

# the VOTER

JANUARY 2020  
Volume 51, Issue 8



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## Co-Presidents' Messages

As I write this, I am on the verge of retirement from NMSU after 39.5 years and am looking forward to the opportunity to devote more time to the League, including the celebration of our 100th birthday and the passage of the 19th Amendment.



Kathy Brook

Best wishes to all in the New Year!

—Kathy, Co-President

### Happy New Year Members!

2020 will be an important year for many reasons, with celebrations, elections, the census, space flights, leap year day, and more. Keeping the League's mission in mind (Engaging Voters and Defending Democracy) can help us in making decisions about where to put our energies, advocacy, and actions.



Eileen VanWie

Now is a good time to think about personal goals for the League and yourself. One of my goals is to continue learning and facilitating learning about women's rights, voter rights, and equality issues. (Women's rights are human rights.)

You will not want to miss the two aspects of our January program on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:00 pm. The speakers on immigration are Stephanie A. Gonzalez and Yaha Aguilera. Both are excellent speakers.

The second part of the program is to review the

—continued p. 2

## League Meeting on Jan. 13

The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico will meet Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, in the Good Samaritan Social Center at 3011 Buena Vida Circle. At this meeting we will discuss the results of the August 2019 League survey that contained many of your responses. We want to discuss a few of the topics to determine any course of action or follow-up by our League.

The dinner program will begin with two guest speakers who work intensively on one of the most urgent and difficult problems in our region — how to help immigrant children and families. Stephanie Gonzalez and Yaha Aguilera coordinate the efforts of Save the Children and Border Servant Corps in our area.

**Stephanie A. Gonzalez** is the Las Cruces Children's Coordinator for *Save the Children* with Border Servant Corps. In addition, she serves as the Director of Community Engagement with Border Servant Corps. She is born and raised in Las Cruces and is a New Mexico State University alumna. She is currently working on her master's degree in Clinical Social Work at The Catholic University of America. Stephanie has been working with refugee families since January of 2019 with Project Oak Tree and at the Las Cruces Asylum Shelter with Save the Children. She enjoys working with children and is passionate about helping others.



— continued p.2

## Co-Presidents' Messages (cont.)

League survey information received last fall from our members. It was sent out to everyone on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We'll get it resent so you may review it before the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Information has been previously sent about several events celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters and of women's suffrage in 2020. Our League meeting on Saturday, February 15, 10:00-2:00 at Good Sam is our program planning meeting. The League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward.

The LWV US defines League principles and program. "The principles are concepts of government supported by the League and are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program. . . The program shall consist of action to implement the principles and those governmental issues chosen by the convention for concerted study or concurrence and action." The LWV US Board asks us to share information on how our work will impact the *Campaign for Making Democracy Work*, with a focus on redistricting, voting rights, improving elections, and campaign finance/money in politics. Please mark your calendar for joining us on this day: Saturday, February 15, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

The holidays are a time of many emotions - joy, sadness, anxiety, love, and more. Please take time to care for yourself and take time to spend with family and/or friends you enjoy.

—With warm regards,  
Eileen VanWie, Co-President

## League Dinner Meeting (cont.)

**Yaha Aguilera** was the Site Director at Las Cruces Asylum Shelter (the old Armory) and currently serves as the Senior Coordinator U.S.-Border Response for *Save the Children*, working alongside Border Servant Corps. Yaha has a double major in graphic design and advertising from The University of Texas at El Paso. She has always had a passion for social work and using her degree as a voice and platform for those whose voice can't be heard.



As always, feel free to host a guest at the meeting. If you plan to eat, Let Cindy Murrell know with your RSVP.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY 2020

- Jan. 8: Coffee & Action Club**, 9:30-11:00 am, NMSU Barnes & Nobel, Univ. Ave.
- Jan. 9: LWVSNM Board Meeting**, 11:30am-2pm, Branigan Library Board Room (**new time**)
- Jan. 9: Immigration Committee**, 2-3pm, Branigan Library Board Room
- ♦ **Jan. 13: LWVSNM Dinner Meeting**, 5-7:00 pm, Good Samaritan: Stephanie Gonzalez and Yaha Aguilera to speak on immigration; **email your dinner RSVP** to Cindy Murrell [cmurrell@nmsu.edu](mailto:cmurrell@nmsu.edu)

### FEBRUARY 2020

- Feb. 5 – Reception for National LWV CEO Virginia Kase**, 5:30 pm, Rio Chama Steakhouse, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe (p. 4)
- Feb. 6 – League Day at the Roundhouse**, Santa Fe, State Capitol Bldg., 2 pm (p. 5)
- Feb. 8 – League Valentines High Tea**, 2:30 pm, Bite of Belgium, RSVP by Feb. 1-send check to our mailing address; Wear costumes!
- Feb. 15 – LWVSNM Annual Planning Mtg**, 10am-2 pm, Good Samaritan Social Center
- Feb. 22 – Suffrage Celebration & Walk**, 10am, Plaza de Las Cruces; Wear costumes!

