

Fairfax VOTER

January 2022

Volume 74, Issue 5

Book Discussion

Invisible Women:

Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men

The phrase “It’s a man’s world” takes on new meaning in this deep dive into how gender bias distorts the information we use to make decisions that affect us all. In January we are reading *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado Perez.

In a society where data drives so many decisions that directly affect our lives, what happens when the data collected is missing the experiences of women? Or when women are factored in, their input may be characterized as deviant whereas men represent the benchmark. As the author demonstrates, there are real consequences when one gender is considered the standard by which data collection and outcomes are measured.

Copies of the book are available from the Fairfax County Public Library or can be ordered from your favorite book store.

Calendar

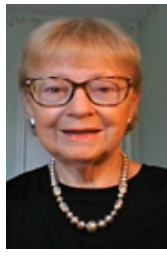
- 3 *Fairfax Voter* Deadline
- 5 LWFVA Virtual At-Large Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 - 13 LWFVA Unit Meetings
- 19 LWFVA Virtual Board Meeting, 10 am

Inside This Issue

- Presidents’ Message 2
- Why I Volunteered With LWV 3
- Our Volunteers Are Great! 3
- Book Discussion 4
- Elder Abuse: COVID-19 and the Holidays 4
- Climate Update: Strategy Outlined for Salt Management 5
- LWFVA Donors and Supporters 6
- LWFVA Membership Report 6
- January Unit Meetings 7



Presidents' Message



Hello, Fellow Leaguers,

We recently read these words written by Frederick Douglas, “**If there is no struggle, there is no progress.**” These words speak to us as Leaguers.

We love our country, but we are not blind to its problems. Some believe that it is un-American to criticize government actions or advocate for change; however, we know that working for constructive change makes our country better. In the words of William Sloane Coffin, “There are three kinds of patriots, two bad, one good. The bad are the uncritical lovers and the loveless critics. Good patriots carry on a lover's quarrel with their country.”

We remember the women who worked for years to achieve the right to vote. We remember the people who marched during the Civil Rights Era to achieve equal rights for minority citizens. We remember the PTA members who advocated for the National Free Lunch Act that provides nutritious meals for children who would otherwise go hungry.

We, as Leaguers, identify problems and then work fearlessly toward solutions. We understand that solutions once identified often are not easily implemented, but we do not stop trying. We continue the struggle to improve our government. We love our country too much to give up, so we continue to work for:

- Voting districts that provide fair representation.
- Protection and enforcement of voting rights.
- Equitable and just treatment for all who live inside our country.
- Responsible leadership in all levels of government.

We support League positions that are listed on our website, <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions>.

January is the traditional time to make resolutions.

What firm commitment will you make to support the important work of the LWVFA? We need people to volunteer for a variety of projects, serve as directors or committee chairs, write articles for the Fairfax Voter, research and write programs, monitor local government issues, and provide financial support. Read the E-News every week to find opportunities.

Working for our ideals is NOT easy work, but we cannot become discouraged or stop trying. We must continue to be vigilant and tenacious. We must continue the struggle to Make Democracy Work!

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Anu and Pat

Fairfax County 24-hr.
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:
703-360-7273; 711 TTY

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2021 - 2022

This newsletter, partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area Education Fund, is published 10 times each year from September to June by:

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026-B Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150 (Info/fax/answering machine)
www.lwv-fairfax.org league@lwv-fairfax.org

Co-Presidents: Anu Sahai 703-303-8498
President2@lwv-fairfax.org
Pat Fege
Pat.Fege@lwv-fairfax.org
Editor: Katherine Ingmanson 571-265-9745
kmingmanson@yahoo.com
editor@lwv-fairfax.org

Subscriptions to the *Fairfax VOTER* are available to non-Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150.

Why I Volunteered With the League of Women Voters

By Grace Smith

I am a relatively outspoken college student, particularly on issues of inequality. As I have begun to learn social and political theory through my course work and personal inquiry, I realized one very important element was missing. That element was action.

I knew about the League of Women Voters because I had used some of the resources on the League's website for an essay a few semesters back. I had found the information I encountered immensely helpful for my research at the time. So when I found out that there were volunteer opportunities available nearby, I was ecstatic. I had found an organization that could help me put my ideals in action. I signed up immediately to give out voter information at one of the farmers markets near me.

Honestly, I was incredibly excited. I figured I could do something I love, meet new people, and have important conversations with people about something I'm passionate about, and visit a new farmers market as a bonus!

