



Shirley Zeller



Pam Schultz

Ann Green
Vice President



Laurie
Campbell
Secretary &
Communications Chair

Susan Murphy
Treasurer



Debbie Killewald
Voter Services

Roberta Sexton
Membership



Ken Hollingshead
Tech Support

Deborah Nagy
Historian &
Facebook



Abbey Frew



Welcome to the new LWVJA newsletter. It will be published quarterly. It is loaded with pictures and articles of League interest. Please enjoy.

Holiday Gathering

League members got together on December 8th to celebrate the holidays with a luncheon at Bella Notte.



Salena Taylor

Our guest speaker was Salena Taylor, who spoke about her journey that brought her to form *Partial to Girls*(PTG). PTG serves the Jackson Community in many ways through its purpose of supplying material goods and support to girls of all ages. Members donated shower kits for the girls by filling over two dozen, pretty totes with bath towels, shampoo, soap and other items in each.

The holiday tree with ornaments in front



After lunch, members enjoyed playing a Christmas trivia game, shopping for Radko ornaments for a donation to the Theatre, voting for their LWVJA tree which the League trimmed at the Theatre.



Rapt interest in Salena's message

All topped off with having a slice of delicious cake as they socialized while bringing 2022 to conclusion.



Members enjoying



by learning about PTG



Shower Kits Donated to PTG by LWVJA

Co-Presidents Report



Dear LWV/JA members,

It's been an exciting and busy 2022, with plans for 2023 to be just as exciting and busy.



Highlights of the year included many projects – collecting signatures for Promote the Vote, hosting candidate forums for 2 county commission districts, outreach to candidates to encourage participation in VOTE411 and distribution of 1700 VOTE411 guides in our area, the 4th annual Friendship Tea, supporting Partial to Girls at our annual holiday gathering by putting together “shower bags”, recognizing 4 members, each with 50 years of involvement with the League, with Lifetime Memberships, and participation in LWV/MI meetings of membership, advocacy, observer corps and others, not to mention our own local meetings.

The Observer Corps leaders, Deborah Sears and Nancy Smith, have taken off running to facilitate observing governmental agencies throughout the county. This is a great way to get involved with the League. If you're interested, call one of us and we'll steer you to the right place.

Your board has been active and would love your feedback on what interests each of you. Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to serving as your co-presidents during 2023.

Shirley & Pam

Honoring Over 200 Years of League Membership

At the annual meeting in May, we paid tribute to four women who have been league members for 50 (and maybe more!) years. Fran Parker, Lola Dodge, Marge Duane and Peg Eaton were each honored with a Lifetime Membership, along with certificates and flowers. They have been engaged in the causes of the league for many years and continue to be advisors and resources to our group. We appreciate their service and dedication!



Marge Duane president during the Jackson Unit's 25th anniversary in 1976



Lola Dodge



Fran Parker



Peg Eaton President 1967-1969

Democracy is not a Spectator Sport

LWVJA Events Calendar

February Black History Month

- 10 LWVJA Board meeting, noon at Steve's Ranch House
- 14 103rd Birthday of the League of Women Voters See page 6
- 16 LWVJA General Meeting, 2:00-3:30, Zoom

MARCH

Women's History Month

- 8 International Women's Day
- 10 LWVJA Board meeting, noon at Steve's Ranch House
- 12 Susan B Anthony Dinner, 2:30 – 5 pm Cascades Manor House See page 7
- 12-18 Sunshine Week
- 13 Observer Corp meeting, 5:30pm, Bella Notte

April

National Volunteers Month

- 15 LWVJA Board Retreat and meeting, Ismon House, Albion 10:00am-3:00 pm
- 16-22 National Volunteer Week
- 20 LWVJA General meeting, 6:00pm-7:45, Location TBD
- 23 Earth Day

LWVJA Committees are active

COMMITTEES are an important and active part of the League. Listed below are some of the LWVJA committees, descriptions of their work and their activities over the past year. More committees will be described in the next newsletter.

Voter Services The 2020 election provided many opportunities and challenges to provide information to voters. Key activities have been:

- Contacting candidates for public office to encourage them to provide information for
- VOTE411, which was published online and in paper format. 1700 paper copies of the VOTE411 guide were distributed locally. Collecting signatures to make sure Proposal 2 was on the November ballot
- Hosting candidate forums for Jackson County Commission Districts 5 and 7
- Writing and mailing GOTV postcards to almost 1000 newly registered voters in our area.

Contact: Debbie Killewald or Sarah Welton

Observer Corps The Observer Corps formed in late 2021. During 2022, their work has included:

- Observing 13 government entities in the Jackson area by 12 committee members
- Meeting at both the local and state level to compare experiences and learn more about how Sunshine laws impact and interact with meetings of governmental entities. Contact: Nancy Smith or Deborah Sears

Tea Committee The 2022 Friendship Tea was held on Saturday, November 11.

