

# A Celebration of Our Past A Salute to Our Future



## COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Office of the President  
of the  
Borough of Manhattan  
City of New York

# Proclamation

**W**hereas: WIDELY DISSEMINATED INFORMATION, FULL DEBATE AND BROAD PARTICIPATION ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE LIFE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY; AND

WHEREAS: SINCE NINETEEN-NINETEEN, THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN PROVIDING COMPLETE, IMPARTIAL AND NON-PARTISAN INFORMATION ABOUT CANDIDATES AND ISSUES TO AMERICAN VOTERS; AND

WHEREAS: IN NEW YORK CITY, THE LEAGUE'S GUIDEBOOK TO CITY GOVERNMENT, ITS FORUMS AND PUBLICATION AND OTHER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROJECTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A FULLER AND DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AMONG NEW YORKERS; AND


WHEREAS: MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE LEAGUE ARE GATHERED TODAY TO MARK ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY, TO CELEBRATE SEVEN AND ONE-HALF DECADES OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND TO RE-COMMIT TO THE GOALS OF THE LEAGUE;

NOW THEREFORE, I, RUTH W. MESSINGER, PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN, IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THIS HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY AND IN APPRECIATION FOR UNPARALLELED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1994 IN THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN AS:

"LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DIAMOND JUBILEE DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE  
HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND  
CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN TO  
BE AFFIXED.



  
RUTH W. MESSINGER  
PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

---

---

# The League of Women Voters of the City of New York



## Honorary Committee

Former First Ladies of the City of New York\*  
Mary Beame • Joyce Dinkins • Mary Lindsay

## Reception

Thursday, 13 October 1994

6 pm - 8 pm

Loews New York Hotel

Summit/Continental Penthouse

Lexington Avenue & East 51<sup>st</sup> Street

## Program

### Introductory Remarks

by Master of Ceremonies Sam Roberts, Urban Affairs columnist for *The New York Times*

### Reading of Proclamations

from Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Manhattan Borough President Ruth W. Messinger

### Reminiscences

by Anna Clark, Elizabeth Schack, and Cornelia Marwell

### Performance

by actress Michele LaRue

### Drawing

for limited edition Carrie Chapman Catt plate commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters

---

\*The current First Lady, Donna Hanover Giuliani, was unable to accept the League's invitation to serve as an honorary chair.

---

"An Anti-Suffrage Monologue" is performed by Michele LaRue and directed by Warren Kliewer. Written by Marie Jenney Howe, it was published in 1912 by the National American Woman Suffrage Association. This production is presented by The East Lynne Company: Purveyor of American Theatricals. For booking information, please contact: 201/863-6436.

---

---

---

---

**League of Women Voters of the City of New York**  
**Board of Directors**  
**1994-1995**

**Officers**

President	Mary Lou Urban
Vice President	Marcia Lorand
Vice President	Sylvia Grugett
Treasurer	Charlotte Skolnick
Secretary	Esther Schlanger

**Executive Director**  
Amy Beissel



Mary Lou Urban  
President

**Directors**

Beverly Berke  
Pat Fischer  
Pauline Hechtman  
Eileen Nadelson  
Hilda Sharin  
Marjorie Shea  
Patricia Young

**LWV Borough Branches**

**Bronx**

Chair: Lee Abramowitz

**Riverdale**

Chair: Patricia Young

**Central Brooklyn**

Chairs: Minnie Press • Sydonia Presser

**Midwood**

Chair: Janet Vickrey

**Metropolitan**

Chair: Miriam Adelman

**Mid-Manhattan**

Chair: Elma Smolen

**Upper West Manhattan**

Chairs: Sylvia Berman • Gladys Hyman •  
Constance Thomas

**Jackson Heights**

Chairs: Vivian Bellinson • Lillian Kalb

**Kew Gardens**

Chair: Joan Kinne

**North Shore**

Chairs: Beverly Berke • Marjorie Ferrigno

**Rockaway**

Chair: Lucia Greenberg

**Southeast Queens**

Chairs: Jean Hairston • Dotsie Jones



Carrie Chapman Catt  
Founder of the LWV



Mary Garrett Hay  
First president—NYCLWV

---

---

---

---

## *The New York City League at Seventy-Five*

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York was born in 1919, a daughter of the National Women Suffrage Association, inheriting the awesome responsibility of motivating and educating women throughout our city about their newly won right to vote.

Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters, urged women to "finish the fight." Mary Garrett Hay, who served as the New York City League's first president, immediately proposed as the first order of business establishing citizenship schools and preparing a "Know Your City" guide. League members in the five boroughs were well prepared for the task, since New York women had been granted full suffrage in 1917 by state constitutional amendment. And League members were anxious to get started on a long list of needed legislation.

While the League's programs and priorities have changed over the years to meet the changing times, a League pamphlet written 75 years ago shows that its basic aims remain the same: "The organization has three purposes — to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussions and to support needed legislation."

Nonpartisanship, consensus on issues, study before action and concerted advocacy are central to the league's philosophy.

Although the League's program goals may sometimes seem overly ambitious, we always manage to get the important work done — through the dedication of our volunteers, and the support of the community.

Our goals have always run the gamut, from lofty objectives such as establishment of a United Nations, to the purely practical, like a 1920's "mosquito extermination campaign" in Jackson Heights, and "removal of the airport to the northern side of the Astoria Boulevard."

The New York City League chooses its own local program, and also tackles issues proposed by the state and national boards of the League of Women Voters.

The 1994-95 program agenda includes such varied items as Governance of New York City's Schools, Economic Development, N.Y.C.'s Drinking Water, Pros and Cons of Term Limits, as well as Alternatives to Incarceration, and National Health Care Reform.

Over the past 75 years the League has earned a reputation for providing accurate, unbiased information on elections and New York City government. It is unique: a volunteer grassroots, political—but nonpartisan—organization.

The League is recognized by millions for its voter education work.

Our Telephone Information Service is a barometer of citizen interest and concerns, measured by the volume of calls it registers. Records were set in 1991 when 1,000 calls were logged in a six-hour period during the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice nominee Clarence Thomas; and in 1992 as well, when we received 65,000 calls in the pre-presidential election period.

When New Yorkers want a book or pamphlet explaining their government, they turn to the League. *They Represent You*, our annual directory of elected officials, has been a best-seller for more than four decades. *What Makes New York City Run?* is a popular guide for citizens navigating the maze of city government. The book was audiotaped by the Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind.

An ongoing challenge, from the beginning and as we go forward, has been to motivate all citizens to register and vote. In 1968, shocked by the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King,

- cont'd on next page -

---

---

---

---

### *The New York City League at Seventy-Five (cont'd)*

Jr., the N.Y.C. League abandoned its 50th anniversary celebration plans, and redirected its energies toward a "Second Suffrage." The League Votemobile traveled around the city, targeting underrepresented areas in the five boroughs, and registered more than 18,000 new voters.

Organizing, moderating and sponsoring candidate debates has been an integral part of League service for 75 years. We held candidates meetings for the 1921 municipal elections in Assembly Districts in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx. We sponsored the first televised mayoral candidates debate, and even had the questionable honor of having a member of the audience throw a pie at one of the candidates!

The League has been a training ground for women who enter public office as elected and appointed officials. Of all the League's assets, its ability to prepare women for public life may be its finest legacy to the city.

The League's purpose is as relevant today as it was in 1919. A long history rooted in the right to vote has taught the LWV that success is never guaranteed. Reform breeds reform; action breeds reaction. For 75 years, the League of Women Voters has prodded the city to fulfill its promises. Making a success of American democracy is a never-ending commitment, requiring tenacity, patience and a sense of humor.

---

---

## The New York City League at Work in the Sixties



1960s: Demonstration for Court Reform



circa 1960: Mayor Wagner presents Proclamation to N.Y.C. League



1969: Juliana Baerwald presents *Facts for Voters* to Union Carbide executive



1968: Participants in League conference on low-income housing

---

---

---

---

## The New York City League at Work in the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties



circa 1970: Mayor Lindsay with League program committee members:



1974: Mayor Beame at first underground registration drive — IRT Grand Central Station



1980: Mayor Koch with Economic Development chair Edith Sable



1991: On-site observation of scrap metal recycling plant



1991: League officers & WABC/TV's Bill Beutel at live broadcast of U.S. Senate Democratic Primary Debate



1991: Mayor Dinkins with League committee members

---

---

---

---

*Congratulations*  
*on your many years*  
*of outstanding service.*

*Unquestionably,*  
*the League of Women Voters*  
*makes good government possible.*

**Senator Alton R. Waldon, Jr.**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District**

---

---



---

---

Congratulations to  
New York City's

**League of Women Voters**

on its  
75th Anniversary

**EAB**

*Full Service Banking*

Member FDIC

---

---

---

---

***THE best***  
***from***  
***THE bank***



**STATEN ISLAND  
SAVINGS BANK**

Satisfied customers.  
Our strength for generations.