Volunteering at the farmers market was wonderful. The other League members who were present were welcoming and were a great source of knowledge on how to be more effective. It was wonderful to meet the patrons of the farmers market, whether it was through a quick call of attention from our booth or a full conversation when someone had questions about our resources! We even met a few League members "in the wild"!

My experience volunteering for the League has made me more convinced of my belief in action. No matter what your political beliefs are, it is important that you do the work to back it up. I cannot wait to continue to work with, and learn from, the League and the people I meet in the organization.

Grace Smith is a Sophomore at George Mason University and a student member of LWVFA.



Our Volunteers Are Great!

By Arina van Breda

LWVFA Voter Registration by the numbers.

Our Voter Registration team wants to thank the many volunteers who have participated in our many activities since the start of the administrative year on July 1.

Number of events: 44

Number of volunteers: 86 (including 64 during National Voter Registration Day alone!)

Number of volunteer hours: 420

New voters registered: 132* (this only includes paper forms and does not include on-line registrations)

Conversations with potential voters: 3000 plus* (some data incomplete)

Number of flyers distributed: approximately 41,000

Food banks receiving flyers and voter registration services: 20 with 6 additional volunteers delivering 3 rounds of 12,000 flyers each.

Feeling of accomplishment by our volunteers: Priceless!

To each of our volunteers and many donors who help support these activities, we are truly thankful.

Please plan to stay busy with us next year! Some of our future projects include:

- Outreach to opportunity neighborhoods throughout the County;
- Distribution of materials to Meals-on-Wheels participants;
- Return to in-person voter registration events at new citizen naturalization ceremonies;
- Outreach through Fairfax County Public Libraries during Women's History Month highlighting the continuity of the Fight for Women's Suffrage and protecting voting rights today.

Book Discussion:

Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men

This month we join in a County-wide book club to read and discuss *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado Perez.

In a society where data drives so many decisions that directly affect our lives, what happens when the data collected is missing the experiences of women? Or when women are factored in, their input may be characterized as deviant whereas men represent the benchmark. As the author demonstrates, there are real consequences when one gender is considered the standard by which data collection and outcomes are measured.

Copies of the book are available from the Fairfax County Public Library or can be ordered from your favorite book store.

Units are encouraged to use the following questions to guide their discussions.

1. The author says that the data gender gap “is not generally malicious, or even deliberate.” What factors do you believe have historically contributed to creating a gender data gap?
2. Were there any aspects of the book that made you reexamine your own decision-making biases, or the biases of your employer, community leaders, or elected officials and policy makers?
3. This book explores the gender data gap. What other groups may be overlooked by a gap in data and research?
4. The author cites many examples of gender bias in data collection. Did any particular example(s) resonate with you more than others? If so, why?

Elder Abuse: COVID-19 and the Holidays

By Theresa Brion and Adarsh Trehan

As families and friends gather for winter and holiday activities for the first time in 2 years, it is not just a time for enjoying these activities with renewed spirit, it also is a time for observation. COVID-related lockdowns were difficult for everyone, causing heightened emotions and frustrations. But, let us consider the unique impact on older adults, i.e., persons aged 60 or older.

Each of us has witnessed or experienced the impact of isolation. It is important to consider the increased potential for hidden abuse—elder abuse—that is not as easily detected because of less frequent interactions with friends and family members. Unlike most domestic violence laws, elder law statutes apply to interactions with caregivers, family members, and those who have a fiduciary relationship with the older adult, not just close family and members of the same household.

Examples of types of elder abuse include (but are not limited to): sexual abuse; emotional/psychological abuse; physical abuse; neglect; and financial exploitation. (National

Center on Law & Elder Rights)

What do you observe when you interact with an older adult, whether a family member, neighbor, friend, or stranger? Does the person exhibit behavioral changes such as withdrawal or fear, or even shyness, when around certain others? Do they exhibit inappropriate interactions with caregivers, friends, and/or family members? Does the person have unexplained bruises or injuries? What about unexplained changes to sleep patterns or emotional responses to certain incidents? Does the person shy away from a caregiver or another person, within or without the household? Does the person appear to be dehydrated or lacking good nutrition? Do they no longer have the same standards of personal hygiene of the past? Look for significant weight loss or gains as well as changes to nails and hair as a result of poor or inadequate nutrition.

Loneliness over the past 20-plus months has also created opportunities for financial exploitation. Isolation may result in persons thinking less clearly and allowing themselves to be more easily deceived by a financial scheme than they might have previously.