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:**

**Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – Co-Presidents**  
**Cindy Murrell – Vice President, Events & Speakers**  
**Cindy Murrell & Mary Ellen Keibel - Interim Secretary**  
**Erika Graf-Webster – Youth Engagement Director**  
**Bob Burn – Treasurer**  
**Kim Sorensen – Member-At-Large**  
**Vicki Simons & Dale Yeo – Voter Services Directors**  
**Maryellen Keibel and Laura Harper – Membership Directors**  
**Jo Galván Nash – Public Relations Director**

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Three of Doña Ana County’s legislators attended the recent LWVSNM dinner, providing their perspectives of what to expect at the upcoming Legislative session. Senators Joseph Cervantes and Bill Soules, both Democrats, and Rep. Willie Madrid (D), attended, while Rep. Angelica Rubio (D) also sent an email regarding her priorities, including the end to privatization of prisons.

In addition to their priorities, the lawmakers shared their thoughts on the League’s priority list (see below), which is very much in line with what they also endorse.

One topic that did not have complete consensus among the legislators was whether additional revenue from the state’s permanent fund should be directed to early childhood education. All three acknowledged their support to educational funding, but whether the permanent fund should be the funding source is up for debate. They remarked that in the last session millions of additional funds were earmarked for public education.

Another topic that may come up in the session is whether to pay our legislators a salary. The 2020 session will be Jan. 21-Feb. 20 and the items of focus come from the Governor’s “call” and will be budgetary in nature. Follow legislation and committee meetings at <https://nmlegis.gov/>.



Photo: Alex Burr

*Top: Rep. Willie Luna addresses League members about potential Legislative issues. Right: Also in attendance were Sen. Bill Soules (standing) and Sen. Joseph Cervantes.*



**League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico  
Priorities for the 2020 New Mexico Legislative Session**

**Redistricting – Reform New Mexico’s Redistricting Process.** The League of Women Voters in New Mexico is approaching New Mexico policy makers with a proposal to initiate a discussion about how we can make the 2021 redistricting process fairer and more transparent. We support an independent redistricting commission but are open to supporting other models.

**Accessing the Permanent Fund for Early Childhood Education.** The League feels that there are adequate funds in the permanent fund to provide funding for a vital part of our education system. We must improve educational outcomes in the state and establishing this badly needed program would make great progress toward this goal.

**Solar Tax Credit.** New Mexico’s solar tax credit expired in 2016. During the 2019 legislative session the League supported SB18, the New Solar Market Development Tax Credit, which would support an income tax credit for 10% of the solar installation costs at a home or business with a maximum annual allowance of \$5 million for the program. We advocate this be reintroduced and passed.

**Reproductive Rights – Making a woman’s right to choose New Mexico law.**

**Tax Reform & Funding – Making Our Tax System Fairer and Generating Revenue.** We expect the House will attempt to restore the parts of last year’s HB6 that was removed last year by Senate Finance Committee and we advocate that the Senate support the proposed changes. This will restore much needed additional revenue.

## The 100-Year Minute

These 100-Year Minute snippets of history were written by State League Member Susan Haase and give historical perspectives of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Look for these in *The Voter* newsletter each month.



100 years ago, women's suffrage – the right to vote in an election – became a reality with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. The women who campaigned for this right to vote were called “Suffragists.”

One of their earliest efforts was a Declaration written in 1848 by Elizabeth Cady Stanton which sounds pretty familiar at the very beginning: *We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal...*”

The difference is that “women” has been added. It concludes with the demand that women have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States.

Newspapers and journals at the time called this idea “ridiculous,” but suffragists’ meetings began being held in state after state to continue the discussion. With time, what was once called “ridiculous” became the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.

## UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS FROM LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEW MEXICO

[More info on state website [www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org) or LWV LaPalabra]

### Wednesday, February 5, 5:30-7:30 pm

LWVNM Legislative Reception  
Rio Chama Restaurant, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail  
(two doors north of the Roundhouse)

#### Honored Guest:

Virginia Kase, CEO, League of Women Voters of the United States  
Network with fellow members, legislators, and some invited guests!  
Packets of materials for League Day will be available at the Reception February 5 and at the LWVNM table in the West Hall of History at the NM Capitol after 8 am on February 6.

Members may wish to attend committee hearings before proceeding to the House or Senate floor sessions. Special legislative memorials celebrating the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Suffrage Centennial will be presented in both the House and Senate. Some of our League leaders will be seated behind the rostrum in the Senate.

#### Accommodations:

The Desert Inn is the most convenient, most affordable place to stay since it is on the same block as the State Capitol and the Rio Chama Restaurant. The hotel is offering a special rate of \$59 plus tax per room for one or two people. Parts of the hotel are still under renovation, but the rooms we have blocked have been completely renovated. You can request double queens or a king-sized bed. If we fill 10 rooms, the hotel will waive the \$8 parking fee. Non-guests pay \$10 a day.

**Mention League of Women Voters to take advantage of this rate.**

Call 505 982-1851 to make a reservation. They will hold your room with a credit card number.

**Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the  
League of Women Voters  
and  
Women's Suffrage  
New Mexico State Capitol  
Thursday, February 6, 2020**

*Sponsored by*  
**League of Women Voters of New Mexico  
Empowering Voters - Defending Democracy**

**Public Program:  
1- 2 pm in the Rotunda**

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, elected officials, and representatives from various of our partner organizations  
Enjoy NM's suffrage flag cake and entertainment

**Legislative Committee Hearings**  
8 am -10:30 am

**Exhibit Tables:  
West Hall of History, 8 am-3 pm**  
Special legislative memorials in House and Senate late morning

**Program, Entertainment and Refreshments**  
12:30-2pm  
State House Rotunda

*For more information, contact Meredith Machen,  
[projects@lwvnm.org](mailto:projects@lwvnm.org), 505 577-6337  
[www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org)*

**Volunteers Needed for  
Observer Corps**

The League continues to seek a volunteer who could spend a short amount of time each month coordinating the Observer Corps and/or someone who would attend City Council meetings and write a report once a month for The Voter.

**Please contact Eileen VanWie ([vanwieek@yahoo.com](mailto:vanwieek@yahoo.com)) or Vicki Simons ([vrsimons@comcast.net](mailto:vrsimons@comcast.net)).** If you are unable to attend the meetings in person (which is preferable so that our faces and organization are visible) you can watch meetings on your schedule by watching the taped meetings online.

*Giving Thanks To*

- **SUSAN SCHMUGGE** has coordinated the important Observer Corps group for the League! She is moving out of New Mexico and will be missed.
- **KATHY BROOK** has provided nearly 40 years of educational service to NMSU and its students. She is retiring but remains as our Co-President.

If you'd like to recognize or thank someone who has done something that supports our organization, please email the information (photos, too) to Jo Galván Nash at [jogalvan.nash@gmail.com](mailto:jogalvan.nash@gmail.com).





## OBSERVER REPORTS

### Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority (MVPHA) • Regular Meeting

Nov. 19 and Dec. 17, 2019

Observer: Beth Bardwell

*Three members present; No members absent.*

**MVPHA unanimously amends the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan Standards regarding the number of bedrooms and amount of subsidy for families of different sizes and compositions.** Resolution No. 2019-16.

Federal regulations require PHAs to provide a subsidy for the smallest number of bedrooms to house a family without overcrowding. The amended change to the current administrative plan will now permit a family of two, consisting of a single parent and child under five years of age, to live in a two-bedroom apartment instead of a one-bedroom apartment. This change reverses the standards that had been in place for 18 months requiring a single parent and child to rent a one-bedroom house. The decision was based on the MVPHA funding levels and lack of availability of one-bedroom rentals.

**MVPHA unanimously amends the Section 8 New Construction Tenant Selection Plan (aka admissions policy) for Jardines Verdes (40 multifamily units) to require leases to describe specific protections for domestic abuse survivors in compliance with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).** Resolution No. 2019-17.

VAWA provides that PHAs cannot evict or deny housing voucher assistance to a victim of domestic abuse for criminal activity related to domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, unless it can show an “actual and imminent threat” to other tenants or staff if assistance is not terminated. VAWA means that a housing authority cannot refuse to rent to you just because you are or were a victim of abuse. VAWA means that you cannot be evicted from public housing just because of your abuser or your abuser’s actions. If you and your abuser live together, the housing authority can evict your abuser for his or her acts of abuse, but you must be allowed to stay.

