

# The Voter

The official publication of the Minnesota League of Women Voters  
Roseville, Maplewood, Falcon Heights and surrounding communities

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## Rita Mills new chapter president

Rita Mills was elected president of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area at the organization's annual meeting May 3. Marquita Stephens was named vice president. The new leadership team will assume office June 1. Mills succeeds June Stewart, who has led the organization for four years.

Other officers are Marge Stanwood, secretary, and Teri MacNabb, treasurer. Election of officers topped a busy agenda at the meeting, at Little Canada City Hall.

In other action, members:

- \* adopted new positions recommended by a task force which conducted a year-long study of police services and training in our five cities served by our chapter;
- \* adopted a new study of affordable housing and availability in our five cities.
- \* honored two members, Jackie Hays and Georgiana Sobola, for achieving lifetime status in the League. Each has been a member for more than 50 years;
- \* adopted a budget and program for 2016-17;
- \* presented Rose Awards to five members for special contributions to our chapter of the League. They are:
  - Mindy Greiling, Rita Mills and Carrie Dickson, for leading the League's police study;

—Karen Gill-Gerbig for excellent work on the state and national data base.

—Bonnie Koch for her work organizing the League archives.

Other board members elected are: Shirley Bradway and Joyce Briggs, administrative assistant; Stephanie DeBenedet and Beth Reinhart, co-chairs of the membership committee; Mindy Greiling, chair of the program committee; Gwen Willems, public relations; Judy Berglund, Voter editor; Cecilia Warner, chair of the voter services committee; James DeBenedet and Barbara Anderson, Web page.

Members elected to other leadership positions are listed on page 7.



Rita Mills, center, with June Stewart, left and Mindy Greiling. Mills, Greiling and Carrie Dixon were honored for chairing a study of police services in the five cities served by our League chapter.

We're on the Web!  
[www.romafh.org](http://www.romafh.org)

And Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/romafh.lwv](http://www.facebook.com/romafh.lwv)

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**Vice President**

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**Voter Service**

Linda McLoon

Cecelia Warner

**Voter Newsletter**

Judy Berglund

**Web**

Jim DeBenedet

**At Large**

Carolyn Cushing

# Glad to be alive; glad to be in League!



I love spring. The wide variety of fresh shades of green on trees, bushes and grass, the colors of tulips emerging from the ground, the breathtaking colors of crab trees and redbuds, the heady scent of lilacs. It brings hope, of new life, new ideas. I breathe deeply and am glad to be alive.

And I need the inspiration of spring to help me get through the political news. Continuing efforts to block citizens' ability to register and vote make me alternately discouraged and angry. What are people thinking? Do they believe the lies about voter fraud, even though studies have shown a minuscule amount of any votes could be considered fraud? Or is it a cynical ploy to try to influence elections by restricting who can vote? My head spins and my blood pressure goes up.

And so I try to remember the work of the League of Women Voters, starting with our Roseville Area League. Thinking back on our activities this year—listening to the speakers and then taking in the questions and new ideas that our members bring forward is stimulating and thought-provoking. And the police study: the amazing amount of thoughtful, complex work of interviews and analysis. And we're all volunteers! Participating in League helps bring me hope that people interested in voting and learning about public issues can make changes for the good.

## Roseville Area League to present first Youth Awards

The League of Women Voters of Roseville Area is pleased to present the first annual youth awards to two Tartan Senior High School juniors. Awards were judged based on student skills and background and an essay showing their involvement in a good citizen activity. Both girls chose the topic of peace.

Margaret Bruns of Maplewood is an honors student with a strong work ethic. She participates in two sports and has been involved with leadership groups such as the National Honor Society and Linkcrew, which helps freshmen adjust to high school. She also has been active teaching young children at her church and at summer Bible camp.



**Margaret Bruns**

Cassandra Osuji of Oakdale is an ambitious, hard-working student with aspiring plans to go into business. She's an honor student and participates in numerous school activities that keep her busy but allow her to manage her many responsibilities.



**Cassandra Osuji**

The awards will be presented May 18 at the Gavel Club dinner.



## Some Not-so-light Summer Reading

By Florence Sprague

When we think of summer reading we tend to think of light, escapist tales that carry us far from the workaday world from which we are escaping, literally and mentally, on our vacations. Perhaps, too, a wish for unchallenging summer reading is a holdover from the days of the dreaded and now mostly extinct “summer reading list” of student days.

