



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

November, 2015

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Save the Date

December 2, Wednesday “Women on Oxford City Council” Patterson Place, starting at noon
January 31, 2016, Sunday LWV Social at Oxford Community Arts Center, 4 to 6 p.m.



Brown Bag Lunch Honoring “Women on City Council” December 2 at Patterson Place

We are trying a new format to reach out to community members for whom evening meetings are not convenient. We have two lunch-time meetings planned. The first will be **December 2, starting at noon in Patterson Place on Miami's Western Campus**. The focus of the program will be honoring local women who have served on our City Council. While there is not a formal program planned, we expect an engaging session hearing how these women feel about the impact they have had on our local government. Since 1950 there have been 21 women who have been elected to serve on Council. Nine of them are still living in Oxford: Mary Duerkson (1979-1983), Jean Cockley (1983-1987); Betty Quantz (1993- Sally Southard (1997-2001); Prue Dana (2001-2009); Alysia Fischer (2005-2009); Kate Currie (2007-2011); Kate Rousmaniere (2011-present) and Edna Southard (2013-present). Invitations were sent to Lin Brown (1975-79); Rose Lucas (1973-83); and Vanessa Cummings (1993-1999). Rose responded with a wonderful letter which we will share and Vanessa hopes to join us via SKYPE.

The Membership Committee is providing beverages and cookies, but please bring your “Brown Bag” lunch and join us for this unique event.

If you plan to attend, please email woyhazs@miamioh.edu. We will be working on parking details, look for another email with information.

Sandi Woy-Hazelton



LWV Social DATE CHANGED -- January 31, 2016

The League Social honoring newly elected City, Township and School District officials has been changed to **JANUARY 31, 2016**. We will be having the event at the **Oxford Community Arts Center from 4-6:00pm**. We are hoping to attract all residents who would like to have an informal gathering in which to meet and greet our elected representatives in local government.

Sandi Woy-Hazelton



Voter Service Report

It's important to our membership that we participated in VOTE411, a national Voter website hosted by the League of Women Voters, USA. Local Leagues, including the Oxford League, loaded information on our local candidates and issues. The state League supplied the State Issues. So anyone could go to the web site **VOTE411.org**, give their address and their ballot, candidates and issues would come up. The Candidates themselves answered our questions and wrote biographical information for this site. They, with a little encouragement on our part, did this even though many were running unopposed. The site went live September 2-- ready for those early voters.

The Voters Guide. Then we took the information on VOTE411 and sent it to Cox media. We gave them the format following our Voter Service Guides. Cox media then printed it and inserted it in the Oxford Press for Sunday, October 5. There was one glitch as not all Oxford Press copies had the insert. If you can remember whether yours came in the Press or not that would help us clear up this issue for next year. Just send Prue Dana a quick email at pdana@woh.rr.com

A loyal group of Leaguers met October 6 to deliver Voters Guides around town. Sandi Woy-Hazelton, Jane Jackson, Becky Quay, Devona Miller, Steve Dana and Prue delivered the Guide all over town. Rhonda Jackson delivered to the university; Donna Hofmann delivered to the hospital and some churches. Half of the 4500 copies went to the schools for Kids Voting.

Stacy Peterson was able to downsize the Voters Guide a bit and put it on our website by October 5. This was very important because many Leaguers and citizens looked there for the Guide. Thank you Stacy!

Candidates Forum was a "Get to Know You" event. Over 80 people participated and 13 of the 17 candidates attended, even though some were running unopposed. School Board, Township Trustees, Township Fiscal Officers and Oxford City Council candidates were there. We are grateful that our good relations with the elected officials helps us all work together for a good Voter event.

Voter Registration: Becky Quay and Rhonda Jackson were responsible for four Voter Registration events. Again, our thanks for your participation and their arrangements. We registered over 150 voters.

Kids Voting USA: Prue and Steve Dana delivered all of the materials to the schools on October 12. The materials were all set and ready to go. Children voted using the township where they live. They voted for School Board and City Council if they live in the city. They voted from October 26 to November 2 during the day. This gave the teachers flexibility. The Issues included for the children are Issue 1 and 13. The students' votes reflected the adults in the region.