**MVPHA unanimously amends procurement policy to comply with new federal regulations governing procurement or purchase of goods and services.** Resolution 2019-19.

In general, the federal regulations substantially increased the monetary thresholds for petty cash purchases (up to \$2000), small purchases (up to \$60,000), and Board approved purchases (>\$60,000).

**Obligation of 2019 Capital Funds (\$558,686) on hold pending portfolio analysis of whether to reposition MVPHA’s four public housing developments (294 units).**

Every year PHAs are allocated capital funds to spend on modernization and/or rehabilitation of public housing development. In general, federal funding is insufficient to meet older public housing rehabilitation needs. The Department of Housing and Urban Development is encouraging PHAs to determine if “repositioning” their public housing units could better meet their affordable housing needs. PHAs can voluntarily choose to reposition their units through the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), voluntary conversion, disposition or demolition through Section 18 or the retention of public housing assets after a Declaration of Trust release. The analysis will be discussed at the January Board meeting.

**MVPHA seeks \$300,000 in funds from the City’s Community Development Block Grant program to upgrade Oak Street Development (22 units for Veterans with support service).**

The City of Las Cruces receives federal funding annually from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund public service agencies and infrastructure projects that serve low and moderate-income



## OBSERVER REPORTS

### **Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority (MVPHA) cont.**

city residents. MVPHA is seeking funds to upgrade the parking lot and stairways and modernization of kitchen. Grant awards will be announced in March 2020.

### **FY-2020 Housing Voucher Payment Standards will be set at 99% of fair market rents effective October 1, 2019.**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development published “fair market rents” (FMRs) for the area served by MVPHA. HUD establishes FMRs to determine payment standards or rent ceilings for HUD-funded programs that provide housing assistance. FMRs must be high enough to permit a selection of units and neighborhoods and low enough to maximize the number of low-income families that can be served. A concurrent annual analysis calculates how different payment standards will satisfy the requirement that families pay 30% or less of their gross income on rent. The selected payment standard of 99% of FRMs is a minimal increase from last year’s payment standard.

MVPHA delivers 36 turkeys to elderly and disabled tenants in Jardines Alegre and San Pedro public housing developments for Thanksgiving.

MVPHA will distribute up to 211 Coats for Kids in December and January.

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### **Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) • Regular Meeting**

Dec. 10, 2019, Doña Ana County Govt. Complex

Observer: Jo Galván Nash

*All five members were present, as was Manager Fernando Macias.*

### **Resolution Requesting Repeal of State Taxation on Social Security for Seniors**

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) unanimously approved a Resolution that asks the Governor and legislators to repeal the state’s taxation on social security for senior citizens. The Resolution was brought forth by Commission Chairman Lynn Ellins and is similar to the Resolution that was recently approved by the City Council in November.

Ellins said only 13 states (including NM) tax social security for citizens who are 65 or older. He said NM also has the second highest taxation on seniors in the nation. The Resolution asks for exemption for seniors earning up to \$18,000 or up to \$30,000 for married couples.

“This tax undermines the Social Security Program,” Ellins said. The original purpose of social security “was to lift seniors out of poverty.”

The Resolution also states that the tax impact to individual New Mexicans is an average of \$700 per year. Ellins said that social security is the sole source for one in three seniors. Essentially, it is double taxation since the elderly taxpayers already paid state and federal taxes on their income, he said.

The Resolution also cites that an estimate of 17.5% of the state’s population — 120,000 people — are 65 or older; 12.2% of them are living in poverty — the third highest in the U.S.

Ellins quoted a Kiplinger report that showed of the 13 states that tax social security, New Mexico is “the least friendly tax state for seniors.” If repealed, seniors would have more money to put right back into the community, making the repeal a benefit to the state’s economy, he added.

The BOCC hopes the legislation would be presented and approved during the upcoming legislative session.