These are just the “tip of the iceberg” questions in detecting possible elder abuse in a neighbor, friend or family member.

If you notice something, investigate further and/or contact the Fairfax County Adult Protective Services (APS) office at 703-324-7948 (TTY 711) through its Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resources Line. You also may contact the Virginia Department of Adult Protective Services (DAPS) (<https://www.vadars.org/aps/AdultProtServ.htm>), which has a 24-hour toll-free hotline at 888-832-3858. If you believe that you have experienced or witnessed evidence of elder abuse, immediately contact the local or state APS office or seek assistance in doing so safely. *You are not alone.*

Environmental Update: Strategy Outlined for Salt Management

By Elizabeth Lonoff

As with so many other things, there are unintended consequences to the application of winter salt on roads. Since water treatment plants are not equipped to filter out the extra salt, it can end up in your tap water and even corrode your pipes. While salt makes it safer to drive and walk, it:

- gets into our drinking water,
- corrodes and damages vehicles, roads, bridges, sidewalks and parking lots, and
- harms freshwater fish and other aquatic life not adapted for salty water.

In fact, salt concentration levels in two of our local drinking water sources, the Potomac River and Occoquan Reservoir, have more than doubled in recent decades.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) gathered stakeholders to develop a Salt Management Strategy (SaMS), which the Northern Virginia Regional Commission is implementing. If you apply salt at home, see <https://www.novaregion.org/1489/Residential-BMPs> for tips on how to prepare for a snowstorm, how to choose the right salt or alternative, and what to do during and after a storm. You can learn more about the SaMS and its implementation at the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's next Green Breakfast. It will be held online at 9 a.m. on January 8. Request the WebEx link at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/MailForm.aspx?agId=889>.

Additionally, the Isaac Walton League of America will send a stream-monitoring kit if you sign its Salt Watch Pledge at <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>. You will be able to see if road salt pollution is a problem in your local stream. Results from this winter and the previous three are color coded at <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch/findings>.

At 7:15 p.m. on the January 12, Fairfax County Environ-

mental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) will hold its Annual Public Comment Meeting at the Government Center. This is your opportunity to share your views and concerns regarding environmental issues in the County. Although not the subject of the meeting, EQAC's 2021 Annual Report on the Environment provides useful information and is available on EQAC's website. Please see the Public Comment Notice for how to provide brief written, video, and/or verbal comments.

Congratulations

The National Conservation Foundation's *Envirothon* is North America's largest high school environmental education competition, a problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership experience. Students demonstrate their knowledge of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife management and prepare oral presentations. This year's topic is "Waste to Resources." Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology came in second for Virginia, and Rockville's Richard Montgomery High School reached the top 10 nationally.

In December, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognized Chairman John Peterson for his 15 years of service on the NVSWCD's Board of Directors. After serving as a director from 2006-2014, he has held one of the two appointed director positions since 2015. Under his leadership, the NVSWCD promotes sustainable activities and stewardship to conserve Fairfax County soil, water, air, plants, and animal resources.

Fairfax County's 2021 individual-resident **Environmental Excellence Award** recipients were announced in November:

Debra Ann Jacobson (posthumous), an advocate for better environmental policies and practices. She served as a member of the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) and was a member of both the legislative and executive committees of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter. Jacobson was co-director of George Washington University's Solar Institute and an adjunct professor of law. She passed away in September.

Jennifer Pradas, a longtime volunteer with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasive Management Area program who has dedicated over 1,000 hours to the betterment of local green spaces. She was instrumental in a campaign to save Blake Lane Park from proposed development.

Senator Scott Surovell, who contributed to several pieces of environmental legislation in 2020, including a bill to ban fracking for natural gas anywhere east of Interstate 95 in the Commonwealth and legislation to ensure Virginia builds out critical energy storage infrastructure by adding 2,700 megawatts of storage by 2030.

LWVFA Donors and Supporters
The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you
to the following individuals and organizations
for their amazing support!
July 1 – October 31, 2021

Amy & Jonathan Allen
Anonymous
Carol Bursik
Laurie Corkey
Elizabeth Ellerbee
Melissa Fitzgerald
Carrie Hane
Sidney Johnson
Carol MacLean
Elizabeth MacGowan
Jennifer Maiwurm
Patricia McGrady
Robert Meredith
Jill Altmann & Daniel Meyer
Ann Parham & Gary Olejniczak
Jessica Storrs
Adarsh Trehan

Amy Ford, In Honor of
Erin Healy Gallagher

* * * * *

Members of:
Mt Vernon Evening Unit

* * * * *

In Memory of
Bernice Colvard:
Doris James
Pamela Phillips/Home Instead

* * * * *

Amazon Smile

League of Women Voters of the U.S. Education Fund/
Feeding America



LWVFA Membership Report

By Donna Blake

Welcome to 2022! We are halfway through the LWVFA membership year. With the end of 2021 the Treasurer (Lynn Stewart) and Membership Chair (Donna Blake) are working our way through the many renewals we have received recently. A big thank you to all of our members who have renewed for the 2021-2022 year.

