

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

April 2011

Calendar

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesdays 3/29 to 5/3 2:30 to 4 pm | Lecture Series, "Religions in Arlington," offered by Arlington Council on Aging, Senior Center, 27 Maple St. See page 8 for details. |
| Friday 4/1 noon to 1 pm | League Lunch with Sally Naish of the Arlington Tree Committee at the ACMI Cable Studio, 85 Park Ave. See page 8 for details. |
| Monday 4/11 7 pm | LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road. All members welcome. See page 2 for directions. |
| Wednesday 4/13 | LWVMA Day on the Hill, State House, Boston. See page 3 for details. |
| Friday-Saturday 5/20-21 | LWVMA Annual Convention, "Women Making a Difference," at The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA. |
| Thursday 5/26 | LWVA Annual Meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. Details to follow in the May Bulletin. |

Town Election Calendar

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday 4/2 8 am to 8 pm | Town Election. |
| Monday 4/25 | Annual Town Meeting begins. |

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
Ann FitzGerald: Membership **AnnFitz@rcn.com**

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor **c.haase@comcast.net**
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing **mlreiners@gmail.com**

Co-President's Message

The local political season is in full swing. The latest in a long line of Candidates' Nights has been brought to a successful conclusion. It is not always a smooth process. How do you explain to someone that they cannot appear on the stage for a town-wide office if they are not on the ballot? I didn't even think about hearing aids for the hearing impaired and did not know where the aids were stored. The hearing aids will not be forgotten next year.

Organized by Patti Muldoon, the League will be providing rides to the polls for the local election on Saturday April 2. Don't forget to vote!

Pat Lieberman and her committee are reviewing and researching a number of articles in the Town Warrant that the League might take a position on. Usually, an article/guest column appears in the Advocate that contains comments, pro or con, on a number of warrant articles before Town Meeting begins.

Please come to the Friday lunch on April 1st to have a conversation with Sally Naish about the tree population in Arlington.

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road, Arlmont:

At St. Camillus, the large Catholic church adjacent to the access road for Route 2, go under the overpass, stop at the stop sign, cross the access road on the other side, and proceed straight ahead onto Sagamore Rd., which curves to your right. Go the end of Sagamore, turn left. The house, on your right, has natural cedar shingles and black shutters.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2010-2011

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Carolyn Parsons, Co-President | 781-646-9309 |
| Angela Olszewski, Co-President | 781-648-8649 |
| Meredith Zona, Organization VP | 781-648-2753 |
| Patricia Muldoon, Action VP | 781-648-1019 |
| Patricia Lieberman, Local Action VP | 781-646-1987 |
| Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer | 781-646-4522 |
| Anne Linn, Secretary | 781-643-0356 |
| Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director | 781-646-9711 |
| Clarice Gordon, Publicity | 781-648-0004 |
| Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide | 781-648-1794 |
| Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor | 781-643-3429 |
| Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing | 781-646-9611 |
| Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator | 781-643-4345 |
| Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress | 781-646-4362 |

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.



League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

Day on the Hill

Transparency in Government

Wednesday April 13, 2011
State House, Boston

9:30 a.m. Registration *Gardner Auditorium*
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm Program *Gardner Auditorium*

Featured Speakers



Senator James Eldridge
On corporate political responsibility



Senator Stanley Rosenberg
Co-Chair of Special Joint Committee on Redistricting

And
News from League Program Specialists

Suggested Donation \$10.00

We look forward to seeing you there!



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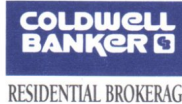


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March 2011 Candidates' Night Recap and Thanks

By Carolyn Parsons



The League had another successful Candidates' Night. Town Hall was full! Two hundred chairs had been set up on the floor of Town Hall. Information tables had to be moved backwards and more chairs added as everyone scrambled for seats. Numerous Town Meeting Member candidates attended and were available for questions. The uncontested candidate for the Board of Assessors, Mary Winstanley O'Connor, attended but ceded her time on the stage to the contested offices. She was available to answer questions before the forum began. The uncontested candidate for Treasurer, Stephen Gilligan, felt that it was important for Arlington citizens to be able to put a face with a name and to hear his views. All three candidates running for two three-year terms and the two candidates running for a one-year term on the Board of Selectmen attended; all four candidates running for three seats on the School Committee attended. I would like to thank the candidates for running for public office, for caring about our town and giving their time to participate in this public forum.

