



# *BULLETIN*

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

*www.lwva.com*

## February 2010

### Calendar

2/5	Friday noon to 1 pm	February First Friday Lunch with Robert Jefferson, Arlington Fire Chief, at Carma Forgie's home, 11 Stony Brook Road. All are welcome. See page 3 for details.
2/5	Friday 6 to 9 pm	Books in Bloom at Robbins Library, 700 Massachusetts Ave. See page 8 for details.
2/5	Friday 7 pm	"Our Community and Tomorrow's Energy," a speaker forum at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St., W. Concord. See page 6 for details.
2/9	Tuesday 7 pm	LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Rd. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
2/11	Thursday 8 pm	<i>Proof</i> at Arlington Friends of the Drama, 22 Academy St., sponsored by the Friends of Robbins Library. See page 8 for details.
3/5	Friday noon to 1 pm	March First Friday Lunch with Stephen Gilligan, Arlington Treasurer, at Carma Forgie's home, 11 Stony Brook Road. All are welcome.
3/7	Sunday 11:30 am to 2 pm	Legislators' Brunch at Kathy Fennelly's home, 97 Gray St. See page 5 for details.
3/16	Tuesday 7 pm	LWVA Board Meeting at Ann FitzGerald's home, 162 Summer St., Unit 1. All members welcome.
	Thursday 3/25	Candidates' Night for the Town Election. Details to follow in March Bulletin.

**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

Dear League Members,

Happy New Year! 2010 brings great opportunities to get more active and involved in our local government:

- **Run for Town Meeting.** As a Town Meeting member, you vote on the budget and on zoning changes, and weigh in on other important issues facing Arlington. Look for important deadlines for both Town Meeting and Town-wide office elections on the League's website and on the last page of this bulletin. If you are currently a Town Meeting member, encourage your neighbors to run.
- **Seek appointment to a Town committee or board.** Watch the Arlington *Advocate* or visit the Town's website to learn about committee and board openings. You'll find the openings on the Town's website (<http://www.arlingtonma.gov/>) by clicking on "Town Governance" and then selecting "Boards and Commissions".
- **Become a more-informed voter** and hear from candidates for Town-wide office first-hand at Candidates Night on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The event is co-sponsored by the League and Vision 2020.
- **Get to know your state legislators** at the League's Legislators' Brunch on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Bring a dish to share and find out what's happening on Beacon Hill and how it may affect you and Arlington.

Don't miss the chance to participate and make your voice heard!

Angela Olszewski  
Co-president

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 2009–2010

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
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Carma Forgie, Speaker Series	781-643-7622
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.

## February First Friday Lunch to Feature Fire Chief



*By Carma Forgie*

The First Friday Lunch in February (on the 5<sup>th</sup>) will feature Robert Jefferson, fire chief in Arlington. He will talk about emergency preparedness, as well as his department's emergency responses to 911 calls, budget issues, and other activities and responsibilities he oversees.

As usual, the Lunch will start at about twelve o'clock with the presentation by Chief Jefferson, with questions to follow. The League will provide drinks. Please bring your own brown-bag lunch. All are invited.

In March (again on the 5<sup>th</sup>) we will have the Town Treasurer, Stephen Gilligan. Mark your calendar.

We have had requests for a field trip to the incinerator and the recycling depot in the spring. Ruth Yannetti of the Public Works Department is organizing such a trip. There are also some high school students and some from the Recycling Committee who want to go. Unless it would be a very large group, it will be one trip for all interested. Ms. Yannetti said it most likely would be in the middle of the week, but didn't know if it would be in the morning or afternoon. If you are interested, please let me know by calling Carma at 781-643-7622.

### **VICTORY ON BEHALF OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

*By Clarice Gordon, LWVMA Housing Specialist*

S. 2190, "An Act Preserving Publicly Assisted Affordable Housing", gives public entities or affordable housing organizations first rights to buy "expiring use" properties that would lose affordability restrictions.

The bill was passed in mid-November by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Patrick.

