

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

Whereas: 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 51st 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 75th 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
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Carrie Chapman Catt
Founder of the LWV



Mary Garrett Hay
First president—NYCLWW

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.
10th Senatorial District

Congratulations to
New York City's

League of Women Voters

on its
75th Anniversary

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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
75th 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
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Bronx
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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--



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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
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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248
(518) 455-5426

Congratulations on your 75th 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*



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Honoring

the New York City League of Women Voters
for 75 years of effort
on behalf of good government.

Assemblyman Brian M. McLaughlin
25th Assembly District
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Congratulations on your
75th Anniversary



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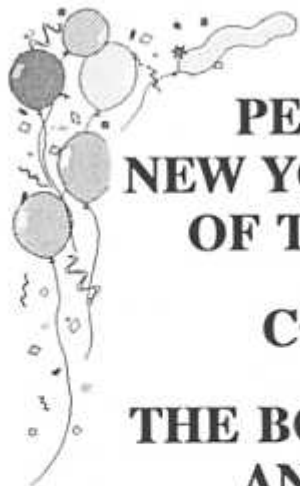
CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR

75th ANNIVERSARY

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN RAVITZ

73rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT, MANHATTAN



**PEDRO ESPADA, JR
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
OF THE 32ND DISTRICT**

CONGRATULATES

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND THE STAFF OF**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

ON THEIR

75TH ANNIVERSARY

*"The cure for the evils of democracy,"
wrote H.L. Mencken, "is more democracy."*

**Congratulations
to the
League of Women Voters
on 75 years
of national service.**

Council Member Kenneth K. Fisher
33rd Council District
16 Court Street • Brooklyn, NY 11241
(718) 875-5200

*Congratulations
and Continued
Success*

**COUNCIL MEMBER
LLOYD HENRY**

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courses were learned at my League
of Women Voters branch —
Thanks!*



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CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR

75th ANNIVERSARY

A JOB WELL DONE!

SERPHEIN R. MALTESE
Senator, Queens County

*Greetings to
League of Women Voters
75th Anniversary*

*We work together
for our mutual goals...*



*Older Women's League
New York Chapter*

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Congratulations
and thank you
to the members of
The League of Women Voters
of the City of New York
for your spirit and dedication
to good government.

Joan Griffin McCabe
N.Y.C. Council Member
38th Council District

With
A
Well-Earned
Salute

ERIC N. VITALIANO
New York State Assembly

*A generous gift from David Rockefeller
to the League of Women Voters of the City
of New York Education Fund on the
occasion of the League's 75th Anniversary is
gratefully acknowledged.*



**The League of Women Voters of
the City of New York Education
Fund acknowledges with gratitude
the generosity of Merrill Lynch &
Co., Inc. in providing a grant in
support of the League's 75th
Anniversary reception.**

Cover Photo
Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of
the League of Women Voters,
(center) in white

Article by Rose Young,
editor-in-chief,
The Woman Citizen
November 3, 1917

Twenty thousand New York women, several thousand of whom held the proxies of the million and more women who have said, over their own signatures, that they desire the right to vote, marched up Fifth Avenue on Saturday, October 27 in the greatest and most forceful demonstration ever given on behalf of the woman suffrage cause. For three hours thousands of women from all walks and stations of life gave this living testimonial to the force and faith behind the suffrage movement, before the admiring and enthusiastic eyes of hundreds of thousands of men and women who lined both sides of the avenue....

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York thanks Rick Sommers of Consolidated Color Press, Inc. for his invaluable advice in the production of this journal.
