



***League of Women Voters Oakland Area, Michigan
December 2025 Newsletter***

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2025! Always lots to do with LWVOA. Hope you may join these worthwhile activities and events.

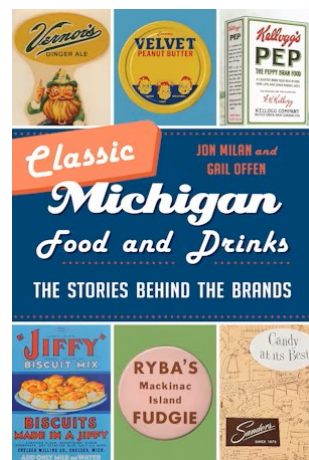
***Please join LWVOA for our December
in-person event and holiday celebration:***

***Classic Michigan Food
with authors, Gail Offen &
Jon Milan***

Date: Monday, December 8th

Time: 1:00 p.m.

***Location: Bloomfield Township Public Library,
1099 Lone Pine Rd, Bloomfield Township***



Join authors Gail Offen and Jon Milan as they reveal secrets and surprises from their latest book, *"Classic Michigan Food and Drinks: The Stories Behind The Brands"* (History Press, 2024). It's full of amazing history, stories, and photos about the Michigan food and drink brands we know and love. If you're a fan of brands like Sanders, Faygo, Vernors, Guernsey, and Jiffy—or have fond memories of brands like Awrey's and Twin Pines—you'll eat up this show!

Please join us for this interesting and informative program. Space for this program is limited, so RSVP to LWVOAMi@gmail.com to reserve your spot

LWVOA will be collecting non-perishable food and other items for a local food pantry during this event - see below for details.





To give back this season, LWVOA will be conducting a canned/boxed/non-perishable food drive during this event. Please consider providing non-perishable goods to our neighbors in need.



Items that are often requested include:

- Shelf-stable food essentials:
 - Proteins: Peanut butter, canned chicken, canned fish, and canned beans
 - Grains: Pasta, rice, cereal, instant oatmeal
 - Other canned goods: Fruits (packed in juice), vegetables, and soups/stews
 - Cooking oil, flour, sugar, pasta sauce
- Other needed items:
 - Personal hygiene items: Soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products
 - Household supplies: Laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, dishwashing soap

All items will be donated to the Berkley Cares Food Pantry.
Thank you for any donations you can provide!

(1) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Wednesday, December 3rd at 5p via Zoom

This group plans and facilitates activities for members and the public. In-person programs are already scheduled for December, January, February, March, and May. Suggestions for additional presentations and activities for 2026 are welcome.

Contact Geri Rinschler at [**LWVOAMi@gmail.com**](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.



**(2) LWVOA Observer Corps meeting:
Thursday, December 4th at 2p at BTPL**

With local school boards the targets of controversy, members are encouraged to watch, in-person or via Zoom, monthly meetings of one of the 28 Oakland County School Districts. Additional volunteers are welcome and needed.

Issues arising in school district meetings will be discussed at quarterly (every three months) group meetings. Possible actions by LWVOA

members may include drafting questions for the Candidate Forums, Action Alerts to legislators, etc.

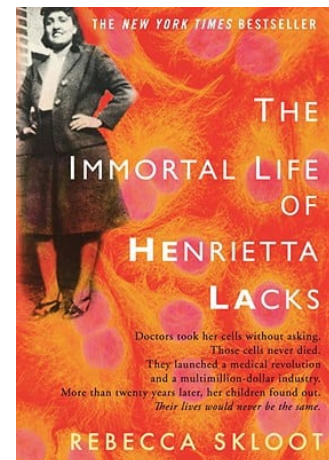
Please see the LWVUS "Guide to Observing Your Government" by clicking [here](#).

Contact Linda Fiscus at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

**(3) LWVOA Book Club meeting: Thursday,
December 4th at 7p at BTPL**

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
by Rebecca Skloot**

Henrietta Lacks was an African-American woman who died of cervical cancer in 1951, but whose cancer cells were taken without her consent and became the first "immortal" human cell line, known as HeLa. The HeLa cells were used for a vast range of scientific research, from developing the polio vaccine to understanding cancer and genetics, but her family was unaware of this for decades and did not benefit financially. Her story, the story of her family's experience, and the ethical issues of race and class in medicine are documented in this book.