But just as a good meal contains a balance of flavors, textures and nutrients, so our reading diet is more satisfying when we balance our mental desserts with more substantial fare. So here I offer some ideas for some not-so-light summer reading.

**Book 1 Waking Up White and finding myself in the story of race**, by Debby Irving (Don't think Kafka, think lightbulbs, a lot of them.)

It has been said in various ways that benefitting from numbers and power, Caucasian Americans have long been able to remain blissfully, and unrealistically, unaware of their own racial identities in a racially charged society. “White” was just “normal.” Other people had race, but white people just were. Many peoples around the world are named by a word which in the local languages essentially means “the people,” but when white Americans think of themselves that way, well, it clouds their (our) vision, to say the least. Do you want to get beyond a self-identification as some sub-category of European American with a fun link to foods, costumes and ancestral towns, and think deeply about what it means to be white in the U.S.? Then take the challenge and read this book. Debby Irving has written a deeply personal story of growth, but in such a way that it can guide others in their own growth. I know when I read it my mind often raced off on connections between her life and my own. How we were similar and how different? Better? Worse? How can her “aha!” moments help me to change? Each short chapter is followed by questions to help the reader make such connections thoughtfully and to see more deeply into the inequities in this country. Gird yourself for challenge and growth and go for it!

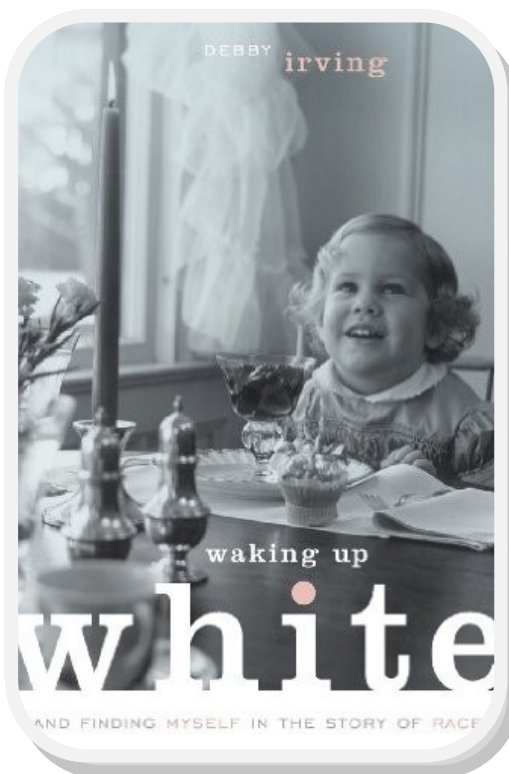
**Book 2 Far from the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity**, by Andrew Solomon (Yes, think of

the familiar saying about falling apples and trees as a metaphor for families.)

Many of us are familiar with an essay by Emily Kingsley “Welcome to Holland.” (If you are not, or would like to read it again-- <http://www.our-kids.org/archives/Holland.html>) She uses a change in travel destinations as a metaphor for the many dramatic changes in the lives of the parents of a child with disabilities. She encourages parents to see the good parts of raising any child and value them.

Andrew Solomon goes further, and in a somewhat different direction in Far from the Tree. Through interviews with children and parents blended with research and data he examines the impact of twelve ways in which children may dramatically differ from their parents, beginning with himself. He examines differences which range from genetic and congenital such as dwarfism to behavioral such as crime. The differences may be socially accepted (prodigies) or reviled (rape), or just hard for parents to understand (autism or transgender). These challenging differences can bring people together, but they also often mystify and divide.

Read a chapter that touches you personally, or one that just interests you if the 700 page size is daunting. Each chapter can stand alone, but you may then find yourself reading another chapter and another. Solomon's style draws you in and is neither too light nor too



**“Caucasian Americans have long been able to remain blissfully, and unrealistically unaware of their own racial identities...”**

academic.