# Treasurer's Report

Reported by Bob Burn, Treasurer

## NOVEMBER 2019

Date	Description	Deposit/Credit	Payment/Debit	Balance
	Citizen's Bank Balance			\$ 8,105.76
	Outstanding Payments/Debts Previous Months		\$ 2,690.50	
1-Nov	Ck 1003 Consumer Cellular		\$ 19.49	\$ (19.49)
1-Nov	Ck 1004 Kathy Brook		\$ 310.00	\$ (310.00)
1-Nov	Check 105 WE ARE IT (training)		\$ 150.00	\$ (150.00)
7-Nov	Ck 1007 Maryellen Kebbel Directory Mail		\$ 75.03	\$ (75.03)
7-Nov	Eileen Van Wie Donation	\$ 192.51		\$ 192.51
7-Nov	Eileen Van Wie Liability Insurance		\$ 192.51	\$ (192.51)
7-Nov	Eileen Van Wie Donation	\$ 185.00		\$ 185.00
7-Nov	LWVSNM Board Workshop 8/13/2019		\$ 185.00	\$ (185.00)
7-Nov	Ck 1008 Las Cruces Bulletin Voter's Guide		\$ 2,200.54	\$ (2,200.54)
7-Nov	Ck 1009 ABC Printing 2019-2020 Directory		\$ 292.44	\$ (292.44)
7-Nov	Ck 1010 LWVNM Member Fees		\$ 1,189.50	\$ (1,189.50)
12-Nov	LWV Monthly Dinner Payments	\$ 360.00		\$ 360.00
12-Nov	Contribution Laura Harper	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
12-Nov	Ck 1012 Consumer Cellular		\$ 19.49	\$ (19.49)
17-Nov	Ck 1013 Zia Promotional Products		\$ 305.00	\$ (305.00)
17-Nov	Ck 1014 Zia Promotional Products		\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)
				\$ -
				\$ -
<b>Citizens's Bank Balance (Actual)</b>		\$ 762.51	\$ 5,289.00	\$ 3,579.27
<b>Not Cleared Payments/Checks</b>			\$ 750.00	\$ 2,829.27
<b>Outstanding Payments/Debits</b>			\$ 2,690.50	
<b>Account Balance after Debit Payment</b>				\$ 888.77



## Candidate Books for LWVSNM Book Club – January 2020

Status	Book
<b>Books Selected for Future Meetings</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>
<b>January 23</b>	<p><b>GIVE PEOPLE MONEY: How a Universal Basic Income Would End Poverty, Revolutionize Work, and Remake the World</b>, by Annie Lowrey.</p> <p>A brilliantly reported, global look at universal basic income—a stipend given to every citizen—and why it might be the answer for our age of rising inequality, persistent poverty, and dazzling technology. The UBI movement calls into question our deepest intuitions about what we owe each other. Yet as Lowrey persuasively shows, a UBI—giving people money—is not just a solution to our problems, but a better foundation for our society in this age of marvels.</p>
<b>Candidate Books for Future Selection</b>	
<i>Date in left column is the date on which the book was added to this list</i>	
<b>6-26-19</b>	<p><b>A Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism</b> by Adam Gopnik</p> <p>Not since the early twentieth century has liberalism, been under such relentless attack, from both right and left. The crisis of democracy in our era has produced a crisis of faith in liberal institutions and, even worse, in liberal thought. <i>A Thousand Small Sanities</i> is a manifesto rooted in the lives of people who invented and extended the liberal tradition. Gopnik argues that liberalism is not a form of centrism, nor simply another word for free markets, nor merely a term denoting a set of rights. It is something far more ambitious: the search for radical change by humane measures.</p>
<b>6-26-19</b>	<p><b>The Conservative Sensibility</b> by George Will</p> <p>From the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, an "astonishing" and "enthraling" (<i>Booklist</i>) new examination of how the Founders' belief in natural rights created a great American political tradition. The Founders' vision, articulated first in the Declaration of Independence and carried out in the Constitution, gave the new republic a framework for government unique in world history. Their beliefs in natural rights, limited government, religious freedom, and in human virtue and dignity ushered in two centuries of American prosperity. Now, as Will shows, conservatism is under threat—both from progressives and elements inside the Republican Party.</p>
<b>9-14-19</b>	<p><b>Deep Medicine: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Healthcare Human Again</b> By Eric Topol</p> <p><b>One of America's top doctors reveals how AI will empower physicians and revolutionize patient care.</b> Medicine has become inhuman, to disastrous effect. The doctor-patient relationship—the heart of medicine—is broken: doctors are too distracted and overwhelmed to truly connect with their patients, and medical errors and misdiagnoses abound. In <i>Deep Medicine</i>, leading physician Eric Topol reveals how artificial intelligence can help. AI has the potential to transform everything doctors do, from notetaking and medical scans to diagnosis and treatment, greatly cutting down the cost of medicine and reducing human mortality.</p>
<b>9-14-19</b>	<p><b>Quichotte: A Novel</b> by Salman Rushdie</p> <p>A dazzling <i>Don Quixote</i> for the modern age—an epic tour de force that is as much an homage to an immortal work of literature as it is to the quest for love and family. Inspired by the Cervantes classic, Sam DuChamp, mediocre writer of spy thrillers, creates Quichotte, a courtly, addled salesman obsessed with television who falls in impossible love with a TV star. Just as Cervantes wrote <i>Don Quixote</i> to satirize the culture of his time, Rushdie takes the reader on a wild ride through a country on the verge of moral and spiritual collapse.</p>
<b>9-14-19</b>	<p><b>She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement</b> by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey</p> <p>From the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters who broke the news of Harvey Weinstein's sexual harassment and abuse for the <i>New York Times</i>, Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, the thrilling untold story of their investigation and its consequences for the #MeToo movement. For many years, reporters had tried to get to the truth about Harvey Weinstein's treatment of women. During months of confidential interviews with top actresses, former Weinstein employees, and other sources, many disturbing and long-buried allegations were unearthed, and a web of onerous secret payouts and nondisclosure agreements was revealed.</p>

