



# Women's Civic League of Portage, Inc.

*Preserving our Heritage ~ Fostering Community Welfare*

[www.WomensCivicLeagueOfPortage.com](http://www.WomensCivicLeagueOfPortage.com)

February - March 2017

## From Bean to Barn, Farming Fine Chocolate

**Lisa Nelson, Chief Chocolate Officer of Roots Chocolates**

**Old Fashioned.... Beer Naked.... Hot Flash...** are just a few of the flavors of chocolates that Lisa creates.



On her childhood farm, Lisa Nelson grows tomatoes, squash, apples, strawberries, pears, and other familiar fruits and vegetables. But what she creates with that harvest is acres away from ordinary.

Lisa uses her fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to flavor her farm-crafted Roots Chocolates. The bite-sized beauties have fans close to her home near Wisconsin Dells, Wis., and from far away, thanks to her online store.

"I wake up thinking of chocolate and, 'Oh, I think these two flavors will go well together,'" Lisa says about her sweet obsession. "I dream in chocolate."

"I'll try virtually anything in chocolate," she says. "Nothing is safe with me. I've even roasted lemon grass and garlic for chocolate."

**Learn more about Lisa on her website:**  
[www.rootschocolate.com](http://www.rootschocolate.com)

**Wednesday, February 8th  
@ Dino's Restaurant**

**Social Hour:** 11:30  
**Lunch:** Noon

**Program to follow**

**Menu:** Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, Cheesecake with Cherries

**Cost:** \$12.00 (includes entrée, coffee & water, dessert, tax & tip. Ice tea, milk or soda an extra charge.

**Reservations:** Contact Kathy Crawford (742-5262) by Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

♥.:.\*"Chocolate Love"\*.:♥



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**Dear Civic Leaguers:**

Wasn't it wonderful to hear about the exciting programs and changes slated by Portage Parks and Recreation? We thank Dan Kremer for his enthusiastic presentation about what we are seeing and can anticipate over the next year. And speaking of interesting programs coming up: In February we will learn more about everyone's favorite – chocolate -- and maybe snag a sample. In March we get an update on another historic local treasure, the Al Ringling Theatre. You don't want to miss these events.

Soon we will start planning for Civic League activities for the 2017-2018 year (our new year starts June 2017). Some Committee Chairs have expressed an interest in stepping aside. This is a great opportunity for new and current members to consider stepping up. Civic League is well organized with lots of shared history. But it is a good time to reflect on what we can do better. How can we better serve our members? Are there issues and concerns we need to address? What about our role in the larger community? Are we meeting our obligations in a caring and pro-active way? Take a moment to reflect on what Civic League means to you, what you might like to see us do, and what you can contribute. Please share your thoughts with me or any member of the Board.

Thank you for being a part of this great organization,

**Betty Kutzke**

### Appreciation

Thank you all for your participation in our **NO BAKE - BAKE SALE**. We received a total of \$1,725.00 which is a wonderful amount towards the support of Women's Civic League. It is by far the easiest and most enjoyable fundraiser for us to have, so we appreciate everyone taking part.

**Clarice Rosing & Holly Powers**

Another great year for **Red Stocking**. The Caring Tree distributed them for us this year. We filled 157 stocking thanks to the ladies who donated candy to make it possible.

Thank you to the cutters, counters, fillers and the sewers. Linda Wendt will take over next year.

**Colleen Davison**

### Valentine's Day Party

The **Heritage House Valentine's Day Party** given by the Civic League will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at Heritage House.

Set-up begins at 12:45, with the start time at 1:15. Our entertainment this year will be Mike and Holly Powers who will lead the residents in singing songs which most of them know and love.

After the entertainment, cookies and punch will be served to the residents and we will hand out some small presents.

Thank you, in advance, to all the members who baked cookies, bought presents and helped volunteer at the party. We could not do this without all your efforts! Thanks.