- Thirteen tables were decorated by league members and 71 people plus volunteers attended.
- Overall proceeds of just under \$5,000.00 were realized, which included ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, and jewelry sales and silent auction bids.
- The committee has already begun plans for the 2023 Tea. Contact: Deb Herbert or Linda Furgason

Nominating Committee This committee secured candidates for positions to be elected (co-presidents, treasurer and 2 directors) at the annual meeting in May. The positions of secretary and vice president will be elected at the annual meeting on May 25 Contact: Debbie Killewald

Budget Committee The budget committee meets annually to draft a budget to present at the annual meeting for approval by members. Funds are allocated to projects that support our mission and program plans. A budget for 2024-25 will be approved this May Contact: Linda Furgason

If you would like more information about any committee contact the committee chair or Shirley or Pam.

September 2022 General Membership Meeting



Guest speaker Paula Bowman
LWVMI president

Nineteen members attended the General Meeting on September 29, 2022 in the Meijer Library Community Room. Paula Bowman, co-president of the LWVMI, was our guest speaker. She spoke about the many activities the state board of directors has overseen during the past year, a majority of them related to elections.



Shirley Zeller

Minutes of the April 14 meeting and the treasurer's report were approved. Our operating balance is just under \$9,000.00.

Committee chairs reported on the work we have done at the local level, including observing local government boards (Observer Corps), planning for the Friendship Tea to be held on November 11 (Tea Committee), membership renewals and the modules explaining league history on the website (Membership), preparing for candidate forums and encouraging candidates to submit information to VOTE411 (Voter Services). Debbie Killewald had prepared 1000



Deborah Nagy



Debbie Killewald, Sarah Welton, & Susan Murphy



Paula Bowman & Laurie Campbell discussing elections



Mary Lee Clark

postcards for members to send to newly registered voters. The list provided by the LWVMI included over 3,000 names. Following discussion of the positive impact this activity could have, a motion was made and a vote taken authorizing the printing of 1000 more postcards.



Bert Sexton, Pam Schultz, Renell Weathers & Deb Sears

Members unanimously elected Roberta Sexton and Debbie Killewald to one-year terms on the LWVJA board.

Information was provided about our current committees and the need for more members to join in to accomplish the programs and projects we undertake.



Snacks most welcomed at this busy meeting

Fourth Annual Friendship Tea A Success



On the 12th of November, 2022 the Friendship Tea Committee of the LWVJA transformed Unity Church of Jackson into a lovely tea room. Renell Weathers was the MC as she and eighty guests had the opportunity to experience a relaxing time. The program was an old time radio show performed by a 7 member cast including all sound effects.



Seven students from the Heritage Center at Jackson College served the guests

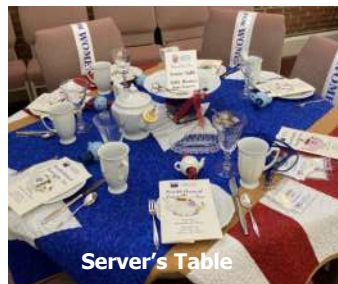


Attendees made donations to the jewelry displayed and bid on silent auction items varying from paintings & themed baskets to multiple services including lovely quilted items. They enjoyed a 50/50 raffle where the winner received over \$200. This major friend raiser resulted in a hefty chunk of our financial budget for this year as well as just plain fun to attend. You can become involved in so many ways : donate jewelry, scarves, a silent auction item or two, becoming a table hostess, sponsor a table, become a Tea Benefactor, Table Patron and attend the Tea. Table Hostesses set the table. Below are a few of the settings identifying who set them at the Fourth Annual Friendship Tea.

Please save the date Saturday, November 11, 2023 for the Fifth Annual Friendship Tea. And plan on attending!



Christine Canning-Peterson



Server's Table



Nancy Connell



Mary Lee Clark



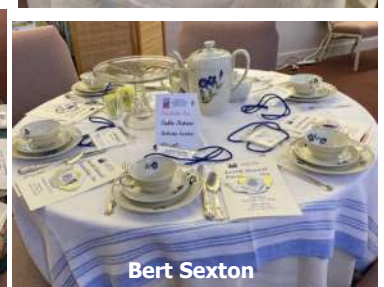
Pam Schultz



Linda Furgason



Deborah Nagy



Bert Sexton



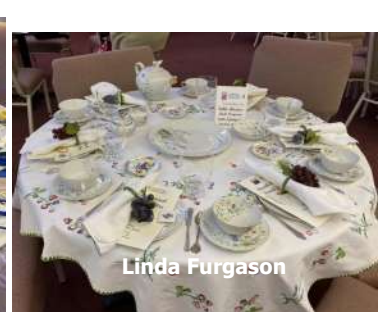
Martha Petry



Shirley Zeller



Marie Fisher



Linda Furgason

Showing the Holiday Spirit!



The LWVJA was one of 11 non-profit organizations in Jackson that participated in "Christmas on Hollywood and Pine" at the Michigan Theatre. This event allows community groups to showcase their tree-decorating skills and to promote their organization. The public can support the groups who are participating by "voting" for their tree with financial contributions.

Our tree was located in an alcove on the second floor. The red, white and blue color scheme was definitely patriotic! With both historic and hand-made ornaments, we tried to promote the great things the LWV has done to defend democracy and educate voters.

