

The Voter

The official publication of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area

FALCON HEIGHTS, LAUDERDALE, LITTLE CANADA, MAPLEWOOD, ROSEVILLE

Volume 62, Number 9

June 2017



League of Women Voters

ROSEVILLE AREA

Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's column 2

Windows. Mirrors 3

Annual meeting 5

Honoring Ann 6

Gavel awards 7

Rita Mills, Sherry Hood League leaders

Rita Mills was re-elected president of the Roseville Area League of Women Voters, while Sherry Hood was elected vice president at the chapter's annual meeting May 2 at Little Canada City Hall. Mary Peterson was elected secretary and Joyce Briggs Treasurer. Other leaders elected are listed in the first column on page 2.

In other action, members approved a budget, presented a lifetime membership to Georgeann Hall, and approved a second year of the League's Housing study, with emphasis on action.

Rose Awards, recognizing outstanding service to the League, were presented to five people: Mindy Greiling, Bonnie Koch, and Rebecca Bormann, for leading the Housing study; Karen Gill-Gerbig, for maintaining the data base; and Barb Anderson, for chairing the communications committee.

Photos of the event are on page 5.



Mills



Hood

We're on the Web!

www.lwvrosevillearea.org

And Facebook!

www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea

And Instagram!

[@lwvrosevillearea](https://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea)

[Www.Instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea)

Time for action on affordable housing

You are invited to come to city council meetings and work sessions in the coming weeks, when League members will discuss our housing study recommendations. Your presence will show support for housing for all people in our communities, regardless of their life cycle situation. The timing is right, because our cities are currently updating their comprehensive plans - including planning for housing - that are due to the Metropolitan Council next year. The University of Minnesota Capstone student complementary report that includes city-specific recommendations will be included in the presentations:

Falcon Heights: Wednesday, June 14 at 7 p.m. at the city hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave. W.

Lauderdale: Tuesday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the city hall, 1891 Walnut St.

Little Canada: Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 p.m. at the city hall, 515 Little Canada Rd. E.

Maplewood: Monday, June 12, 7 p.m. at the city hall, 1830 Co. Rd. B E.

Roseville: Tuesday, July 18, 6:30 p.m. at the city hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President
Rita Mills

Vice President
Sherry Hood

Past President
June Stewart

Secretary
Mary Peterson

Treasurer
Joyce Briggs

Directors

Administrative Assistant
Barb Barany

Archivist
Dan Salzl

Communications
Barb Anderson

Membership
Beth Reinhart

Program
Bonnie Koch

Action Team
Mindy Greiling
Gladys Jones

Voter Services
Karen Lake

Board members listed above will assume office on June 1.



18 new members! Welcome to League!

While we are winding up the 2016-2017 year, we are most encouraged and excited to welcome some 18 people new to League of Women Voters! We will hopefully get to introduce ourselves in coming months. In addition to welcoming new members, we thank our current members for your support, both financial and in terms of talents, your suggestions, and willingness to try new things, to do the "extra" to Educate, Advocate, and Reform to Make our Democracy Work for All!

With increased interest and membership in our LWV, we cannot assume that everyone understands how and when League events happen.

LWV 101....an outline of a year:

- Our League year begins on June 1.
- A Program Team is in process of planning events for this coming year.
- A kick-off event generally occurs in early September. (However watch for a possible event in August.)
- Monthly events occur at different times, however most occur during evenings of 3rd Tuesday, with a video repeat on morning of 3rd Wednesday.
- Conversations with Constituents with elected officials occurs in January.
- A Board of Directors oversees and plans the workings of League.
- First Board meeting is held in June (4th Wednesday.) Subsequent Board meetings are held on from August through April, again, 4th Wednesday.
- All are welcome to attend Board meetings.
- All LWV events are free and open to the public.
- The annual meeting is held in early May, during which by-laws can be changed, studies recommended, Board members are elected, proposed budget approved.
- LWV information is communicated via The Voter (monthly publication), website www.lwvrosevillearea.org Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, email.
- Our League is part of the state and national LWV...As an organization we speak as one entity. Therefore, our local positions are in line with state and national positions. \$57 of local dues payment is forwarded to State and National LWV organizations.
- To locate anything from monthly calendar, to by-laws to issues of Voter, the memoir local history, to descriptions of upcoming and past events, go to: www.lwvrosevillearea.org

Interested in Communications?

If you have been looking for an opportunity to contribute to League but don't have a lot of time, consider joining the Communications Committee. We meet infrequently to recommend means of communicating with members, and we also communicate information about and during events. If you aren't intimidated by technology, you can learn to post League information on one of our social media platforms. If this sounds interesting, please contact Barb Anderson at blander-son7@msn.com. We'd love to have you join us.

Tune in Again

By Florence Sprague

"The secret of change is to focus your energy not on fighting the old but building the new."