**Book 3 For the Benefit of Those Who See: Dispatches from the World of the Blind**, by Rosemary Mahoney

I see. Even those of us who are kinesthetic learners are so accustomed to sight, that we are terrified of losing sight and cannot imagine how we would handle most tasks without vision. Mahoney shares this fear and chose to explore the world of people with limited or no vision and she found many amazing stories. She writes about her extended visits to two educational institutions for children and adults who are blind, one in Tibet and one in India. She offers uplifting stories of people who, given appropriate educational opportunities, were able to use all of their skills, some of which we, the sighted, have never developed, to

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# Windows and Mirrors

(continued from page 3)

to use all of their skills, some of which we, the sighted, have never developed, to live productive lives. She couples their stories with her reactions and a healthy dose of historical information on the treatment of people who were blind in various cultures, stories of important individuals who were visually impaired, teachers and innovators. Her engaging style will keep you reading to the end. You will see in a whole new light.



The Ramsey County Library system has copies of all of the books above, some both in print and e editions, or you can support your local bricks and mortar bookstore.

## Still Speaking of Books

In the era of our wonderful book sales, it was suggested that we reserve for member reference some of the books on diversity related issues. This was done a couple of times, but as we never devised a method for circulating these books, they are just sitting in my house. I offer here a list of those books. Most are nonfiction, but a couple are novels. If you are interested in any of them, call or email me and I will get it to you. (misemer@msn.com or (C) 612-839-4360) Those in which there is no interest I will (eventually) take to a used book store and donate any proceeds to our League. If more surface, I'll let you know.

### *Florence*

101 Tools for Tolerance: Simple Ideas for Promoting Equity and Celebrating Diversity, Tolerance.org

Angwamas Minosewag Anishinabeg: Time of the Indian, ed. James L. White

Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self, Rebecca Walker

Braided Lives: An Anthology of Multicultural American Writing, MN Humanities Commission

Cry the Beloved Country, Alan Paton

Guatemala: A Cry from the Heart, V. David Schwantes

Living Our Stories, Telling Our Truths: Autobiography and the Making of the African-American Tradition, V.P. Franklin

Profiles in Injustice: Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work, David A. Harris

Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology, Margaret Anderson +1

Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class, Robin D. G. Kelley

The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd

The Struggle for Black Equality 1954-1980, Harvard Sitkoff

Taking Charge: Teenagers Talk about Life & Physical Disabilities, Kay H. Kriegsman +2

Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal, Andrew Hacker

You Can't Drown the Fire: Latin American Women Writing in Exile, ed. Alicia Partn

Editor's note: Florence Sprague is a member of the League of Women Voters, Roseville Area

*Windows and Mirrors for All" has been a regular column in the Voter since 2004. The title is derived from an essay by Emily Style, "Curriculum as Window and Mirror," found in Seeding the Process of Multicultural Education. Style states that "education needs to enable the student to look through window frames in order to see the realities of others and into mirrors in order to see her/his own reality reflected." People of all ages need both mirrors and windows with which to view the world, but too often we only have mirrors.*



## Scenes from the Annual Meeting



**Above: Judy Berglund thanks outgoing President June Stewart with flowers.**

**At right; Stewart presents a rose to outgoing Vice President Bonnie Koch; recognition for her efforts to organize League archives.**



**Emma Duren and Cecilia Warner**



**Above: Faith O'Neill**

**At left: Life members Jackie Hays and Georgiana Sobola with Mindy Greiling.**





# Members tour Eureka Recycling

By Donna Peterson

Fourteen of us enjoyed a very interesting tour at Eureka Recycling on May 11.

While Eureka focuses on recycling, their vision is of a future with “zero waste.” Zero waste means no waste goes to landfills or incinerators. Rather, all materials have been designed to be reused, recycled or composted.

Eureka Recycling processes approximately 200 tons per day; half of which is collected by Eureka’s trucks and half comes from other contractors. The paper collected goes to West Rock in St Paul where it is generally turned into a new product within a month’s time. In fact, 90% of the materials collected are recycled into new products in Minnesota. Glass is manufactured into new product in Shakopee. Plastics are processed in Wisconsin and milk containers in Illinois.



From left: Jim DeBenedet, Georgann Hall, Dave Hall, Donna Peterson, a university student studying the environment; Faith O’Neill, Barbara Leary, Mindy Greiling, Rita Mills, Gwen Willems, Lois Cunningham, Dianne Krueger, Cecilia Warner, Bonnie Koch and the Eureka tour guide.

The mixed recycling waste stream is separated into 17 different materials that go out to be processed into new materials. While a typical recycling facility has close to 10 % waste, Eureka’s percentage is about 3 %. Some of the unique technologies for sorting materials and the diligence of dedicated sorters keep the waste percentage low and also the quality of the materials sent out for processing high. Higher quality brings higher prices.