They also had special student issues. The Student Issues were:

1. Should Homework be counted as part of a student's grade?
2. Should community service/ service learning be a requirement for graduation.

At last there was Election Day Nov. 3! Thank you all for your help and participation.

Prue Dana, Voter Service



A Gift Given; a Goal Achieved: Ohio Historical Marker for the Stanton - Bonham House

The Ohio Historical Marker recently installed on the lawn of the Stanton - Bonham House, at Miami University, is a gift to the Miami and Oxford communities from the League of Women Voters of Oxford.

The dedication and unveiling of the marker took place Monday, November 9, the 145th anniversary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's lecture to the Miami and Oxford communities and her visit to this house in 1870. One side of the marker tells the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton; the other side, the story of the house. It was built in 1868 by Elizabeth's brother-in-law, Robert L. Stanton, D.D., President of Miami University with his personal funds to serve as both private home and president's office. Stanton's "magnificent dwelling" welcomed students and guests in its spacious rooms.

The LWVOx commitment to preserving the Stanton - Bonham House began in 2010 with a small committee of three League members in 2010, Sallie Killian, Joanne McQueen, and Toni Saldivar, and grew to an ad hoc committee of six which included Valerie Elliott, Stephen Gordon, and Michael Smith. The six wrote applications to the Ohio History Connection for the marker and to the W. E. Family Charitable Trust for a grant to help pay for it. With the generous grant from the Smith Family Trust, The League paid the balance for the marker from contributions to its education fund.

More than eighty-five people attended the dedication program on November 9, which began in Irvin Hall at 5:00 P.M. Steve Gordon, Administrator of the McGuffey Museum, LWVOx member and chair of the marker application committee, welcomed the audience and introduced the speakers.

Toni Saldivar gave a brief history the League's commitment to preserving the Stanton - Bonham House and the stories of the "Remarkable Stantons" associated with it, chief among them Elizabeth Cady Stanton, founder and leader of the woman suffrage movement.

Richard Sollmann, Trustee of the W. E. Family Charitable Trust spoke of the merits of the League's grant application and how this historic marker serves the goals of the Trust to disseminate knowledge of local history.

Robert Keller, University Architect, Emeritus, Miami University, described the aesthetic importance of the Stanton Bonham house in the physical design of the campus.

David C. Hodge, President of Miami University, in the keynote address reflected on the historical importance of the house, in particular its visitor, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, whose Miami lecture in 1870 titled "Our Girls," urged men to join with women in bringing about cultural change to better the lives of women through equal rights, a goal the world is still seeking today.

George Ironstrack, Assistant Director of the Myaamia Center and Trustee of the Ohio History Connection, presented to the LWVOx and the Smith Family Charitable Trust a commendation for the marker, which will help Ohioans learn more about their history.

Kelly Derickson, wife of Rep. Tim Derickson, presented to the LWVOx a framed commendation for the Stanton Bonham House from the Ohio State Assembly House of Representatives which is signed by Rep. Derickson and the Speaker of the House.

After these presentations, the program moved across Spring Street to the lawn of the Stanton Bonham house where the marker stood ready to be unveiled. A light rain fell as the afternoon light faded, but the spirits of the crowd were high as they applauded the unveiling.

The celebration continued in the Oxford Community Arts Center with a buffet supper arranged by OCAC director Caroline Crosswell. Following the social hour, OxACT players, directed by Rebecca Howard, presented a staged reading of "Enter Women." This one act play by Olivia Howard Dunbar dramatizes the meeting of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott at the 1840 Anti Slavery Convention in London where they were outraged over the exclusion of women delegates but inspired to change things. Eight years later, Mott with Stanton and others would hold the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. There, Elizabeth made the first public demand that women have the right to vote, thus launching the organized, political, and non-violent American woman suffrage movement, a struggle of seventy-two years.

The play "Enter Women" concluded the events celebrating Elizabeth Cady Stanton's importance in national history and in the history of the Miami and Oxford communities through her connection to the Stanton - Bonham House.

