



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, 2016

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Save the Dates

February 24, Wednesday, noon to 1:00 p.m., Patterson Place, Brown Bag Lunch,

February 25, Thursday, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Heritage Room, Shriver Center, Miami University
Judith Browne Dianis, co-director, The Advancement Project “Eradicating the School to Prison Pipeline”

February 26, Friday, Dolibois Room, Shriver Center, Miami University
“Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline: a Call to Action”

Buffet reception, panel and roundtable discussions

3:30 p.m., reception

4:00-6:00 p.m.,

March 8, Tuesday, 7:30pm LCNB Community Room, Butler County Transportation
“Where does the Bus Go?”

March 15, Tuesday VOTE!!



Invitation to Brown Bag Lunch, February 24, 2016, noon to 1:00 p.m., Patterson Place: Dr. Kimberly Hamlin, Speaker

The League of Women Voters of Oxford invites its members, as well as members of the Oxford and Miami University communities, to a lunch-hour gathering, February 24, in the parlor of Patterson Place, 325 S. Patterson Avenue, on the Western Campus of Miami University. Dr. Kimberly Hamlin, Associate Professor of History and American Studies, Miami University, will discuss how suffragists and first wave feminists engaged the new evolutionary science of Darwinism. Dr. Hamlin is the author of *From Eve to Evolution* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), a study praised for its original insights into the history of women and science.

Attendees should arrive by noon with his/her own bagged lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the League. The Western College Alumnae Association, headquartered in Patterson Place, is making the parlor

available for the February 24 luncheon event. Dating from 1898 and for many decades residence of Western College presidents, Patterson Place today is the Western College Museum.



The League of Women Voters of Oxford Supports the Annual Robert E. Strippel Forum

The topic for the 2016 Robert E. Strippel Memorial Continuing Dialogue on Justice and Human Rights is "Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline: A Call to Action." The forum begins the evening of Thursday, February 25 with speaker Judith Browne Dianis, Co-Director of The Advancement Project, a national organization dedicated to working with grassroots organizations to decrease student suspensions and unnecessary criminalization of students in their schools. Dianis' presentation on eradicating the-school-to-prison pipeline is from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Shriver Center, Miami University.

The forum continues on Friday, February 26 with a reception at 3:30 p.m. in the Dolibois Room, Shriver Center, followed by a panel of speakers and group discussion from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. According to the Strippel Fund, "These dialogues will enable persons to become better informed on the issues presented and to experience a new awareness and concern for justice and human rights...[through] the serious engagement of ideas and feelings between persons. In the university setting, this engagement of ideas, both differing and similar, is in keeping with its educational task, the pursuit of truth."

The Strippel Continuing Dialogue on Justice and Human Rights was established in 1974 to honor the late Robert E. Strippel who served as Dean of Students at Miami University and who actively promoted civil rights and social justice. As a community leader, he worked closely with his wife, Jane Strippel.

In 1964, they founded the Friends of the Mississippi Summer Project, an interracial group of Oxford citizens that gave financial and emotional support to Freedom Summer volunteers training in at Western College to found schools and community centers in Mississippi and to register African Americans to vote.

Jane Strippel has continued the activism she shared with her husband, including working for voting rights. She has been a member of the League of Women Voters of Oxford for more than fifty years. The League is one of many organizations supporting the February 26 Strippel Memorial Continuing Dialogue, which is free and open to the public and is organized annually in partnership with the Center of American and World Cultures and Global initiatives at Miami University. For more information, contact Dr. Mary Jane Berman, Director of the Center [bermanmj@miamioh.edu] or Jacqueline Rioja Velarde, Assistant Director [riojavaded@miamioh.edu].

Toni Saldivar/Communications/Publicity

Schedule of events

Thursday, February 25, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Heritage Room, Shriver Center, Miami University

Judith Browne Dianis, co-director, The Advancement Project "Eradicating the School to Prison Pipeline"

Friday, February 26, Dolibois Room, Shriver Center, Miami University

Buffet reception:

3:30 p.m., reception

4:00-6:00 p.m.,

Panel and roundtable discussions: "Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline: a Call to Action"

Panel participants:

Judith Browne Dianis, co-director, Advancement Project, moderator

Deloris Rome Hudson, School to Prison Pipeline OEA/Ohio

Johnny Jackson, Miami University Department of Educational Leadership graduate student

Lamar Jackson, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education, Miami University and Director of the Young Kings Program

Betsy Lavinder, Mathematics teacher, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, Massillon, Ohio

Zakiya Sankara-Jabar, Parent Advocate/Organizer/ Director of Racial Justice NOW



**March 8, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. LCNB Community Room,
Butler County Transportation “Where does the Bus Go?”**

You’ve seen the big buses with the BCRTA logo, but do you know where it goes? How much it costs? Have you taken a ride? Well now is your chance to find out about current services available to Oxford and what the future plans are for regional transportation service. Connor Briggs, Director of Transit Operations with the Butler County RTA will be speaking at our meeting on March 8. Until mid-January Mr. Briggs was the operations manager for the Oxford service, so he is well acquainted with the options available here as well as understanding the county-wide network.