(718) 447-8880



Member FDIC. Equal Opportunity Employer.





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

CHARLES B. RANGEL  
15TH DISTRICT NEW YORK

*October 13, 1994*

*Congratulations and best wishes to the  
League of Women Voters  
of the  
City of New York  
on their 75th Anniversary.*

*Thank you for your commitment  
and service to our City  
and for being  
such a vital part of New York's history.*

*CHARLES B. RANGEL  
U.S. Congress*

---

---

**Best Wishes**  
**to the**  
**League of Women Voters**  
**on its**  
**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Senator Roy M. Goodman**

---

---

---

*New York Newsday*  
*Salutes*

The League  
Of  
Women Voters  
Of  
The City Of  
New York

*On Its*  
*75th Anniversary*

---

---

---

---

**The League Of Women Voters:  
75 Years of Outstanding Service  
to the New York City Public!**

**It is a record to admire.**

***Congratulations.***



**Councilman  
Michael DeMarco**  
*13th Councilmanic District*  
*Bronx*  
**80 Westchester Square  
Bronx, NY 10461  
(718) 931-6063**

---

---



ROOSEVELT SAVINGS BANK  
PROUDLY SALUTES  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
ON ITS 75TH YEAR  
OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC



**ROOSEVELT**  
SAVINGS BANK  
ESTABLISHED IN 1895

Strength that stands the test of time.

Principal Banking Office/Administrative Headquarters  
1122 Franklin Avenue • Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-9300

  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
LENDER

Member  
FDIC

---

---

---

---

Congratulations to

*The League of Women Voters  
of the City of New York*

on your

*Diamond Anniversary*

Best wishes from the Directors,  
Officers and Staff of



Convenient neighborhood offices in Brooklyn, Queens,  
Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and Rockland.

---

---



Our Congratulations To  
*The League of Women Voters  
of the City of New York  
On The Occasion Of Their  
75th Anniversary*



*Damaso Seda*  
*President ~ TWU Local 100*

*Willie James*  
*Secretary-Treasurer ~ TWU Local 100*

*Julia McMillon*  
*Recording-Secretary ~ TWU Local 100*

---

---

# The New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

CONGRATULATES

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

on its  
DIAMOND JUBILEE  
--and still going strong--



THOMAS VAN ARSDALE  
*President*

TED H. JACOBSEN  
*Secretary*

MARGARET SAMUELS  
*Treasurer*

SANDRA FELDMAN, *First Vice President*  
EDGAR ROMNEY, *Second Vice President*  
STANLEY HILL, *Third Vice President*

Community Services Committee and Central Labor  
Rehabilitation Council of New York  
JAMES JOY, JR., *Chairman*    JOHN J. GEHAN, *Administrator*

Black Trade Unionists Leadership Committee  
THOMAS SCOTLAND, *President*

Hispanic Labor Committee  
IDA INES TORRES, *President*

Human Services Providers Advisory Committee  
JEANNE MERTZ and DANIEL MALLOY, *Co-chairs*

Asian Labor Committee  
LONWAY MOY, *President*

---

---

---

---

FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK...

# Congratulations!

WE SALUTE THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**MCCAS**

---

---

*Compliments of*



EILEEN C. DUGAN  
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY  
52ND DISTRICT

343 SMITH STREET  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11231  
(718) 875-2311

842 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248  
(518) 455-5426

---

---

---

---

Congratulations on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
and  
Thanks for all the work you do.



**KAREN KOSLOWITZ**  
City Councilmember, Queens

---

---

*We salute the New York City  
League of Women Voters  
for their great work*



Local 23-25  
ILGWU  
Edgar Romney  
Manager  
Harris Zinn  
Associate Manager

---

---



# D'AGOSTINO

---

---

COMPLIMENTS OF . . . . .

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL UNION 30

115-06 MYRTLE AVENUE, RICHMOND HILL, N.Y. 11418

718 - 847-8484



MICHAEL J. HACH  
Business Manager

JOSEPH P. FERGUSON  
President

LIAM K. TREACY  
Treasurer

MARTIN A. ROSS  
Recording Secretary

JOSEPH W. BIALKOWSKI  
Vice President

---

---