Sponsors of the events, which were free and open to the public, were League of Women Voters of Oxford, William Holmes McGuffey Museum, Miami University, Smith Library of Regional History, Oxford Community Arts Center, and OxACT.

Toni Saldivar



Dr. David C. Hodge, President of Miami University, delivers the keynote address at the dedication program of the Ohio Historical Marker for the Stanton Bonham House on the Miami campus.

Richard Sollmann of the Smith Family Charitable Trust stands with marker application committee at the unveiling: left to right, Toni Saldivar, Sallie Killian, Mr. Sollmann, Joanne McQueen, Stephen Gordon, Valerie Elliott, and Michael Smith.



Concluding the November 9 celebratory events, OxACT players directed by Rebecca Howard (center) performed a staged reading in the OCAC ballroom of a drama about Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Enter Women,” by Olivia Howard Dunbar. The cast: Virgil Seger, S. Michael McVery, Vince Smith, S. Scott Shriver, Anne S. Ritz, Cathy McVey, Teresa Gordon, Ben Mattox, Jeff Douglass, and Caylor Jarvis.

Text from both sides of the Stanton-Bonham House Historical marker.



**STANTON'S "MAGNIFICENT DWELLING"
Home of Two Miami University Presidents**

Built by "Old Miami" University President Robert L. Stanton, D.D. (1810-1885) as his private home and president's office, Stanton's 1868 Italianate house faced University Square, and welcomed students and guests. The house retains its original symmetrical façade, enclosed portal, grand staircase, double parlors, parlor doors, marbleized slate mantels, and triangular bay windows. Stanton served as president from 1866-1871. Stanton's son, Robert Brewster Stanton, MU '71, famed civil engineer, lived here as an undergraduate. His Miami mentor, mathematics professor Robert W. McFarland (1825-1910), purchased the house in 1873. McFarland rented it while distinguishing himself at Ohio State University during Miami's twelve-year closure, and then resided here while first president of "New Miami" (1885-1888) and until his death. McFarland's daughter Frances and her husband Llewellyn Bonham sold the home to Miami in 1940.

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON (1815-1902) AND MIAMI UNIVERSITY

On November 9, 1870, woman suffrage activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton presented her lecture "Our Girls" in the chapel of "Old Main" where Harrison Hall stands today. She urged her audience to enlist "fathers, husbands, and brothers" in the cause of women's rights as human rights. Stanton made the first public demand for woman's right to vote at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York, which she had helped to organize. Frederick Douglass spoke there in support of Stanton's resolution. Stanton's closest ally Susan B. Anthony joined the cause in 1851. Their fifty-one year collaboration proved essential to ratification in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment, which finally granted women the right to vote. In Oxford, Stanton was the guest of her brother-in-law, Miami University President Robert L. Stanton, D.D.

League of Women Voters of Oxford Timeline to the 2015 Ohio Historical Marker

2010 Mary Jo Clark, President of LWVOx, gives Sallie Killian, Joanne McQueen and Toni Saldivar assignment to prepare a program celebrating the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 and the founding of the league of Women Voters that same year. Their program focuses on Elizabeth Cady Stanton's lecture to Miami and Oxford in 1870 and her visit to her brother-in-law's house--known as Bonham House-- and its uncertain status.

2011 The committee of three mounts an exhibit on Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the Smith Library of Regional History which opens with Mayor Richard Keebler proclaiming November 9, 2011 "Elizabeth Cady Stanton Day " in Oxford.

2012 The committee of three applied for and received from the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission of the City of Oxford a City of Oxford historic marker for the Bonham House which showed the date of its construction, 1868, and restored the name Stanton to the building: "The Stanton - Bonham House."

2013 Stephen Gordon, Administrator of the McGuffey Museum at Miami University joined the LWVOx team of three to plan an exhibit that would tell the stories of four Stantons associated with the house and the roles they played in national history. The exhibit, based on new research by the team and titled "The Remarkable Stantons and the 'Magnificent Dwelling'," opened in April of 2014. The panels for the exhibit text and visuals were designed by Miami graphic design senior, Kyle Asperger, MU'15.