This is a real victory on behalf of affordable housing! At a time when the need for subsidized housing is growing, this law is a critical part of keeping the affordable housing stock and protecting individuals and families who need subsidies to be able to live in decent housing.



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*Initial Free Consultation for League Members*



## **LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH**

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010**

Come Meet and Talk with State Senator Ken Donnelly  
and State Representatives Will Brownsberger, Sean Garballey, and  
Jay Kaufman

Find out the Latest on Jobs, Budgets, Education, Health Care  
And the Changing Political Landscape in Massachusetts  
- All While Enjoying Sumptuous Food!

When & Where –

**Sunday, March 7, 2010, 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**Kathy & Paul Fennelly's House - 97 Gray St., Arlington**

Please contact Meredith Zona, [mzona@fstinc.com](mailto:mzona@fstinc.com)  
or tel. 781-648-2753,  
if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food.

Directions: 97 Gray St. is at the intersection of Gray St. and Churchill Ave.,  
which is the 4<sup>th</sup> right after you turn onto Gray St. from Pleasant St. (Route  
60). If you're traveling on Gray St. from Arlington Heights, Churchill Ave. is  
the 4<sup>th</sup> left after the lights at Highland Ave. The house is a large gray home on  
the right side if you're traveling up from Pleasant Street. There is ample street  
parking.

## LWV of Concord-Carlisle Sponsors "Powering the Future" Program

*By Erin Pastuszewski, LWV of Concord-Carlisle Communications Director*

LWV of Concord-Carlisle invites you to "Our Community and Tomorrow's Energy," a speaker forum on Friday, February 5 at 7 pm, at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St., West Concord.

For more information, go to <http://lwvcc.com/lifeinthebalance.html>, or contact [Green\\_Initiatives@lwvcc.com](mailto:Green_Initiatives@lwvcc.com), 978-369-3842. The Life in the Balance series is co-sponsored by LWV of Concord-Carlisle, ConcordCAN, Carlisle Climate Action and C-C Adult & Community Education.



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## **The Dedication Ceremonies Honoring Peg Spengler, Town Citizen/Leader**

*By Elizabeth Thompson*

The 2008 Annual Town Meeting voted to establish a committee to explore a "manner in which the Town of Arlington can honor the memory of Margaret H. Spengler." The committee included former Town Manager Don Marquis, former Town Moderator Harry McCabe, Library Trustee Joyce Radochia, and Town Meeting Members Mary Ronan, Dick Smith, and Mark Spengler (who also represented the Spengler family). No Town funds were used to set up a private fund that this committee established for a suitable memorial. The Spengler family matched the first \$2,500 contributed by private citizens, including a donation from the LWVA approved by the Board and donations from some individual LWV members.

The Spengler family, town dignitaries, residents, and special guests attended the November 21, 2009 dedication of a new name for Library Way and the memorial plaque to hang in Town Hall to honor distinguished town leader (and LWV Arlington founder) Margaret "Peg" Spengler.

November 21, 2009 was a lovely crisp and sunny day as the committee members, invited guests, including former Gov. Michael Dukakis, and members of the public gathered on the walkway in front of the Library steps. Don Marquis and Selectwoman Clarissa Rowe briefly recalled for us Peg's tireless efforts in the mid-1980's leading the capital building campaign to raise private funds for the Town to add to local bond money to be matched by the state. Robbins Library became the first town library in the state to benefit from the new state law to match state funds to locally raised money to renovate antiquated libraries. LWV members participated vigorously in that successful campaign. The citizens of Arlington donated over a half million dollars in about 6 months; the law itself took 3 legislative sessions to pass!

Don Marquis pulled the rope to unveil the new street sign, officially changing the name of "Library Way" to "Peg Spengler Way." Everyone knew her as "Peg." I like to think the sign gives a homey, welcoming touch, leading you to the lovely entrance to our Robbins Memorial Library, named after the Robbins family that included two other vigorous and influential Arlington women.

