M TU W Th F Sa

You may choose to respond to this questionnaire online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7WP59NN>



Thank you for responding to this survey. We hope to hold some lively discussions.

Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?

Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Individual \$65.00
 Student \$30.00

Household \$95.00

I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to: LWV-US

<www.lwv.org>

LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org>

JANESVILLE LEAGUE

<www.lwvjvl.org>

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please e-mail me, Carol Herzig at caherzig@gmail.com Thank you.