2014 Visitors to the "Remarkable Stantons" exhibit in the McGuffey Museum include members of Miami University Board of Trustees, Alumnae Association of Western College, The 1809 Club, and many other groups and individuals, including the great-great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Coline Jenkins and her colleague Marsha Weinstein, Co-founders of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust, and another Stanton direct descendent, Robert Brewster Stanton Senna, the great-great-great grandson of Robert L. Stanton, D.D. who built the house the LWVOx wants to preserve.

The team works with Miami digital Librarian Jody Perkins who, with her intern Lauren Robinson, designs the digital version of the exhibit which goes on line in the summer of 2014.

<http://wiggins.lib.muohio.edu/stantonhouse/exhibits/show/the-remarkable-stantons>

Members of the team individually give presentations to various local organizations on ECS and the significance of the house.

2015 The team of four expands to six with the addition of Valerie Elliott and Michael Smith and forms the Ohio Historical Marker application committee, chaired by Stephen Gordon. Intense work begins to meet the April 1 deadline.

A subcommittee applies for a grant from the W.E. Smith Family Haritable Trust to help cover the considerable cost of the marker.

By late August, both applications have been approved and the team of six begins planning the dedication and celebratory events for November 9, to commemorate Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Miami lecture on that date in 1870.

The original committee of three--Sallie, Jo, and Toni-- would like to express sincere thanks to Stephen Gordon for bringing his passion for history and historic preservation to our project. Without his expertise, optimism and energy, we could not have reached our goal. We also sincerely thank Valerie Elliott, Manager of the Smith Library of Regional History, for her wealth of knowledge and for giving the "Remarkable Stantons" exhibit space this fall in the Smith Library on the second floor of the new Oxford Lane Library. Last but not least, we thank Michael Smith of Miami University and Oxford City Council for his patience and perseverance as he negotiated our project's path to acceptance at the university. This has been a truly collaborative project.



Spotlight on member Kathy McMahon-Klosterman

Kathy McMahon-Klosterman recently retired from Miami University where she was a professor in the Educational Psychology and Women Studies Departments. She moved to Ohio in 1973 from Rhode Island where she taught public school.

Kathy has been an active Feminist since the 1960's. Civil Rights, the war in Vietnam, Vatican II and the Women's Movement all coalesced for her into thinking about everyone's civil rights. She went from boycotting non union grapes to picketing against the war in Vietnam to realizing that women's rights were routinely denied.

In 1973 Kathy joined the Butler County chapter of the National Organization for Women. Later she helped found the Miami/Oxford chapter of NOW. She was one of the first rape counselors trained in Ohio and assisted in opening the first home for battered women in the area. Kathy helped create the very first "Take Back the Night" march in Ohio.

An important part of her professional career was teaching students how to teach students with disabilities. Kathy is a champion for disability rights.

Currently, she is archiving materials for print and audio from the Women's Movement in Butler County to be sent to the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University.

Questions for Kathy:

Q. When did you join the League?

A. 2010

Q. Why did you join the Oxford League of Women Voters? What is your current role with the League?

A. I have always admired the work of the League and I always relied on it for information. Now that I am retired I have more time to get involved. I am a member.

Q. What issues would you like to see the League focusing on?

A. Women's reproductive freedom.

Q. What do you find most rewarding about being a member?

A. Being connected with people who care about the political system. Getting information from the League is rewarding.

Q. What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?

A. Increasing restrictions on voting times and places and requiring voter I.D.'s. Rather than encouraging and increasing the number of voters there are more rules to discourage people from voting, particularly minorities. This is not what I would expect from a democracy. The League has the responsibility to educate the public about the consequences of restricting laws around voting. An example is times and places to vote.

Q. Are you involved in any other community organizations?

A. President of Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, President of Knolls Advisory Board, Board Member of Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice and working at Mt. Saint Joseph University.

Q. What interests do you have outside of the League?

A. Travelling, education for myself and others.