Next we all trooped down to the Town Hall for the official part of this happy, festive occasion. Peg's husband, Ken Spengler, a nationally known leader in the field of meteorology, and the whole Spengler family all attended. I estimated that there were over 150 people in the audience and in the balcony.

Don Marquis' and Mark Spengler's opening comments included Don Marquis' memories of living next door to Peg from the very beginning of his 30+ years as the Town Manager, working closely with her on numerous projects that benefited the Town, and throughout her service on the Board of Selectmen and as the first woman elected to a full term on that Board. Mark Spengler spoke about growing up with an energetic, creative mother. He also recalled that his strong-minded mother was a devout churchgoer who immediately transferred to a different congregation on the day her spiritual leader preached that it was a sin for women to run for elected office. Gov. Dukakis gave a delightful talk about nominating Peg to serve on the Governor's Council and learning that she expected that, counter to its previously more symbolic role, it would actually play an active part in his administration. The former Governor said that Peg is a symbol of the importance of dedicated, involved private citizens as a key to successful democracies.

## **Peg Spengler Memorial Dedication Ceremonies (Cont.)**

As the public portion of the ceremonies ended, we were invited to take a look at the beautiful bronze sculptured plaque that now hangs in the main entrance to Town Hall to honor Peg Spengler and her service to the Town for over 50 years.

When I was LWV President from 1983-1985, I often quietly sought Peg's advice on the best way for the League to approach different local issues and to work with various strong personalities in town politics. I also had the privilege of serving on the steering committee for the Library Capital Building Campaign under Peg's leadership. The dedication ceremonies honoring Peg reminded me once again that I was incredibly lucky to have learned more from her than from any other single person I know about how to be an active citizen.

### **Library Events of Interest to League Members**

#### **Don't Miss Books in Bloom!**

Friday, February 5, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM

A benefit for Arlington's libraries and the Arlington Garden Club with book themed unique and creative floral arrangements. Background music performed by the Jazzbelles, delicious, savory hors d'oeuvres and sweets will be served and cocktails will be available for purchase.

"Books in Bloom" is a book lover's version of the Museum of Fine Arts' popular "Art in Bloom" program. Local florists as well as Garden Club members and library staff will create the arrangements. Some book titles include "Where the Wild Things Are", "Goodnight Moon", "Little Women", "Under the Tuscan Sun", and many others.

In addition, local authors will be on hand to display, sell and sign their books.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door and are available at the Circulation Desk at the Robbins Library or by e-mail from Pat Cura of the Garden Club (cura.pa@gmail.com; 617-947-4159) or Amy McElroy of the Friends (ae65@verizon.net; 781-648-4109). Checks can be made payable to the "Arlington Garden Club".

#### **"Proof" at the Arlington Friends of the Drama**

Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 8:00 PM

On February 11, 2010, the Friends of Robbins Library are sponsoring the performance of "Proof" at Arlington Friends of the Drama (22 Academy Street). "Proof" is a Pulitzer Prize-winning play that starred Mary-Louise Parker on Broadway and Gwyneth Paltrow and Anthony Hopkins in the movie version. It is the story of a young woman who has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions, the arrival of her estranged sister, and the attentions of a former student of her father's looking for valuable work that he may have left behind. The performance is at 8:00 pm and will be preceded by an introductory talk by the Arlington Friends of the Drama.

Tickets to this extraordinary work are \$20 for Friends of the Robbins members and \$25 for nonmembers. Just visit the Circulation Desk at the Robbins Library to obtain your tickets. Refreshments will be served.

When – Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Where – Arlington Friends of the Drama – 22 Academy Street



## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance January 24

*By Carolyn Parsons*

To honor the ideals of Dr. King, Maryellen Loud, Director of the Robbins and Fox Branch libraries, was recognized for outstanding achievement in implementing programs and acquiring materials that attract patrons of all ages and backgrounds to the libraries. Did you know that teens help seniors learn how to use their cell phones or that a Japanese play group meets weekly in the Community Room?