**Sally Lillie and Linda Wendt**



# Rebirth of Al Ringling Theatre

**Wednesday, March 8th  
@ Dino's Restaurant**

**Social Hour:** 11:30  
**Lunch:** Noon

**Program to follow**

**Menu:** 2-Piece Cod Dinner,  
Coleslaw, Rice Pilaf, Mint  
Ice Cream & Cookie

**Cost:** \$12.00 (includes  
entrée, coffee & water,  
dessert, tax & tip. Ice tea,  
milk or soda an extra  
charge.

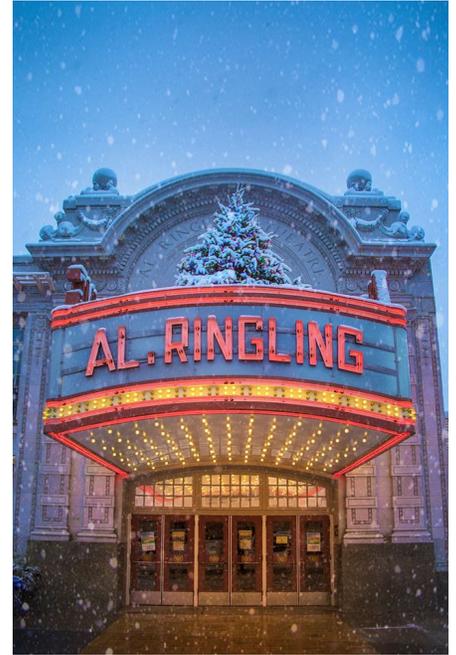
**Reservations:** Contact  
Bev Johnson (742-4410) by  
Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Built in 1915, the Al Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, Wisconsin underwent a \$3 million renovation this past year.

Bill Johnsen, an area photographer and Stephanie Miller-Lamb, Executive Director will discuss the restoration and share photographs/videos of the process.

Photographs were taken daily during the entire restoration showing every detail including scaffolding, plaster work, painting, wall paper, wiring, carpet and seat installation. The majority of these images have yet to be seen by anyone. You are the first.

Learn more about the Al Ringling Theatre, America's Prettiest Playhouse at: [www.AIRingling.com](http://www.AIRingling.com).



## New Member Moment

### Meet Pat Halasz

I grew up in a suburb of Detroit, graduated from Albion College and taught in that area for a few years. My husband Joe and I were married in 1965 and moved to Portage in 1971 where our second daughter, Sarah, was born. Joe owned Portage Cleaners until his death in 1999. When we first moved here, people would ask if I liked Portage. I lied and said "yes." Now, I wouldn't want to live any place else.

When my older daughter, Susan, started school, I started subbing which eventually led to full-time teaching. One of my daughters lives in Portage and the other in Madison so I'm lucky to have them so close. They have blessed me with four wonderful (of course) grandchildren. Retired since 2002, travel and volunteering have filled my time. I am excited to belong to Civic League with such stimulating, involved women.

## December Drawing

Punch bowl set donated by Sandy Tills, won by Judy Eulberg  
Angel drawing donated by Pat Madini, won by Judy McMahon  
Christmas candle basket donated by Vicki Bortz, won by Nancy Beasley  
Christmas tea cups and hot chocolate donated by Kathryn Crawford, won by Bobbi Goodman  
4 pc snack set donated by Sue Martin, won by Sally Lillie  
Pfaltzgraff snowman plate; bells donated by Sue Martin & Nan Rebholz won by Kathryn Crawford  
Gold quilt; ornament donated by Peggy Nelson & Nan Rebholz won by Judy McMahon  
Christmas platter/server; dip dish/salsa spice donated by Andi Reitmann, won by Joan Swift  
Christmas cards; cd holder donated by Betty Carrington & Nan Rebholz won by Shirley Harty  
Taupe & aqua afghan; angel donated by Rita Ritacca & Nan Rebholz, won by Dorothy Rice  
German Christmas candy dish; candy donated by Judy Longfield, won by Linda Wendt

**Total money collected: \$213**

## January Drawing

Phillip Margolin paperbacks; shawl donated by Shirley Harty & Judy Longfield, won by Kay McMahon  
Wine rack; 2 bottles of wine donated by Nan Rebholz & Andi Reitmann, won by Sandy Gunderson  
Philip Glass cds; cheese board/crackers/basket donated by Shirley Harty, Nan Rebholz, Andi  
Reitmann, won by Pat Madani  
Pfaltzgraff mugs, coffee/cookies donated by Andi Reitmann, won by Sandy Tills  
Snowman; scarf donated by Kathryn Crawford & Andi Reitmann, won by Dorothy Rice  
Seasonings/dipping dishes donated by Andi Reitmann, won by Melody Taylor

**Total money collected: \$114**

## Changes.... Changes... Changes...

**Following are additions and changes that have occurred since our Program Booklets were printed.**

### New Member Additions

Dale Delude	841 Saddle Ridge	Portage	566-1823
Sandy Gunderson	2900 Forest Hill Dr	Portage	742-4629
Pat Halasz	536 Clemons Dr	Portage	742-7233

### Changes

Tracy Cooper ... change phone number to 617-0265

Rita Maass ... change phone number to 697-7242

Beverly Muhlenbeck ... change phone number to 697-9497

Gayle Sarafolean ... add to Honorary Member List... change address to 2876 Village Rd. Apt 6, Portage