



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – RoMaFH  
ROSEVILLE, MAPLEWOOD, FALCON HEIGHTS  
*Also serving nearby communities, including Lauderdale & Shoreview*

# VOTER

October/November 2009

Web site: [www.romafh.org](http://www.romafh.org)

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## LWVRoMaFH October Unit Meetings

### **New Minnesota Miracle & Early Childhood Education**

**Speakers:**

**State Rep. Mindy Greiling  
RoMaFH Co-President Barbara Yates**  
(see biographies on page 5)

### **Tuesday, October 20, 2009**

5:30 p.m. - Dinner; 7:00 p.m. - Program

**Little Venetian Restaurant  
2900 Rice Street, Suite 240, Little Canada**

Contact Stephanie DeBenedet for dinner reservations:  
[jdebenedet@msn.com](mailto:jdebenedet@msn.com) or 651-483-1006

### **Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

9:30 a.m.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Victoria and County Road C, Roseville**

Please bring your own beverage

*Bring a friend and/or neighbor who is interested  
in this subject or in the LWV in general*

Bring a food shelf contribution: see article on page 2

**Open to the Public**

**2008–09 Board  
& Off-Board Positions**

**Co-Presidents**

Ann Cleland & Barbara Yates

**Secretary**

Anne Haugan; Mary Ann Palmer,  
alternate

**Treasurer**

Joan Stark

**Action Chair**

Angela Robinson, acting  
*Volunteer needed*

**Membership**

Stephanie DeBenedet, Julianne  
Johnston, Gale Pederson, & Karen  
Schaffer

**Newsletter**

Judy Rosenblatt, *Voter* editor

**Program Division**

(including unit administration and  
some event planning)  
Ann Berry, Carolyn Cushing (after  
January), Georgeann Hall, Teri  
Kysylczyn, Judy Rosenblatt,  
Florence Sprague (& coordinator of  
Diversity Subcommittee),  
Lorraine Fischer, rep. to Council of  
Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

**Public Relations**

*Volunteer needed*

**Voter Service**

Linda McLoon, Andrea Brodtmann

**'09–'10 Off-Board Responsibilities**

**Annual Meeting Coordinators**

Carole Erickson & Shirley Bradley

**Book Sale Coordinators**

Joyce Blomquist & Le Matts

(cont'd on page 3)

# Co-presidents' Letter



Fall is here and children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews have returned to school, the leaves are starting to turn; and because we are the League, we are thinking about elections! The 2009 primary was held, and in our area we saw the winnowing of the field in the Maplewood mayor's race and Maplewood City Council races. Seven candidates ran for mayor and two will advance to the general election. In the council race 11 ran and four will advance. The League of Women Voters RoMaFH will be hosting a forum for the candidates. Let us know if you would be able to volunteer to help with this event. Date and time will be posted on our Web site.

In September, approximately 30 people turned out for our general meeting to hear about "The State of Parks and Recreation in our Cities." We heard presentations from Roseville and Maplewood and engaged in a lively discussion about the difficulties and opportunities in these challenging economic times. We thank Lonnie Brokke, Director of Parks and Recreation from Roseville, DuWayne Konewko, Director of Parks from Maplewood, and Audra Robbins and Jim Taylor from Maplewood Recreation Department for giving us their time and expertise! We are fortunate to have such talented people leading park and recreation efforts in these cities.

Thanks also to the Roseville/Little Canada *Review* for sending a reporter, who did an excellent job of summarizing the main points made at the meeting in the September 22 issue of the newspaper (a page 1 story).

In October, our unit meetings will turn our attention to education. In November units will feature the coming 2010 Census. You will find the details elsewhere in this newsletter, but do put the dates on your calendars. Note that there will be no November *Voter*; this issue covers both months.

League events give us all a chance to get together, hear some current information of importance to our community, engage in lively discussion, and have some fun. Hope to see you at the meetings!

**Ann Cleland and Barb Yates, Co-Presidents**

## LWVRoMaFH Food Drive has begun

During the month of September LWVRoMaFH members donated 29 pounds of foodstuffs to the *Keystone Community Services Foodshelf* located at the Fairview Community Center. Keystone serves residents in Ramsey County—from downtown St. Paul to Roseville, from Little Canada to the Midway and the North End areas of St. Paul. Keystone is a **Basic Needs Program** for families in economic crisis, serving more than 4,000 individuals each month.

Please bring food or cash donations to any **RoMaFH unit meeting or general program** for distribution to Keystone.