Our guest Moderator, Margaret Coppe, member of the League of Women Voters of Lexington, was instrumental in the success of the evening. Her respectful demeanor with the candidates and audience set a cordial tone for the evening. She kept the forum running smoothly on a tight schedule. This is not an easy task. The clock and the timers must be watched; questions must be asked in a coherent manner; the order in which the candidates speak must be adhered to. I thank her for her participation.

The Moderator presented questions that had been submitted anonymously on cards by audience members. The League thanks League members Joan Martin and Howard Winkler and Arlington Vision 2020 representative Bruce Fitzsimmons, who reviewed all the questions. Many audience members took the time to write questions, representing a range of concerns and issues. The script is a "puzzle", says Sue Fish, script editor. The amount of time for opening and closing remarks, posing the questions, getting on and off the stage must all be taken into account so that the forum ends within a few seconds of 9:30. Sue gathered up the candidates' names, order on the ballot, and numerous suggestions to make a cohesive whole. All was done with efficiency and an offer to edit the script next year. I am so very pleased! Thanks also to League member Elizabeth Thompson who made last minute edits to the script and gave the introductory and closing remarks. Elizabeth is very good at making on-the-fly comparisons between our political process and the lack of democratic processes in the Middle East. Many thanks to the timers, League members Jane Culbert, Marc Butler, Phyllis Maddox, and Lenore Winkler, who juggled the stopwatches and time cards for 1½ hours straight in a tightly run program, to ensure equal time for the candidates.

I am very appreciative of the cablecast crew for the amount of work and effort they contributed to broadcast this event. They made it possible for those unable to attend to view the forum and make an informed decision when voting.

Thanks to Jane Howard, LWV of Arlington and Vision 2020, for her many roles in organizing this event. We were washing tables and installing privacy skirts around the tables a few days before the event. Jane knows where supplies are kept or whom to ask where a particular item may be. I didn't even know where the light switch was to illuminate a closet.

Thanks to Kathy Fennelly for producing and to Peggy Reiners for editing the Voters Guide. Nancy Sweeney communicated with the candidates to help ensure prompt replies to the League questionnaire, and Kathy delivered copies of the Voters Guide around Arlington.

Many League members made the night run smoothly. Nancy and John Sweeney helped with the setup of Town Hall; Betsy Rulon helped with the cleanup. Liz Blumenthal and Angela Olszewski served as greeters and staffed the League table, handing out the Voters Guides, fielding questions, and encouraging audience members to submit questions. Ann FitzGerald answered questions about joining the League. Candidates Night was successful because of the generosity and commitment of many League members. A number of people congratulated me on a well-run, informative event. I am pleased that all is done but the filing. I said the same thing last year!

Welcome New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest LWVA members:

Rita Chapdelaine
88 Appleton Street, #2
Arlington, MA 02476

Dorothy (Betsy) Rulon
37 Drake Road, #718
Arlington, MA 02476



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In Memoriam: Helen Budd

Janice Bakey writes:

Longtime LWVA member, and retired and esteemed APS Kindergarten teacher Helen Budd passed away March 3.

Helen was a LWVA member for a long time — and an ardent, kind but firm spokesperson for good educational practices. She followed what she preached in education in her classroom and frequently contributed to the community in this area as well.

She was a true professional educator.

The Arlington Public Schools benefited greatly from her as did her students (five-year-olds as well as adults).

From personal experience, she was a lovely person to know and work with and you always learned something new in the process.

Other League members contributed memories to the Boston Globe's obituary web site:

Kathy Fennelly:

My children were never lucky enough to have Helen as a teacher, but I was honored with her friendship. She was one of those rare humans who make you feel more wonderful, wittier, smarter, better than you are. I loved working with her on committees and any other chance meeting we had. She made me laugh, she took me seriously and she made the day brighter. What a loss to us all.

