



**ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY 9 - 5:30 PM**

@ St. Andrew's



**GENERAL MTG. "FAKE NEWS"**

**APRIL 11 - 6 PM**  
Downtown Public Library

# VOTER

## Long Before There Was 'Fake News,' There Were 'Fake Photos'

From NPR's "goats and soda" February 5, 2017 at 7 PM ET

STORIES OF LIFE IN A CHANGING WORLD. edited by Pam Behring



*Orientalist Study*, 1858. The two men are in fact white Europeans, posing in a London studio. Roger Fenton (English, 1819–1869)/Featured at the Clark Art Institute

On display at the "Photography and Discovery" exhibit at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass., is a photo of two men dressed in traditional Arab garb in a carpeted room (above). They're smoking a pipe. It's a beautiful photo, but it's not from the Middle East. It was shot in a studio in London by photographer Roger Fenton. The men in the photo are white Europeans, dressed up and posing as Arabs.

The whole thing is staged — as are several of the exhibit's images. The photos were taken in the 19th and early 20th centuries, roughly the first 75 years of photography. This was also a time of rising European colonial power. European empires needed justification for subjugating vast swaths of earth, and photography could frame the Arab and Asian world in a way that supported the empire,

says Ali Behdad, a professor of literature at UCLA and author of *Camera Orientalis: Reflections on Photography of the Middle East*.



*The Pyramids of El-Geezeh from the South West, from Egypt, Sinai and Jerusalem: A Series of Twenty Photographic Views, c. 1860.*  
Francis Frith/Featured in Clark Art Institute

Take the photo of the pyramids at Giza, shot by prominent 19th-century photographer Francis Frith. The pyramids are in the background, and the surrounding sands are desolate save for two picnickers and a pack animal. The terrain is majestic and the pyramids tall and timeless, if crumbling slightly. Like the photo of the pipe smokers, this photo was staged. The picnickers are members of Frith's photography crew, as the museum label notes. And the people of Giza — the third largest city in Egypt — are nowhere to be seen. "It's to make it seem this place is a historical ruin that needs to be fixed up by Europeans or appropriated by them," Behdad says. The British occupied Egypt 20 years after the photo was taken.

Because of the camera's eyewitness quality, people believed that what they saw was true, says Luke Gartlan, a professor of art history at the University of St. Andrews.

The museum takes care to explain the story behind the images, says Jay Clarke, the exhibit curator. Labels beside the exhibited photographs identify when white men engaged in brown face, and the photos of crowded France beside a barren Burma add to the idea that some countries were barely populated.

"The exhibition certainly does present a Eurocentric view," Clarke says. "We only recently began to collect works by non-Western artists."

The idea of using photos to make a political statement, meanwhile, continues to this day. In the Middle East, Behdad says, news and contemporary photography often depicts Arabs as "terrorists, people who oppress their women. That perpetuates the kinds of policies of exclusion that we see in Europe, Holland, France and the United States now. It's about image. It's about perception."

But in recent years, there has been more and more photographic and video documentation from people in developing countries. Video blogs from locals in besieged Aleppo flew across the world through news coverage and social media, for example. "Our history has always been written by people other than us, specifically in photo," says Sima Diab, a Syrian-born photojournalist based in Cairo. "In the last six to 10 years, however tough it's been, [news and life in the Middle East] has been documented extensively by locals."

That's a far cry from the days when two white Europeans could pose as Arabs in a London studio. But whether this new wave of photos will have the same influence as the images of the past is still an open question.

Painting in the Header from Library of Congress

“Lest We Perish from the Face of the Earth,” 1918

Joseph Pennell (1857-1926)

The League’s **Judicial Panel** of Appellate Court judges, held March 9 at University of Gonzaga School of Law, was informative and fun. And the event went smoothly as well. There was food from New Leaf Bakery and a fair number of attendees including some of our new members. Judges Kevin Krosmo, Rebcca Pennell and Laurel Siddoway were engaging and responded clearly to the questions



Pam Behring, Judges Pennell, Siddoway, & Krosmo

from the public. The Court of Appeals is different from municipal and county courts in that they rule on whether or not the law was properly administered. When one contemplates the weight of that structure, a legal process that judges it’s judgements, it is a powerful testament to the fairness of our judicial system. The possibility of a review of a judicial decision, as many of us have seen in our lives, can change the course of individual lives and history. Dred Scott, Brown vs. the Board of Education, Roe vs. Wade are a few examples. Thank you to the judges and their assistant, Renee Townsley; GU’s Law School Dean Jean Korn and secretary, Waunita Myers. And thank you, League members, for helping with the details.