Contact Tera Moon at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

**(4) LWVUS Eliminate the Electoral College work
group: Friday, December 19th at 1p via Zoom**

Monthly presentations provide information about the



necessity of abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment, which is now one of the League's top priorities. Speakers have provided in-depth analysis of current issues with the Electoral College and the history of facilitating change. Recordings of past presentations are available for viewing.

December's meeting will be an update on events happening around the country.

Contact Maria Woloson
at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

***(5) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday,
December 22nd at 5p via Zoom***

LWVOA's board manages and facilitates the business and activities of our local league. All members are welcome to attend.

Contact Maria
Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more
info.



***(6) LWVOA MAR/COM (Marketing &
Communication) work group: Tuesday,
December 23rd at 10a at BTPL***

Mar/Com provides information to local media sources about LWVOA events, including candidate forums, in-person presentations, community engagement opportunities, and others.

This group promotes LWVOA through social media and other communication-distribution avenues.

Click [here](#) to follow our new Facebook page (League of Women Voters / Oakland Area).

Contact Leslie Fleming at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(7) LWVOA and New Citizen Voter Registration

With the government shutdown over, New Citizen ceremonies and Voter Registration at the US Federal Courthouse in Detroit have resumed.

Contact Maureen Christensen
at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.





Save the Dates:

1) *Wednesday, January 14th at 1p at BTPL: WSU Political Science, Prof. Kevin Deegan-Krause - focus on political parties and democracy in the global environment*

2) *Saturday, January 31st at 10a at the home of members, Christine and Mike Allen: Meeting for LWVOA members only, for LWV Program Planning and Review of Positions*

3) *Tuesday, February 10th at 1p at BTPL: Black History Month with LWV member, Charles Thomas*

4) *Thursday, March 19th at 1p at BTPL: Women's History Month with LWV member Carrie Moon-Dupree*

5) *Wednesday, May 13th, 10a-2p: LWVOA Annual Meeting and Luncheon with speaker Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice, Marilyn Kelly*

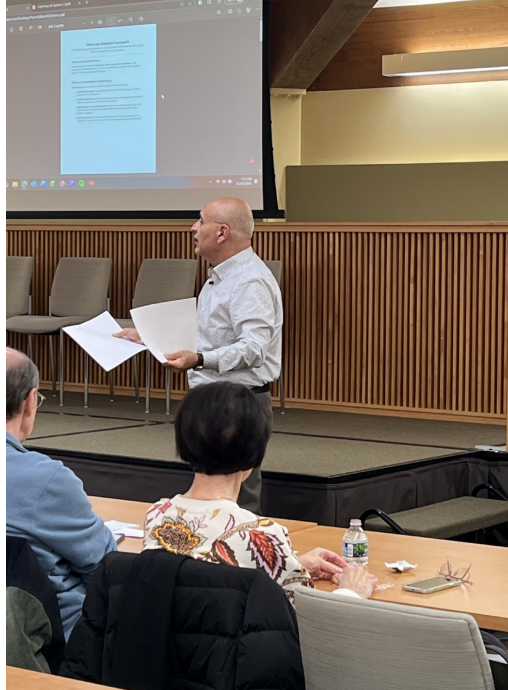
November 2025 highlights:

Artificial Intelligence specialist Gus Mondalek's presentation was informative, engaging, and eye-opening. It afforded a look into the future of real vs fake news.

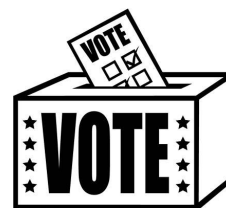
To view documents from Mr. Mondalek's presentation, please click the following:

- How to Research the News, click [here](#).
- Examples of HtRTN, click [here](#).
- Worksheet for HtRTN, click [here](#).

See the LWVOA website for a YouTube copy to view the recording, or click this [link](#).



Oakland County Board of Canvassers successfully completed the November election process. LWVOA members were present to observe the final certification.



"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

Maria Woloson
President, League of Women Voters, Oakland Area, Michigan

For more information, please visit our website at lwvoa.org.

League of Women Voters Oakland Area | PO Box 930038 | Wixom, MI 48393 US

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