**'09-'10 Off-Board Responsibilities**  
(cont'd from p. 2)

**Budget Committee**

*To be named;* Joan Stark, *ex officio*

**Diversity Subcommittee** (of the Program Division)

Andrea Brodtmann, Sandi Lutz, Judy Rosenblatt, Florence Sprague, Joan Stark, Judy Stuthman

**Finance Committee**

Georgiana Sobola, Anita Mayfield.  
Joan Stark, *ex officio*

**Nominating Committee**

Ann Berry, Carolyn Cushing, Georgeann Hall, & Julianne Johnston.

**Observers**

Unit volunteers observe at city council & school board meetings.

*Sign up at your unit meeting or contact Ann Cleland to volunteer. One time commitment okay.*

**Records / Directory**

Julianne Johnston

**Representative to Gavel Club**

Barbara Yates

**Rosefest Parade Coordinator**

*Volunteer needed*

**VIP Meeting Coordinators**

Program Committee

**Voter distribution**

Ann Berry

**Web site**

John Kysylyczyn; Jim Debenedet (as of end of 2009)

**Windows and Mirrors for All**

**Take a Walk in These Flip-flops**

by Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee Coordinator

Pictures of little girls toddling along in their mothers' high heels always elicit coos and aw's. We also know that when your shoes don't fit right your whole body can be affected. When we try to "walk a mile in someone else's shoes" we inevitably feel uncomfortable and trip over the metaphorical shoelaces. Our imaginations have trouble connecting another reality to our own. One writer who beautifully helps us successfully walk in the shoes of others to better understand lives dramatically different from our own is Kao Kalia Yang. Her memoir, *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, is a jewel.

If you have lived in Minnesota for long you know that thousands of Hmong families resettled here in the decades following the end of the war in Viet Nam to escape persecution in Laos for having helped the Americans. For many of them the transition was traumatic, even overwhelming, involving death and injury to family members, separation from loved ones, years in stifling refugee camps, and major culture shock and loss of self esteem upon arrival in cold Minnesota. But it is one thing to "know" that this happened and quite another to feel it.

Kao Kalia Yang writes with directness and clarity and a gentle and deep love that put you with her family at each step. Her descriptions sometimes have a poetic quality, so lovely is her use of language and imagery. She infuses situations with a cultural depth by incorporating some of the stories she loved as a child, and explaining customs in meaningful context so that they feel natural. Our shared humanity shines through.

As the evenings become darker and cooler, curl up with this book. You will feel the pebbles they felt in their shoes, the losses, the challenges, the successes, but most of all you will feel the love and respect. You will finish your walk enriched.

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**Diversity Committee Staffs Table at Hmong Resource Fair**

On Saturday, October 3, 2009, the LWV RoMaFH Diversity and Outreach Committee staffed a table at the annual Hmong Resource Fair at Aldrich Arena. This was a great opportunity to share information about Census 2010 and LWV.

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**LWV RoMaFH November Unit Meetings**

**Census 2010: Challenges and Opportunities**

Who should be counted for redistricting? Who should be counted for allocation of public services funding? How do we count the invisible—the homeless, the undocumented workers—and where do we count the snowbirds?

The LWV RoMaFH Diversity Committee will discuss the schedule for Census 2010 and try to highlight some of the key reasons this decennial count is important to us all and controversial to some. Come and share your perspective.

*Tuesday unit meets November 17*

*Wednesday unit meets November 18.*

*See page 1 for venues and times (November's are the same)*

***As always, this LWV RoMaFH program is open to the public***



**Membership Dues— *New*  
fiscal year began April 1**

To join or renew, make your dues  
check payable to LWVRoMaFH

Individual – \$55/year

Household  
(two or more) – \$85/year

New member, 1st  
year discount – \$40/year

Send to: Karen Schaffer  
LWVRoMaFH Membership  
2100 Fairview Ave. N  
Roseville, MN 55113-5452

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Joan Stark, Treasurer**

**September 23, 2009**



**Previous Checking Balance – August 12, 2009 \$1,217.39**

**Income:**

Dues	\$340.00
Ed Fund Reimbursement: <i>RoseFest</i> Parade	848.87
<i>2009 Martin &amp; Brown Grant</i> (1st-half)	212.89

**Total Income: \$1,401.76**

**Expenses:**

#4291 - James DeBenedet, Web site software	\$106.04
#4292 – Ann Berry, <i>Voter</i> , (printing \$68.99 – postage \$44.00)	112.99

**Total Expenses: \$219.03**

**Checking Account Balance September 23, 2009 \$2,400.12**

**Savings Account Balance August 31, 2009 \$2,558.78**

**Education Fund Balance September 11, 2009 \$4,865.27**

**Membership: 69**

- 1 - Scholarship**
- 4 – Introductory**
- 4 – Household**
- 60 - Individual**

**Have you paid your dues? See column at left.**

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## Biographies of October unit meeting speakers

### Mindy Greiling

#### “The New Minnesota Miracle”

Mindy Greiling and her husband, Roger, have lived in Roseville since 1970. Mindy graduated Magna cum Laude from Gustavus Adolphus College with a B.A. in Education. While teaching elementary school and serving as a team leader in the St. Paul Public Schools, she obtained her Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota.