**Fake News:** Our local League's April meeting is set for **Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 6 PM**, at the downtown public library. The topic of discussion is how to recognize and defend against 'fake news'. Speaking will be two professionals grappling with how to get good information in the Internet age.

Tara Neumann, Spokane Public Library Community Technology Director, will speak on the important topic of how to evaluate information you find on the Internet, and weed out 'fake news'.

Beth McGibbon, Capstone teacher at Rogers High School, will discuss how she teaches critical thinking to her students. She will bring 5-6 students with her, to share their insights.

Refreshments will be served. So will refreshing conversation. Please come!

**LWV Spokane Board of Directors: Pres., Pam Behring; Vice-Pres., Linda Milsow; Sec., Sally Phillips; Treas., Jan Carrington; MLD Director, Lin McGinn; WEB page, Mary Hughes; Voter Service, Bev Austin; Forums, Susan Gray.**

### Calendar

<b>April</b>	<b>11</b>	<p><b>General Meeting @ Downtown Public Library, 6 PM. What is "Fake News?"</b></p> <p><b>How do you recognize it? How do you combat it? Hear Raelynn Barden, events coordinator for the library. Also speaking are Tara Neumann, Community Technology Director at the Spokane Public Library and Beth McGibbon, AP Capstone Teacher at Rogers High School, who will be assisted by 5-6 students from her class.</b></p>
	<b>26</b>	<p><b>Tea Party for New Members @ 7 PM</b></p> <p><b>RSVP to Pam Behring at 768-4850 or behring@gonzaga.edu</b></p>
<b>May</b>	<b>9</b>	<p><b>Annual Meeting, 5:30 at St. Andrew's Mayor David Condon will be the speaker.</b></p>
<b>June</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<p><b>LWVA Convention @ the Best Western Executive Inn, Seattle</b></p>

According to Columbia Journalism Review, fake news is “misinformation crafted to influence public opinion or cull digital advertising dollars.” Facebook is the most popular source of news for the younger generation. Facebook new feeds and Google searches offer results based on what the user has previously been interested in, so one can quite innocently be getting an incomplete view of what's happening. There's a good internet video on this topic on Ted talks, at [https://www.ted.com/talks/eli\\_pariser\\_beware\\_online\\_filter\\_bubbles](https://www.ted.com/talks/eli_pariser_beware_online_filter_bubbles).

But, the problem of how to think critically didn't start with the Internet. People just absorb more readily information that supports their existing views. Let's see what insights our presenters have on how to overcome information bias.

**\$75 Individual Dues: Local \$24 - State \$19 - Nat'l \$32**  
**\$105 Household, \$110 Sustaining Member, \$150 Benefactor**  
**\$ 35 Scholarship (call for application), \$ 35 Student**

League of Women Voters has had a number of new members join and past members re-join our organization in this last year. Some have been listed in the 2017 Member Directory but some have joined since the printing. This is an up-date of the directory and an introduction to the new members.

**Listed in the Directory:** Ann Armstrong, Linda Casimir, Christine Clark, Gail Furman, Susan Hales, Petra Hoy, Inga Jablonsky, Suzi Johns, Rebecca Long, Ellen Maccarone, Erin Ross, Suzanne Thompson, Babs and Rick Velategui.

**New Members (March 2017):**

Virginia Hinch

Mary Naber

Mary Alice Watts

Karen Winston

**Joined most recently:**

Sara Ensor

Andrew Overhauser



**New Members**

Please come to the League of Women Voters Tea Party on April 29 at 7 PM.. Pam Behring will host the event at 1112 E. 20th Avenue. RSVP: 768-4850 or [behring@gonzaga.edu](mailto:behring@gonzaga.edu).  
*Come meet the Board and talk about League!*

**Thank you, AVISTA, for printing the LWV Spokane “TRY’s” and for supporting our Elected Officials Luncheon.**

Yes, I want to join/renew membership in LWV/ Spokane Area

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the newsletter by \_\_\_ mail or \_\_\_ email (check one.)

Please make check payable & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane WA 99205 and indicate amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Pay by Credit Card through Pay Pal at [www.lwvspokane.org/join.html](http://www.lwvspokane.org/join.html)



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TO:

*"The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy."*