Status	Book
9-14-19	<p><b>The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir</b> by Samantha Power  Pulitzer Prize winner Samantha Power, widely known as a relentless advocate for promoting human rights, has been heralded by President Barack Obama as one of America's "foremost thinkers on foreign policy." In her memoir, Power offers an urgent response to the question "What can one person do?"—and a call for a clearer eye, a kinder heart, and a more open and civil hand in our politics and daily lives. Humorous and deeply honest, <i>The Education of an Idealist</i> lays bare the searing battles and defining moments of her life and shows how she juggled the demands of a 24/7 national security job with the challenge of raising two young children. Along the way, she illuminates the intricacies of politics and geopolitics, reminding us how the United States can lead in the world, and why we each have the opportunity to advance the cause of human dignity.</p>
9-26-19	<p><b>Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption</b> by Bryan Stevenson  Just Mercy is not brand new (2014) but is a clarion call to fix our still broken system of justice. It is a NY Times best seller and an inspiration to thousands of people. The book has won awards and accolades and its reviews are a rarity in that thousands have given it five stars. Although academic discussion is there, the book is strongest when telling the tragic stories of prisoners suffering systemic abuse. While the book is a bit hard to read, there are many (relatively) happy endings.</p>
10-27-19	<p><b>The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution</b> by Eric Foner  From the Pulitzer Prize–winning scholar, a timely history of the constitutional changes that built equality into the nation's foundation and how those guarantees have been shaken over time. The Declaration of Independence announced equality as an American ideal, but it took the Civil War and the subsequent adoption of three constitutional amendments to establish that ideal as American law. The Reconstruction amendments abolished slavery, guaranteed all persons due process and equal protection of the law, and equipped black men with the right to vote.</p>
10-27-19	<p><b>Waste (Resources)</b> by Kate O'Neill  Waste is one of the planet's last great resource frontiers. In this unique book, Kate O'Neill traces the emergence of the global political economy of wastes over the past two decades. She explains how the emergence of waste governance initiatives and mechanisms can help us deal with both the risks and the opportunities associated with the hundreds of millions – possibly billions – of tons of waste we generate each year.</p>
10-27-19	<p><b>Permanent Record (Paperback)</b> by Edward Snowden  Edward Snowden reveals for the first time the story of his life. He shocked the world when he broke with the American intelligence establishment and revealed that the United States government was secretly pursuing the means to collect every single phone call, text message, and email. The result would be an unprecedented system of mass surveillance with the ability to pry into the private lives of every person on earth. Six years later, Snowden reveals for the very first time how he helped to build this system and why he was moved to expose it.</p>
10-27-19	<p><b>Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth</b> by Rachel Maddow  Big Oil and Gas versus democracy - winner take all. With her trademark black humor, Maddow takes us on a switchback journey around the globe, revealing the greed and incompetence of Big Oil and Gas along the way, and drawing a surprising conclusion about how and why the Russian government hacked the 2016 US election. She deftly shows how Russia's rich reserves of crude have, paradoxically, stunted its growth, forcing Putin to maintain his power by spreading Russia's rot into its rivals, its neighbors, the West's most important alliances, and the United States.</p>