Our efforts paid off, as our tree received the most "votes" from donations. This earns us our choice of locations for our tree in 2023. This support from our community is truly an honor and the funds



Facebook is a social media service. The LWVJA uses it for many reasons. First it allows us to tell who we are to others outside of our organization. As a tool for "Save The Date", we use Facebook to alert our members to upcoming events for our calendar. Our members can then share the post on their page to show others outside of our league, what our league is all about.

As a member of a national and state organization, we receive media blasts or current news items that can be read and passed on. They usually are pertinent information regarding events such as elections; new laws vs false news.

Photos and newsworthy and/or historical information is also found on our Facebook page.

Facebook is, for much of our needs, a short term platform to be read, and shared (just click on Share to send to your Facebook friends). If you have any problems using our Facebook page please contact: Deborah Nagy danagy@gmail.com or Abbey Frew abbey3366@gmail.com

Go to Facebook and then find us under: **League of Women Voters Jackson Area** to get the latest updates.

The League at 103



Our Nation

2023 has been off to a speedy start, with February just days away! February is home to Black History Month, a time to reflect and celebrate Black history, as well as uplift the contributions of Black activists who power our democracy. I want to be clear: Black history is American history, and it should be encompassed in every aspect of our lives as we continue to build a League that is representative of an inclusive democracy

Our League

It's hard to believe that we are less than one month away from celebrating our 103rd birthday! On February 14, we'll honor our legacy. Through action, advocacy, storytelling, and more, Leagues throughout our country will commemorate our history and uplift the work they are doing in their communities.

Working with you and for you every day.

LWV 20th President



The cast of the Old Time Radio Program performed at the Fourth Annual Friendship Tea



Sunshine Week from Wikipedia the free encyclopedia



Sunshine Week is a national initiative spearheaded by the News Leaders Association to educate the public about the importance of open government and the dangers of excessive and unnecessary secrecy. It was established in March 2005 by the American Society of News Editors, now known as the News Leaders Association, with funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.(1)

Overview

Sunshine Week occurs each year in mid-March, coinciding with James Madison's birthday and National Freedom of Information Day on the 16th. During Sunshine Week, hundreds of media organizations, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and other participants engage public discussion on the importance of open government through news and feature articles and opinion columns; special Web pages and blogs; info graphics; editorial cartoons; public service advertising; public seminars and forums. The purpose of the week is to highlight the fact that "government functions best when it operates in the open."(2) In many states, however, legislatures exempt themselves from public-records laws, claiming "legislative immunity".(3)

History The first nationwide Sunshine Week took place March 13–19, 2005.

References (1). "[Sunshine Week](#)". Sunshine Week. Retrieved March 13, 2016. Dukes, Tyler (March 13, 2016).

(2). "[Sunshine Week to celebrate government transparency](#)". WRAL. Retrieved March 13, 2016. Lieb, David (March 14, 2016).

(3). "[Many state legislatures exempt themselves from record laws](#)". thenewstribune.com. Associated Press. Retrieved March 14, 2016.

47th Annual Susan B Anthony Dinner

You Are Invited Sunday March 12, 2023

2:30 pm Networking and Special Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Sale Items

3:00 pm-5:00 pm Dinner and Awards Ceremony Cascades Manor House, 1970 Kibby Road, Jackson, MI

Cash Bar with dinner at 3:00 pm, Dinner: \$40.00 Student Dinner: \$25.00
Please Respond by February 28, 2023



We accept payment via PayPal or check made payable to Jackson Women's History Council and mailed to Shirley Zeller, 702 Burr Oak Street, Albion, MI 49224 Email Shirley Zeller at seztowne@gmail.com

Log into your PayPal account and send your RSVP in a comment with payment to jacksonwomenshistorycouncil@gmail.com

March is Women's History Month. Do you know the names of some of history's most Important female trailblazers?

Who was the first woman to run for President of the United States (1872)?

Who was the first "First Lady" to have developed her own political and media identity?

Who wrote the first version of the Equal Rights Amendment?

Who was the first female artist to win a Grammy for Album of the Year?

Who was the first Black woman elected to Congress?

The correct answers can be found among the list of famous women below:

Rosa Parks
Sandra Day O'Connor
Alice Paul

Toni Morrison
Shirley Chisholm
Judy Garland

Victoria Woodhull
Eleanor Roosevelt
Ella Fitzgerald



Joe Heller @ Hellertoon.com

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Our newsletter needs a name! We've got lots of information and pictures to share. We're hoping our clever and creative members will help us come up with a name for our quarterly newsletter. Not too long, not partisan (at all!), something that exemplifies our mission and something that grabs the attention of the reader.

Please send your suggestions to (Linda Furgason lindafurgason@mail.com) by Wednesday, February 8. All entries will be reviewed by the LWVJA board. The name will be announced at the Membership Meeting on February 16.



**League of Women Voters
Jackson Area
Newsletter**

published quarterly
Packed with information as to your very active local League

Newsletter Committee

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**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
JACKSON AREA**

LWVJA

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