Socrates



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *"We should all be feminists."*

Tuned out. The human brain is easily able to tune out some inputs when focusing on another. We have all experienced times when we are thinking hard about what we are doing and we know that the radio was on but not what was reported, know that our kids were arguing but not what it was about, and even just don't hear what someone says to us close by because our mind is elsewhere. That tuning out of certain inputs also seems to happen on a broader scale throughout the whole community with certain topics. Repeat a message often and it can seem stale and be tuned out, regardless of its relevance.

In many ways that has happened to feminism. Calls for equality get tuned out. The progress that has been made in employment allows some to decide that enough has been done, young women take for granted opportunities that were hard won, men, facing radically altered job prospects, feel victimized and sick of feeling demonized, women working in the home resent an expectation to work out of the home, and so on. And calls for equality get tuned out.

That's when we need a fresh voice speaking to a long-standing issue. People who find it so easy to brush off the complaints in familiar voices, may be able to "hear" more from a new voice.

I was walking through Barnes and Noble not too long ago and made an impulse purchase of *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. I have enjoyed her writing (e.g. *Americanah*) and her first TED talk (www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story) and jumped at this small new volume. Then my weekly TED email highlighted her 2012 talk at TED Euston, "We should all be feminists." (www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists) Adichie is a powerful fresh voice for women's rights and gender equality. This wonderful writer expresses important ideas with clarity and directness, without meanness or uncontrolled anger that instantly raises the defenses of many, but leaving the biased with nowhere to hide.

I find it delightful that this powerful fresh voice for women's rights is not American, not white, and not of my generation. As this country moves unevenly forward on the multiple facets of women's rights it can be tempting to try to drag other countries along. Movement everywhere would be wonderful, but it is not simple. Women's rights are a universal issue and most durably achieved organically, not imposed externally, so it is encouraging to hear such a strong voice from the other side of the globe.

In both this new little book and the second TED talk, Adichie's examples are mostly taken from her native Nigeria, and some Americans listening or reading might feel a bit smug and that the U.S. is ahead of Nigeria in the field of women's rights and gender roles and opportunities. Don't get too self-satisfied America, the lead is not that great. There is still much more to do; even where progress has been made rarely is an area fully resolved.

Today the majority of mothers of young children also work outside the home. Adichie notes that "Gender roles are so deeply conditioned in us that we will often follow them even when they chafe against our true desire, our needs, our happiness." (p.19) It then is not surprising that in many homes it is still a challenge to equitably share childrearing and household work. Adichie urges that we all avoid the idea that when men do such tasks they are "helping." "And please reject the language of help. Chudi [the father] is not 'helping' you by caring for his child. He is doing what he should. When we say fathers are 'helping,' we are suggesting that child care is a mother's territory, into which fathers valiantly venture. It is not. Can you imagine how many more people today would be happier, more stable, better contributors to the world, if only their fathers had been actively present in their childhood?" (p.12) That is good advice whatever continent you live on.

(Continued on page 4)

Students present Capstone findings to League members

Elizabeth Schowalter, Alma Pronove and Michael Davis, University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs graduate students, presented their Capstone project to League members on May 9 at the Roseville Library. Our League was their client, and they worked with our local affordable housing study committee for the past five months. Their report includes relevant research about affordable housing, city-specific research and recommendations and regional and national comparisons. It complements our league committee's report, and both will be shared with our five cities in the coming weeks. The reports and other housing study information are available on our website at lww-rosevillearea.org.

Editor's note: See related story on page 1



Windows and Mirrors

(Continued from page 3)

On the subject of power, she observes that the media still describes powerful women with words and ideas that they do not use for men, quoting a British newspaper who described Philip May, husband of Prime Minister Theresa May, as “‘a man who has taken a back seat and allowed his wife, Theresa, to shine.’ Allowed. Would we ever say that a wife allowed her husband to shine? Supported, yes, but not allowed. And she goes on to declare, “But here is the sad truth: Our world is full of men and women who do not like powerful women. We have been so conditioned to think of power as male that a powerful woman is an aberration. And so she is policed. We ask of powerful women: Is she humble? Does she smile? Is she grateful enough? Does she have a domestic side? Questions we do not ask of powerful men, which shows that our discomfort is not with power, but with women.” (p. 24) Such clarity is still needed on this side of the Atlantic, too.

Are these thoughts unique? No, but they are well presented and everyone needs to hear them again. Really hear them, so that we do not stall.

We think about how we raise our daughters, and this is important. Don't limit their aspirations or give them false realities. We must also think about how we raise our sons. They need all the life skills and reasonable expectations that women need. As Adichie notes, men need room to love themselves and still feel masculine while supporting equality not privilege.