Patti Muldoon:

My son was lucky enough to attend Helen's kindergarten class at the Dallin School. What a wonderful and warm teacher she was! He loved her. She knew each of her student's strengths and where they needed a little extra encouragement and support. Sometimes I helped out in the classroom and I was amazed at how she calmly managed to persuade rowdy little children to quickly put away all their work/play toys then to gather in a circle to hear her read a story and to learn their alphabet. She was an inspiring teacher.

Later in life I also got to know Helen as we were both active in the League of Women Voters. She was lovely to work with on civic activities. Helen gave so much to the children and to the whole Town of Arlington. She is missed.

April Lunch to Focus on Arlington Trees

At noon on April 1, the Friday Lunch Series at the studio of Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMI) will feature Sally Naish, chair of the Arlington Tree Committee. The event is open to the public and is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Arlington.

Ms. Naish will talk about what the Tree Committee is and what it is doing, and will provide information on the benefits of trees and what is happening with Arlington trees. This is a timely topic, since National Arbor Day is April 30.

Anyone may attend the Friday Lunch Series. Bring your own brown bag lunch and beverage to the ACMI studio at 85 Park Avenue and join the group for an informal lunch with the speaker at noon. A formal half-hour taping of the speakers' remarks and answers to questions will follow. The taped presentation will be available on cable later as part of Our Town, the League's Friday Lunch Series.

After the April lunch, the Lunch Series will recommence in the fall.

Arlington Council on Aging to Offer Spring Lecture Series

Religions in Arlington
Tuesdays, March 29 through May 3, 2:30 - 4 PM
Senior Center, 27 Maple Street, main hall

This special lecture series is being offered as an educational public service to introduce both familiar and unfamiliar religious institutions in Arlington, and to allow representatives of such groups to discuss their place in the religious landscape of the area and how they see themselves serving the community, and what congregants expect from their religious institutions in terms of social engagement and activism.

The series will feature talks given by representatives of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu institutions, either located in Arlington or serving the Arlington community. The final event of the series will be a panel presentation that includes all of the speakers in a group discussion of the place of religion in the community.

In short, the lectures will provide an opportunity to discuss the challenges and changes that many religious institutions face in a much more religiously diverse 21st century.

This mini-series of lectures is a unique offering, arranged by the Council on Aging's pastoral intern from Harvard Divinity School, Andy Francis. Don't miss it! Reservations are not needed.

**April 1 is the time to pay your annual dues!
Thank you in advance for your support.**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31

Name _____ Precinct _____ Date _____
Address _____ Zip _____ Occupation _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

_____ Basic Membership Dues..... \$50
_____ 2nd member in household \$23
_____ Student (full-time) \$20
_____ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

If \$50 is a hardship, please pay what you can and let us know that this is your dues payment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of Women Voters of Arlington
MAIL TO: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, Arlington, MA 02474

Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

- Join the Board. Position: _____
- Action: phone calls ___ letters ___
- Bulletin: mailing ___ soliciting ads ___
- Membership
- Nominating Committee
- Publicity Writer
- Voter Service: Rides to the polls ___
- Candidates Night
- Voters' Guide
- Attend State League's Phonathon
- Be a discussion leader at local meetings
- Fundraising activities
- Offer meeting refreshments
- Post fliers and deliver brochures
- Host a meeting in my home
- Monitor elections for nonprofit organizations

**FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE
AND COMMUNITY INFORMED**

- Congress/Presidency/Election Process
- Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
- Education/Child Care
- Environment/Recycling
- Health Care
- Justice/Courts/Prisons
- Land Use
- Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
- Transportation/Urban Policy
- Voting Rights
- Warrant Articles Review
- Welfare Policies/Basic Human Needs
- Women's Issues
- Zoning/Community Development/Land Use

**OBSERVE AT
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS***

- Selectmen (Mondays)
- Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
- School Committee (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
- Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
- Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- Computer database
- Graphic design
- Desktop publishing
- Web site maintenance
- Membership development
- Moderating meetings
- Fundraising
- Writing articles
- Other

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:

(for phone tree reminders) Call before _____ o'clock

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

Drivers Needed!

The Town Election is

Saturday, April 2

The League will need drivers to take voters who otherwise are unable to get to the polls.

If you can give an hour or two on Election Day to help with this community service, please give Patti Muldoon a call at (339) 223-3300.

This service is very much appreciated by voters who find that they need it.

Thank you!

April 2011

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
Arlington, MA 02476

