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Building Pollinator Habitat All Around March 8 and March 9, 6pm

Who's ready for spring? We ALL are, right? LWV ABC has a two-part program planned for March. On March 8, we'll look at pollinator gardens as an alternative for those bits of lawn that get maintained but not used. LWV ABC's Linda Rodgers and Gretchen Sabel will share their successes at developing native plant gardens, and Laurie Schneider from the [Pollinator Friendly Alliance](#) will join us for discussion. We will light your interest in pollinators and talk about ideas for using bits of land for native plants. If you live in free-standing home, a condo or apartment, you can build pollinator habitat in a space near you.

On March 9, we will have Emily Johnson from the Anoka Conservation District with information on grants and programs to help build pollinator habitat. Pollinator habitat is part of the work that ACD does, and will be discussed in context of the new Comprehensive Plan that ACD has just completed. ACD's work is much broader than pollinators, and has promise to green our county.

Both sessions are Zoom, of course, and will begin with social/connecting time at 6 and programs starting at 6:30.

LWV ABC: Building Pollinator Habitat

Time: Mar 8, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://lwmn-org.zoom.us/j/95225647726?pwd=MjI4aG1RWk9FdVBydIRtR2xHZ3BUUT09>

ACD Discussion of Comprehensive Plan

Time: Mar 9, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://lwmn-org.zoom.us/j/94011986550?pwd=QzdY1Boel p4NnZQdnZTUGtOWGZhQT09>



The programs will be recorded and available for later viewing, too. See you on the Zoom!

Minding your mental health during Covid 19

Our Last Monthly Program / February 8

Our February presenter, Kay King, Older Adults Program Coordinator and Community Educator with NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Health Minnesota) joined us to provide an interactive program with strategies and activities for staying mentally healthy.

Fun and informative program for a cold winter evening. We appreciated the ideas and resources shared by Kay King and by those in attendance.



Thank you to QCTV for joining us to video record the program. You can watch the video on:

--QCTV's League of Women Voters channel <http://qctv.org/league-of-women-voters/>

--LWV ABC's YouTube Channel;

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChj6veDBtjM5Y_9AUyYrnPg/videos

--LWV ABC's Spotlight on Issues on our website: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abcs-spotlight-issues>



Welcome New Members!

- Kaprice Kresbach – Oak Grove
- Laura Henneman Moore – Ramsey
- Dianne Luckett – Anoka

We look forward to meeting and working with you on League of Women Voters' mission.

A Virtual Hospitality Hour with Our New Members

We've welcomed 14 new members to LWV ABC in our current membership year! They will be our special Guests for a virtual hospitality hour that will provide an orientation and introduction to League of Women Voters and our local LWV ABC. "Old" members are welcome to attend as well!

Topic: Welcome New Members

Time: Mar 15, 2021 06:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/98013357143?pwd=Qm9uZXQzYm0rdW94VHg0RXE4NjY1Zz09>

Widening the Circle – Our Members Share Resources For Racial Equity, Cultural Awareness, and Inclusion for All

Our New Diversity Column Debuted Last Month

LWV ABC is serious about improving our diversity and inclusion, including through learning about anti-racism. Besides our book and film clubs, we will include in this column articles about how to improve. We are looking for contributors for this column: submit your recommendations for articles, blogs, video, podcasts, etc. to: lwvabc@gmail.com Write: RECOMMENDATION in caps in the subject line.



Book and Film Discussions via Zoom – with LWV ABC *Expand your knowledge and participate in interesting discussions!*

Thank you, Pat Kennedy for organizing these activities to advance topics of diversity and inclusion.

Film club meets the first Wednesday evening of the month; and the book club meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month. Click on our website calendar for

- Information about where to obtain the book or film and
- The Zoom link

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>

- **Weds, March 3 – The film, *Malcolm X* (1992 version)**
Spike Lee's biographical epic of the controversial and influential Black Nationalist leader, from his early life and career as a small-time gangster, to his ministry as a member of the Nation of

Islam. The film, starring Denzel Washington, is based on the book "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" by Malcolm X and Alex Haley.

- **Weds, March 17 – The book, *American Like Me, Reflections on Life Between Cultures*, by America Ferrera**

From award-winning actress and political activist America Ferrera comes a vibrant and varied collection of first-person accounts from prominent figures about the experience of growing up between cultures.

- **Weds, April 7 – The film, *I am Not Your Negro***

A 2016 documentary film directed by Raoul Peck, based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript *Remember This House*. Narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, the film explores the history of racism in the United States through Baldwin's reminiscences of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as his personal observations of American history.