Lieutenant Ben Spilman Director of Miami Parking and Transportation Service will also be with us.



Program Planning Review

24 Leaguers gathered Feb. 13 to discuss our local and national positions. Focus on positions on which we could act, as well as Voting Rights initiatives were on the agenda. Thank you to the membership committee who supplied the muffins, fruit and coffee and also did the set up.

There was considerable interest in communication –or lack there of, which made education on voting, local issues and elections difficult. Housing issues of all kinds and mental health services for adults and children were also cited. Although we have made great progress on bike lanes, there is still much to do in planning for both trails and connectivity.

For the *Making Democracy Work* portion of program planning, many different topics were suggested from the details and questions on how one votes to the studying Campaign Finance and redistricting on the Congressional level in the state to Citizens United to planning viewing parties for with students for the candidate debates.

We have an exciting year ahead of us.

Prue Dana, Co-President



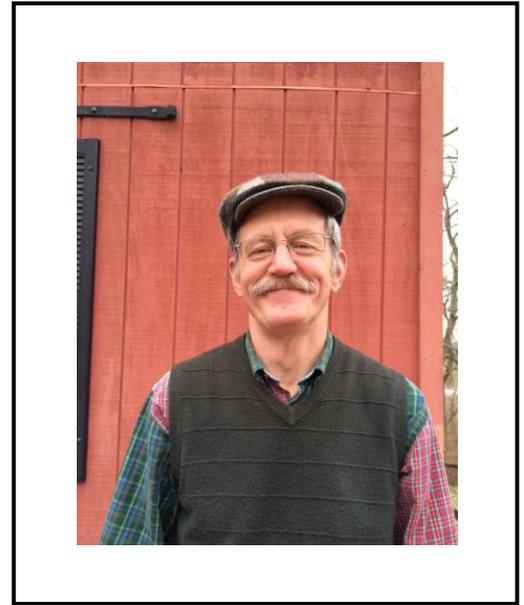
The Government Services Directory 2016 is now available. Many have been distributed throughout Oxford. However if you know of someone or some office that could use a directory or several of them email or call Prue Dana and she will get them to you. It is now on the League of Women Voters of Oxford Website.



Meet Steve Gordon!

One of our newer members, Steve Gordon, is a third generation member of the League of Women Voters. Both his mother, Nan Gordon, and his grandmother, Nathalie Gordon, were members. Steve and his 5 siblings grew up on a farm in Milford, Ohio, east of Cincinnati, where he learned to love and respect nature and the out-of-doors. He obtained 2 degrees in American History from Miami University in the 70's.

Steve has been an historical preservation specialist for 40 years. In 2006, after working for the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus for 25 years, he came to Oxford. He had always wanted to live in a small college town and has immersed himself in the community working for things he loves and believes in. For the past 10 years Steve has been the administrator of the Miami University McGuffey Museum. His interest for the environment has led him to work for the 3 Valley Conservation Trust for the past 5 years. He is also employed by the Butler County Metro Parks and oversees repair of historic buildings.



Questions for Steve:

1. When did you join the League?

2014

2. Why did you join?

I was impressed by the women who worked on the preservation of the Bonham House, Toni Saldivar, Jo McQueen, Sallie Killian, and their friendship, passion and intellect. I admire civic engagement.

3. What issues would you like to see the League focus on?

I think the members are doing a good job in the areas of natural resources and social justice. I like their involvement in local issues and monitoring public officials. They are the watchdogs of the community.

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

Being part of an organization that strives to be non-partisan yet still affective in distributing factual information. The organization is like the umpire of the public arena.

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

Finding reliable trustworthy sources of information on public issues, and unbiased carefully reviewed positions on key public issues.

6. Are you involved in any other community organizations?

Oxford Community Arts Center board member. Des Fleurs Garden Club, auxiliary member and growing seed trees for their May plant sale (Garden Club's main fund raiser), volunteering at the MU butterfly gardens by the bird blind,(weeding and watering) to help attract more butterflies.

7. What interests do you have outside the League?

I try to be more of a participant in life rather than a spectator. I try to get outdoors every day. I believe to be more effective as an individual it has to start from within through habit and actions. There are things we can get done if we all work together. For example, conservation and climate change. It takes 7 trees to create enough oxygen for one person. Conservation and recycling are important things to do for the environment. During Historical Preservation Month I give walking tours sponsored by the McGuffey Museum, Smith Library of Regional History and the City of Oxford. I enjoy landscaping and gardening especially with native plants, trees and shrubs. Swimming and hiking in local areas are things I like to do, as well.

Linda Simmons and Steve Gordon