Mindy’s civic involvement began when she joined the League of Women Voters. She was president of the Roseville area branch and served as the Minnesota League’s legislative chair. In 1987, she was elected to the Roseville Area School Board. She served until 1992, when she was elected to the Minnesota Legislature (and has been re-elected ever since).

Mindy was a Girl Scout leader for nine years, and then served on the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley Board from 1994 to 2000. She then served on the state and national boards of the National Alliance on Mental Illness until 2007.

#### Legislative assignments

- Chair, K-12 Education Finance Committee
- Education Policy Committee
- Ways and Means Committee
- Health and Human Services Mental Health Committee
- House Finance Committee

### Barbara Yates

#### “Early Childhood Education”

Barbara Yates is executive director of Resources for Child Caring (RCC). Ms. Yates joined RCC in February 2008 as the agency’s third executive director in over 35 years. Most recently, she was co-executive director of the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. There, she built a complex multi-million dollar enterprise to identify cost-effective ways of preparing Minnesota’s children for kindergarten. As a veteran state education official, Barbara was a key learning administrator for Governors Carlson, Ventura, and Pawlenty. She served as director for Child Development Services at the Minnesota Department of Human Services and deputy commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Education. Ms. Yates came to RCC not only as a seasoned professional, but as a mother who understands the importance of high-quality care and the consequences of going without it. Her commitment to children is rooted in lifelong advocacy and personal experience—she is dedicated to creating new educational opportunities for the next generation of Minnesotans as they grow and mature.

## Council of Metro Area Leagues (CMAL)

### Fall Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, October 17, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Cornelia House

1840 University Avenue West

Saint Paul, MN 55104

(Corner of University and Fairview avenues)

Speaker: Mary Youle, Vice President of Housing and Community Services for the Aging Services of Minnesota.

As usual, the meeting will start with coffee and a light breakfast. To kick off CMAL’s Mini-Study on Housing Issues, Mary Youle will speak. She is a housing expert for the nonprofit assisted living and nursing home trade association, and was formerly with the MN Health and Housing Alliance. Please come with your questions on housing issues for seniors!

## City of Roseville

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Dialogue

“Creating a Welcoming Community”

Tuesday, October 27, 6–9 p.m. (light meal served at 6)

Roseville Skating Center

2661 Civic Center Drive

Roseville inhabitants are invited to continue dialogue to learn from and about each other.

The event is free, but **registration is required by October 20**. Last year’s event was well attended and very successful.

E-mail [human.rights@ci.roseville.mn.us](mailto:human.rights@ci.roseville.mn.us) or call 651-792-7026 to register.

#### Sponsors:

City of Roseville, Roseville Human Rights Commission, JC Penney, Roseville Area School District 623, Roseville Rotary, Northwestern College, Roseville Visitors Association, Rose Hill Alliance Church, and Anonymous in honor of the Diversity Committee of the LWVRoMaFH.

## RoMaFH Calendar for 2009–2010

All Tuesday evening units will meet at the Little Venetian Restaurant in Little Canada at 5:30 p.m.

All Wednesday units will meet at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Roseville, at 9:30 a.m.

All Board meetings will be at the Raider Room, Roseville Skating Center, at 7:00 p.m.

### October

Tue, Wed, Oct 20, 21, **Units**, New Minnesota Miracle & Early Childhood Education

Presenters: Mindy Greiling & Barb Yates

Wed, Oct 28, **Board**

### November

Tue, Wed, Nov 17, 18, **Units**, 2010 Census/redistricting

Presenters: Diversity Subcommittee

### December

Wed, Dec 2, **Board**

Sun, Dec 6, **Holiday Event** at Little Venetian, 4:30–7:30  
charity: Women’s Advocates

### January 2010

Tue, Jan 19, **General meeting**, VIP (meet with officials)

Wed, Jan 27, **Board**

### February

Tue, Wed, Feb 16, 17, **Units**, Lively Issues (program planning) and Code Enforcement