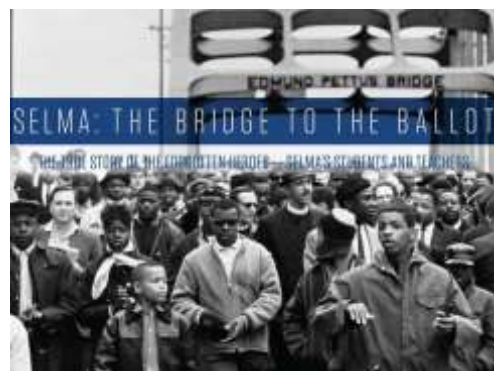
- **Weds, April 21 – The book, *Sisters in Hate : American Women on the Front Lines of White Nationalism (2020)*, by Seyward Darby**

Seyward Darby researched dozens of women across the country before settling on three -- Corinna Olsen, Ayla Stewart, and Lana Lokteff. Each was born in 1979, and became a white nationalist in the post-9/11 era. Their respective stories of radicalization upend much of what we assume about women, politics, and political extremism.

Time is 6:15 pm Socializing, 6:30 Discussion for all book and film discussions!

Additional Anti-Racism Resources for watching, reading and listening:

March marks the 56th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. Some resources to supplement our February Film Club selection of *Selma* (2014):
[Selma - The Bridge to the Ballot](#) - 43 minute documentary
[The Selma Voting Rights Struggle: 15 Key Points from Bottom-Up History](#) - article
[Why Diane Nash is Selma's Best Supporting Role](#) – article





Podcasts are a great way to discover a variety of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) voices and viewpoints. The links below are for online listening. Podcasts may also be listened to or downloaded to a smartphone using a podcast app such as Apple Podcast, Google Podcast or Spotify. If you enjoy the recommended episode, all the podcasts have additional episodes available.

Asian Enough Podcast

Jen Yamato and Frank Shyong interview fellow Asian-Americans centered around the questions, "Am I Asian enough? Am I American enough?"

[A Conversation with Director Jon M. Chu](#) - 2020

Code Switch Podcast

Shereen Marisol Meraji and Gene Demby welcome guests to explore how issues of race and identity manifest in every corner of American culture, from music to poetry to sports.

[Who's Black Enough for Reparations](#) – Feb 2021

Coffee with My Ma Podcast

Canadian actress Kaniehtiio Horn records the stories of her mother Kahn-Tineta Horn, a 1960's model and lifelong Mohawk rights activist - "inspiring, funny, emotional".

[Episode 1 - Ma Takes On The Toronto Telegram](#)

MPR News with Angela Davis Podcast

Conversations about life in Minnesota and how the state is changing.

[Renewed conversations about racial justice](#) – January 18, 2021

Tamarindo Podcast

Hosts Ana Sheila Victorino and Brenda Gonzalez bring a Latinx perspective to current events and culture.

[Reflecting on the term BIPOC, Race, and Identity](#) – November 2020

Yo, is this Racist? Podcast

Actress and musician Tawny Newsome, writer Andrew Ti, both professional comedians, and a weekly guest provide funny-yet-thoughtful responses to voicemails from people wondering whether a given situation is racist. (*Note: Discussion on the nuances of racism are very informative but this podcast may not be for you if you find swearing offensive.*)

[Anti-Mitten Twitter with Joey Clift](#) – January 2021

The Connexus Election – March 1 Deadline for Action

Many LWV ABC members are also members of Connexus Energy cooperative. If you are in this group, you probably know that the time for election for Board of Directors is coming up. Two LWV ABC members, Kathy Tinglestad and Dee Ann Christensen, are working to bring more transparency to the process of coop elections and decision making. To this end, they have a petition that needs signatures from 200 households in the Connexus service area by March 1. If you'd like to learn more about this, contact Dee Ann at Cdeesend@gmail.com, 408-223-5123.

Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, Feb. 22, 2021

The Board meeting today discussed issues around the Annual Meeting, which comes up in April. We went over what we need to do before the Meeting, what topics we need to cover at the Meeting, and how we feel committee reports should be presented at the Meeting.

The other main topic of discussion was planning our membership programs for the next few months. We may want to join with outstate Leagues on our Indigenous women program. Also, we talked about having an outdoor meeting in June in connection with that topic. We also brought up the idea of looking at an issue from two perspectives, i.e, the Voter ID issue from both the liberal and the conservative viewpoint for one of our meetings.

Arlene Gillett, Secretary

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues is an umbrella organization of local Leagues across the Metro area. CMAL provides education and advocacy for LWV on Metro-wide issues. As a member of LWV ABC, you are also a member of CMAL. Here's a link to the most recent CMAL newsletter – very interesting!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18_1v_aRxEPthWAa9X4jN4qF8t46YXp8I/view?usp=sharing

LWV Minnesota Convention 2011

The LWVMN Board is pleased to announce that the 2021 Convention is being planned as a virtual convention and will be held the weekend of June 11-13. It is hoped that the virtual format will allow for broader participation and give the potential for a slate of great speakers. We will be recruiting a Convention Task Force so please contact LWV MN Executive Director Michelle Witte or LWV MN President Laura Helmer if you are interested in serving. LWV ABC members can also email us at lwwabc@gmail.com and we'll help get you connected.

LWV ABC Calendar – many ways to get and stay involved

The LWV ABC calendar includes a wide variety of events - check it on the LWV ABC website at <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>.

Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?

Four ways to stay in touch with LWV ABC

Visit our public website: www.lwvabcmn.org. If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com. We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

We're on Facebook: Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook".

Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*: Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, www.lwvabcmn.org.