At the end of each month, the Membership Director produces the Active Member Rosters, which include the full LWVFA Active member Roster, the ten Unit Active Member Rosters, and the UAM Active Member Roster as well as the New and Reinstated Member Rosters.

At the end of November, the League of Women Voters Fairfax Area had 523 Active Members with the following new members – four students and one household - added in November:

Nadiah Aldaghlis
Todd Eley
Aisha Ismael
Ayah Karar
Hannah Moghaddar

Recent new and reinstated members may be interested in the next New Member Orientation via Zoom which will be January 8, 2022 from 10 am - 12 pm. Please contact Judith Helein at judy.helein@lwg-fairfax.com if you wish to attend.

An early alert to changes for the LWVFA member year 2022-2023. Those members who do not renew by September 30, 2022 will be removed from the Active Member Rosters for LWVFA. This change from recent practice will bring LWVFA in line with the current LWVFA by-laws.



May you and yours enjoy all of the winter holidays safely and joyously.

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Book Club

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing. As of December 1, 2021, the following information was correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. The January Unit meetings meetings may be in person, virtual or a hybrid. If virtual, the unit leaders will send login information to every unit member. Member locations are provided below for in-person meetings.

Wednesday, January 5

7 p.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

Virtual meeting
Contact: Jessica, 301-704-7854 or jessica.storrs@lww-fairfax.org

09:45 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Virtual meeting
Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325 or jfdw1111@gmail.com

11:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Lunch at Food Court, Wegman's, 14361 Newbrook Dr., Chantilly
Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666, sadill@cox.net

Monday, January 10

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom, 7430 Spring Village Drive, Springfield
Contact: Judy, 703-342-3353, jjsmith64@earthlink.net or Pat, pmcgrady308@gmail.com

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

Virtual meeting
Contact: Bev, 703-451-4438, rbdahlin@verizon.net or Sue, 703-266-0272, sueoneill1@hotmail.com

1 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV)

Oakton Public Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton 22124
Contact: Mary, 703-932-3665, mmvalder@aol.com

Wednesday, January 12

9:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)

1308 Ballantrae Farm Drive, McLean
Contact: Adarsh, 703-795-7281; adatrehan@gmail.com

Thursday, January 13

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

Virtual meeting
Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795, bseandlte@earthlink.net

7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

Virtual meeting
Contact: Wendy, 703-319-4114, wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com

10:00 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Virtual meeting
Contact: Jane, 703-256-7834, patchwork1@verizon.net

7:45 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE)

Virtual meeting
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820, jane@hilderwilliams.net or Susan, 703-587-4790, scash5002@email.vccs.edu

February Meetings:

Native American Voting Rights



The League of Women Voters® of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403
 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Dulles, VA
 Permit No. 3

**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 January, 2022**

Anu Sahai, Co-President
 Pat Fege, Co-President
 Katherine Ingmanson, Editor

The League of Women Voters® is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person at least 16 years old, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters® never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters® name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Please Support Our Work! The LWVFA Education Fund is supported by donations from our members and the public.
<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate>



LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Name: _____ Unit (if renewing): _____
 Name of Second Household Member (if one): _____
 Street Address: _____ Condo/Apt No: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code +4: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: (C) _____ (H) _____

Membership Status: _____ New _____ Renewal

Membership Level (please check one):

Basic Membership:

Individual (\$75); Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$100);
 Limited Income (suggested donation: \$10); Student (Free!)

Membership Plus:

Suffragist (\$100); Advocate Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$150);
 Champion (\$300); Founders' Circle (\$500)

Membership Plus levels include basic membership PLUS a donation to the LWVFA General Fund. This money will support members of limited income, help invest in LWVFA web site technology, and support other priority projects. General Fund donations are not tax deductible.

Volunteer Interests:

Please visit surveymonky.com/r/LWVFAFairfaxVols to let us know your interests.

Please mail this completed form along with payment to:
 LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403