



Making Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of Oxford reaffirms our commitment to diversity and pluralism which means that there are and shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The Oxford Voter

February, 2014

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- A 2014 membership roster is attached in a separate file.



Save the Dates

- **Monday, February 24**, 8 p.m. Hall Auditorium: Miami University lecture “Freedom Summer”
- **Monday, March 3**, 6-7:30 PM at Lane Library: LWVUS Agriculture Study Public Meeting
- **Tuesday, April 8**, 6-7:30 PM at Lane Library: LWVUS Agriculture Study Consensus Meeting
- **Tuesday, April 29**, 7:00 PM at the LCNB Meeting Room: Local Annual Convention (*Note: This is a date change.*)



Freedom Summer: the Voting Rights Act and the Political Realities of 2014

As many of you know, Miami University is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer this year with a variety of events. One upcoming event is part of the university’s lecture series and features Mary Frances Berry, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, and Juan Williams. This lecture will take place on February 24th at 8:00pm in Hall Auditorium. The lecture is free, but tickets are required. Tickets will be available on Feb. 19 for the Miami community and Feb. 21 for the general public, at the Miami University Box Office in Shriver Center. You can find more details about this lecture series here:

<http://www.units.muohio.edu/lecture/lectures/freedomsummer.php>

Arianne Hartsell-Gundy



LWV US Agriculture Study and Consensus Meetings to be Held

The League of Women Voters US has selected issues related to agriculture for study, consensus, and formulation of position. Two specific sets of issues were identified by the U.S. League:

1. Current technology issues in agriculture, including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling.
2. Current agriculture finance issues, including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies, and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

The League of Women Voters of Oxford appointed a study committee consisting of Oxford League members plus Oxford-area farmers. Committee members include Debra Bowles, Karen Delue, Jack Fryman, Jane Fryman, Harv Roehling, Sybil Miller, Bill Renwick, and Jim Rubenstein.

This committee decided to focus its study on the technology issues, especially GMOs, antibiotics in livestock, and food labeling. They are in process of creating a short summary of these agriculture technology issues, as well as recommendations to Oxford League members as they consider their consensus position.

The Oxford League is sponsoring a public meeting on Agriculture Technology issues on Monday, March 3, between 6 and 7:30 p.m., at the Oxford branch of Lane Library. Committee members will present a summary of the issues, including the principal debates and disagreements, and invite audience questions and comments.

LWV Oxford members-only will meet to formulate the local consensus on Tuesday, April 8, between 6 and 7:30 p.m. at the Oxford Lane Library. The U.S. League has created a consensus form for the local Leagues around the country to submit. The form consists of many questions, for the most part designed to be answered “yes,” “no,” or “no consensus.” Brief comments may also be submitted.

Very briefly, some of the issues are:

- GMO crops have been touted as a way to increase national and world food supply, and in the United States 93% of corn and 85% of soybeans are GMO. Concerns with GMOs include possible impacts on health and environment, and the lack of independent research concerning the risks. As a result, Europe severely restricts the planting and sale of GMOs and, unlike the United States, Europe requires labeling of GMO products.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control reports that 50 million Americans get sick each year from eating unsafe food, such as contamination from bacteria like Salmonella and E.Coli. Oversight of food safety is fragmented among numerous federal and local agencies.
- Antibiotics used to treat human illnesses are widely administered to animals to foster weight gain. The controversy is that the bacteria living in the animals may become resistant to the antibiotic. As a result, humans who ingest the resistant bacteria via improperly cooked meat and become ill may not respond to antibiotic treatment.

The U.S. League has placed many resources on its web site:

<http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>

The Oxford League committee has identified a number of other useful readings. The URLs for these additional readings will be included in material distributed at the upcoming meetings.

For more information, contact Oxford League committee chair Jim Rubenstein at rubensjm@miamioh.edu or 513-523-3990, or Oxford League Program VP Sally Southard at southasr@miamioh.edu or 513-523-5511.

Jim Rubenstein, Agriculture Study Committee



The Remarkable Stantons, Miami University and the “Magnificent Dwelling”

A note from Toni Saldivar: An article about the upcoming Stanton Exhibit published in the print version of the Spring 2014 Visual Arts Calendar with my name attached was not the article I co-wrote with Steve Gordon. I wanted our membership to read the correct article which I did co-write with him. That article appears below in this issue of The Voter.

This coming spring, McGuffey Museum and the League of Women Voters of Oxford will co-sponsor an exhibit at the McGuffey Museum, which will highlight the contributions, both locally and nationally, of the Stanton family and their associations with Miami University.

Descended from an old New England family, Robert L. Stanton (1810-1885) as a young man went west to study at Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati under Lyman Beecher. More than thirty years later, experienced as both a Presbyterian minister and an academic, the Rev. Robert L Stanton, D. D, served as president of Miami University from 1866-1871. During that time, he built a private residence in Oxford designed to welcome his students and his guests. His "magnificent dwelling," an Italianate-style brick structure dating from 1868, still stands on the corner of Spring and Oak. It is a remarkably intact vestige of "Old Miami." It is the oldest house in Oxford built specifically to serve as a university president's home. Known today as the Stanton-Bonham House, the building functions as university office space and thus is not open to visitors.

The Stanton exhibit in the McGuffey Museum will take visitors not into the house Robert L. Stanton built, but into his life as a dedicated church leader and educator, as well as into the lives of some members of his family: of his brother Henry Brewster Stanton, fiery orator for the American Anti-slavery Society and politician; of his son, Robert Brewster Stanton, Miami University valedictorian, class of 1871, intrepid explorer and civil engineer; and most important historically, of his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, founder and leader of the woman suffrage movement whose work would lead toward women's winning the Constitutional right to vote.

The Stanton Exhibit will tell the story of a socially engaged Nineteenth-Century American family committed to the advancement of religious activism, higher education, westward exploration and social justice.

The exhibit coincides with the 50th anniversary commemoration of Freedom Summer. During those tense summer days in 1964, students from across the nation came to Oxford to train for voter registration drives in Mississippi. The students were housed and trained on the Western College campus, now the Western Program of Miami University. Unbeknownst to those young people from northern states, Robert L Stanton, more than a century earlier, had ministered, as an abolitionist and a unionist, to antebellum congregations in Louisiana and Mississippi. During the Civil War, while on the faculty of Danville Theological Seminary in Danville, Kentucky, he made frequent visits to Washington, D.C. and became a warm friend to President Lincoln. Robert L. Stanton's brother Henry worked bravely toward a political solution to slavery. He lived to see the freeing of slaves and their enfranchisement as voters through constitutional amendments. Black women and white women, however, after the Civil War were still denied their rights as citizens. Henry's wife, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, brought her campaign for women rights to Miami University in 1870. These Stanton activists and reformers foreshadowed many of the human rights achievements of the Twentieth-Century, and helped foster the dreams of those young Americans who gathered on the lawn on Western College fifty years ago.

Stephen Gordon, Director, The McGuffey Museum
Toni Saldivar, Director of Publicity, League of Women Voters of Oxford



All muohio.edu email addresses expire June 1, 2014

On February 10, Miami's IT department sent out a memo concerning muohio.edu email and website addresses. All muohio.edu addresses will expire June 1, 2014, and **email will not be redirected**. ALL Miami email addresses **must** become **MiamiOH.edu** There is a website available for help at www.MiamiOH.edu/domain

Please remember to check your email address book to make these changes in your contact lists.

Helen Gorman