Wed, Feb 24, **Board**

### March

Tue, Wed, Mar 16, 17, **Units**, Health Care

Wed, Mar 24, **Board**

### April

Tue, Wed, Apr 20, 21, **Units**, Climate Change

Wed, Apr 28, **Board**

### May

**Annual Meeting**, TBA

**“Do your Own Thing,”** TBA

Wed, May 26, **Board** (new and old)

### June

Wed, June 23, **Board**, Calendar Planning

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## Mom and Dad Want to Stay Home; Planning Their Future at Home

*Discover critical information to keep aging parents at home—where they want to be*

**Saturday, November 14th, 2009 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm** (8:30 a.m., registration and coffee)

Radisson Hotel: 2540 N. Cleveland Ave., Roseville, MN 55113 |

Phone: (651) 636-4567

Register online at <[www.mnhomecare.org](http://www.mnhomecare.org)> by November 1.

Walk-ins are welcome, however seats are limited.

Cost \$10 per person (*lunch included*).

Thousands of Minnesota Seniors are successfully aging at home with private-pay home care services. Your loved ones can, too.

Private-Pay Home Care is the fastest growing segment of Home Care in America. Find out how Minnesota families are accessing and benefiting from home care services. Understand how your personal resources can be utilized in coordination with long term care insurance and Medicare benefits to make living at home possible as the effects of aging take place. Understand what home care options are available *before* a crisis and learn how to choose the right provider for your family.

Hear from local experts about home care services that are available and understand the cost-effective alternatives to placing your loved one in an assisted living or nursing home. Keep your loved ones at home, where they want to be.

### *Highlights include:*

- Compare Home Care, Assisted Living, and Nursing Home Options
- Understand the Costs of Senior Care Options
- Know How to Select the Right Provider

Sponsored by Minnesota HomeCare Association

**LWVRoMaFH Holiday Dinner**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2009, 4:30–7:30 p.m.**  
**Little Venetian Restaurant**  
**2900 Rice Street, Little Canada**

**Buffet Dinner Menu**

Bread & Butter	Tortellini with peas and bacon
Italian Salad	Chicken Parmesan
Penne Pasta	Dessert

There will be a cash bar and we will have the entire restaurant for our event. The cost will be \$18 per person (includes tax and gratuity), and guests are welcome. The League needs reservations **by December 1, please**.

A short program will be presented by Kate Suchomel, development and community relations associate at Women's Advocates, designated by the RoMaFH board as the charity to support. This is another way to support our broad-based diversity project.

Women's advocates has suggested the following items for our members to contribute. They are most urgently needed now. Bring your contribution with you to the dinner, unwrapped.

baby items: baby oil, baby lotion, baby bath soap, bottles & sippy cups, baby nasal aspirators  
pull-ups, boys & girls, sizes 2–5  
white towels and wash clothes  
toothpaste, toothbrushes, and mouthwash  
hair accessories for women & girls (binders, ties, barrettes)  
TWIN-sized flat sheets, fitted sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and comforters  
shower caps  
cash donations are always welcome

Clip and return the form below with your check **payable to LWVR0MaFH** to: Georgeann Hall, 385 Transit Ave., Roseville, MN 55113 (or bring it to your October or November unit meeting).

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a cash donation, send a check, payable to Women's Advocates, to Georgeann.

If you are interested in carpooling/getting a ride to the restaurant, please contact Georgeann at <[gdhall96244@q.com](mailto:gdhall96244@q.com)> or 651-484-9057.

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Reservation for LWVRoMaFH Holiday Dinner, Sun., Dec. 6, 2009

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18.00 each.

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming LWVROMaFH Calendar

### October 2009

**20, 21** – Units, New Minnesota Miracle and Early Childhood Education. *See page 1.*

**28** – Bd. of Directors meets

### November 2009

**17, 18** – Units, 2010 Census & Redistricting, Presenters: Diversity Subcommittee

### December 2009

**2**, Board of Directors meets

**6, Holiday Event** at Little Venetian. *See page 7 for registration form.*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

### NOTE:

**Board meetings** are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Wed at the Roseville Skating Center, Raider Room.

**Third Tuesday evening unit meetings** are held at Little Venetian Restaurant, 2900 Rice St., Little Canada, at 7:00 p.m.; social time and dinner optional at 5:30 p.m. (No minimum cost for dinner.)

**Third Wednesday morning unit meetings** are held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 N. Victoria Ave., Roseville, at 9:30 a.m.

*All meetings are public*

**Note: This is the October/November issue of the Voter.**

League of Women Voters of  
Roseville, Maplewood & Falcon Heights  
and nearby communities  
Ann Berry  
1059 Woodhill Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113-2017