Adichie states in the Introduction to her Manifesto that “it is morally urgent to have honest conversations about raising children differently, about trying to create a fairer world for women and men.” (p.4) Indeed it is. Even the youngest children absorb gender role messages, both stated and implicit, from family and media. A recent NPR story began “Girls in the first few years of elementary school are less likely than boys to say that their own gender is ‘really, really smart.’” www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/01/26/511801423/young-girls-are-less-apt-to-think-women-are-really-really-smart. After discussing several studies of 5-7 year-olds, toward the end of the story the author observes that we need to think carefully about the goals of any interventions to rebalance the results. What are we trying to solve and is it girls who need to change or boys? All of our children are precious and all are needed to build a more equitable future.

Listen to many voices. And perhaps Chimamanda Adichie's strong new voice can be shared with many and help us all to tune in again. There are no quick fixes or easy answers to societal change. But the work is worth it.

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



At left, Karen Lake and Beth Salzl; above, President Rita Mills presents Georgeann Hall with a Lifetime Membership in the League. Below, Mills shares a laugh with Sherry Hood, while Donna Peterson and Mary Duddleston prepare for the meeting to start.

Annual meeting: a chance to work together, socialize.

It's not all work. Members enjoy a social hour and honor members May 2.

Below, Mindy Greiling, Rebecca Bormann and Bonnie Koch receive a Rose Award for their work leading the Affordable Housing Committee.



League members tour Eagles Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

By Donna Peterson

Roseville Area League members toured the Eagles Point Wastewater Treatment Plant May 16. The group was privileged to have Jay Sockness, plant manager, as our guide. This plant, built in 2000, treats the wastewater from homes and businesses in the Cottage Grove and Woodbury area of the Twin Cities. Eagles Point is one of the smaller plants (processing 10 million gallons a day) in the system of eight plants, all processing the sanitary wastewater from the metropolitan area.

Keep in mind that wastewater plants process the sanitary sewage from homes and businesses as opposed to storm water (of which there is a lot recently), which goes directly to a river or lake versus a treatment plant.

Tour participants experienced many surprises. One was that most of the treatment is natural, not requiring chemicals. A complex system of filtration and settling, along with a healthy array of micro-organisms which thrive on breaking down the waste in the water makes this possible. These microorganisms then settle out into sludge that is handled separately.

One member was surprised at how clear the water is at the end of the treatment. That there was no smell was also a surprise to others. While older plants relied on chlorine in some form for final disinfection, this plant uses UV light, followed by aeration to increase the oxygen level before discharge into the Mississippi River.

Conditions need to be monitored frequently in the lab onsite. Samples are tested often during the day. At the end of the tour, we were privileged to see a microscopic view of the variety of microorganisms feeding on the waste in the sludge as a source of food.

If our tour were in July, we would have enjoyed a wonderful view of a prairie in bloom, the result of a mix of flowers from at least 20 different plant species! Maybe we missed that, but we did get the chance to enjoy an eagle flying overhead, a common site and hence the name of the plant.

Program honoring Ann Berry set for June 18

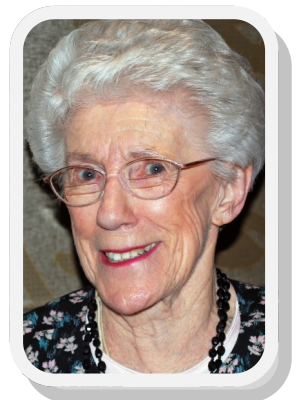
A program commemorating long-time League of Women Voters member Ann Berry will be at 3 p.m. Sunday June 18 at the arboretum in Roseville Central Park. A newly-installed walkway brick will be dedicated in her honor. Speakers will be: Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, League president Rita Mills and Georgeann Hall.

Ann was a leader and an activist, often outspoken in her drive for civic improvement. "One of my early activities in the League," she said in an interview for the local League's history book, "was when we raised some hell with the school system for having an outdated and tactless sex education film. We hounded the district psychologist until she got a new one."

"Don't we love how Ann put things?" asked former State Rep. and League member Mindy Greiling, who spoke at her Oct. 22 funeral. "One of many League committees she served on studied juvenile justice reform, resulting in the creation of Northeast Youth and Family Services. Ann served on their board for many years. Once Ann gave her support, she gave it wholeheartedly."



Members touring the facility were, from left, Jim DeBenedet, Annette Wuertz, Judy Berglund, Mindy Greiling, Cecilia Warner, Donna Peterson and Nancy Bruggeman.





Gavel Award winners

Shirley Bradway, left, who has served in numerous leadership roles for the Roseville Area League, received the prestigious Gavel Award from the North Suburban Gavel Association at the organization's annual celebration May 17. She was nominated by the League.

Below, Christine Drayton, a student at Roseville Area High School, received a Youth Award sponsored by the League for her leadership activities and an essay she wrote about leadership. She is pictured with her godmother, the noted civil rights activist Josie Johnson, who was the first woman of color to serve on the LWWUS Board of Directors, and the League's Mindy Greiling.

Beth Salzl, another member of the Roseville Area League, also received a Gavel Award. She was nominated by her brother, Ron Linebarger, a former award recipient.



Judy Berglund, editor
2075 Farrington St.
Roseville, MN 55113



Happy Summer!