For those of us collecting recyclables, vigilance about materials we collect is important! Following Eureka’s guide for recycling in Roseville is key. If your guide is missing, go to <http://www.eurekarecycling.org/#!roseville-curbside-recycling/kkyf6> . Other communities also provide specifics for what can be recycled. Following the specifics keeps the quality of the recyclables up and reduces the contaminants requiring disposal. At Eureka, almost two hours are needed every day just to remove the plastic bags that get caught in the equipment.

The “Ramsey County Recycling Guide” is a great resource with information for reuse and recycling for other materials. If you do not know where your guide is, go to [www.ramseyrecycles.com](http://www.ramseyrecycles.com) and you can easily find sites for fluorescents or paints or electronics and a whole lot more.

For those of you who weren’t able to tour the plant with us, I recommend the 10 minute video on the home page for Eureka Recycling. Titled “The Story of a Cereal Box,” it shows many parts of the operation as the cereal box journeys through the recycling process.

Eureka Recycling started processing recycled materials at the location in NE Minneapolis in the early 2000’s. In 2014, in order to accept mixed recyclables in a single sort system, the facility was upgraded with new equipment, conveyors, magnets and optical sensors. This is to allow separation of metal cans, aluminum and to separate various kinds of plastics and also for glass separation by color.

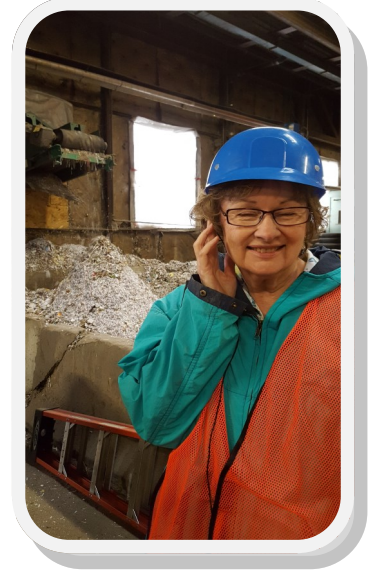
It started by recycling materials from the City of St Paul, and now has contracts with several other communities including Roseville and Lauderdale and Minneapolis. It employs 80-85 people, all with living wage or union jobs. Those of us who were able to go came away knowing more about the materials leaving our homes to be recycled.

## Tour of Eureka expands member knowledge

(Continued from page 6)



A Eureka employee sorts trash.



Bonnie Koch

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## Police Study Recommendations:

Members attending the May 3 annual meeting adopted these positions as the result of the League's study on police services in our communities:

- 1) Recommend community police departments improve data collection of police activity to ensure accountability for avoiding racial profiling and track that officers dispatched to domestic violence and mental health crisis situations have appropriate training.
- 2) Recommend that all cities periodically evaluate police cost-analysis and service delivery.
- 3) Support the Memphis Model, or a substantial equivalent Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), for police officers dealing with mental health crises.
- 4) Support the St. Paul Blueprint for Safety, or a substantial equivalent training, for police officers dealing with domestic violence.
- 5) Support diversity training for all police officers.
- 6) Recommend that the LWVMN advocate for more state funding for CIT training for police officers dealing with mental health crises and for development of additional mental health facilities and community based services.(2016)

## Members elected to other leadership positions

Members elected the following people to off-board leadership positions in our chapter. They are: Gladys Jones, action; Joyce Blomquist and Ann Cleland, annual meeting; Karen Schaffer, CMAL; Joyce Briggs, Faith O'Neill, Joan Stark, Jane Spartz-Audit, finance committee; June Stewart, Gavel Club; Mary Duddleston, Judy Berglund and Beth Salzl, membership committee; June Stewart, Mary Duddleston, Mary Jo Rourke, nominating committee; Bonnie Koch, Ann Haugen, Carrie Dickson, Diana Menanteau, Kathleen Juenemann, Valerie Swenson, and Karen Hobert, program committee; Karen Gill-Gerbig, data; Lois Cunningham, Karen Lake, Emma Duran and Judy Stuthman, voter services; Mary Jo Rourke, Voter (newsletter) distribution; Mary Ann Palmer, budget, and Dawn Mathers, membership directory.



**League of Women  
Voters, Roseville,  
Maplewood, Falcon  
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**Happy  
Summer!**