State Representative Marie St. Fleur, reported to be the first Haitian-American elected to state office in the United States, was the guest speaker. Rep. St. Fleur had been confirmed as the speaker long before the Haitian earthquake – such an unfortunate coincidence. She began by saying that she was not going to give “a nice little speech about education” but would speak from her heart. “Are we our brother’s keeper before, during, and after a tragedy?” she wondered. “The act of an earthquake should not have awakened the American spirit to providing aid to Haiti.” Rep. St. Fleur ended with a quote from Langston Hughes (“Harlem,” 1951):

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore—  
And then run?  
Does it stink like rotten meat?  
Or crust and sugar over—  
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags  
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

The tapas were varied and delicious; the entertainment was wonderful; the attendance was subpar. I was disappointed that this unifying and stimulating program was not experienced by more members of the community.

## State Representatives Aim for House Reform

By Kim Haase

A group of state representatives, including Rep. Will Brownsberger, is mounting a campaign for greater transparency and democracy in Massachusetts House operations. The League's positions in favor of open government should make this effort of interest to many members.

The state representatives currently involved are Matthew C. Patrick (Falmouth), Thomas M. Stanley (Waltham), Lida E. Harkins (Needham), William G. Greene, Jr. (Billerica), Will N. Brownsberger (Belmont), Steven J. D'Amico (Seekonk), Joseph R. Driscoll (Braintree), and John F. Quinn (Dartmouth).

Rep. Brownsberger has resigned his position as vice chairman of the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change so as to be able to speak out on these issues in ways that a member of the leadership team cannot.

Information can be found in the following places —

Rep. Brownsberger's web site: <http://willbrownsberger.com/index.php/archives/3313>

The *Boston Globe*: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/01/22/colleagues\\_implore\\_deleo\\_to\\_open\\_house\\_proceedings/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/01/22/colleagues_implore_deleo_to_open_house_proceedings/)

The letter to the leadership, reprinted in the Cape Cod Times: <http://www.capecodtoday.com/blogs/index.php/2010/01/22/the-larger-problem-in-the-massachusetts?blog=94>

Please contact Kim Haase (781-643-3429, [c.haase@comcast.net](mailto:c.haase@comcast.net)) if you are interested in this issue, if you have ideas on getting the LWVMA involved at the state level, or if you know of members in other towns who are also interested.

## 2010 LWVMA ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST POSTPONED

In the interest of being fiscally prudent in this lean economic time, the board of directors of LWVMA made the difficult decision to postpone the contest and awards event held in the spring for the past 10 years.

This delay will allow the Citizen Education Committee to review the contest and awards event to ensure that LWVMA can present a meaningful event that encompasses LWV values, goals and objectives.

To learn more or to serve on the review committee, contact LWVMA Executive Director Shawna Reid at 617-523-2999 or [sreid@lwmva.org](mailto:sreid@lwmva.org), or President Zaxaro Bennett at [zbennett@lwmva.org](mailto:zbennett@lwmva.org).

We welcome new members at all times.
Contact Ann Fitzgerald, annfitz@rcn.com, if you have any questions.

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: Kathy Colwell, 60 Claremont Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Phonothon \_\_\_\_\_
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 \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising
\_\_\_\_\_ Graphic design \_\_\_\_\_ Writing articles
\_\_\_\_\_ Desktop publishing \_\_\_\_\_ Other
\_\_\_\_\_ Web site maintenance
\_\_\_\_\_ Membership development
\_\_\_\_\_ Moderating meetings

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:

(for phone tree reminders) Call before \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock

\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

## Town Election Calendar

2/11	Thursday 5 pm	Deadline for obtaining blank nomination papers for Town offices.
2/15	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for Town Meeting members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice thereof to the Town Clerk.
2/22	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for submitting all nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office for certification of signatures.
3/8	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for filing certified nomination papers with Town Clerk.
3/22	Monday 8 pm	Voter registration deadline for Town Election.
4/10	Saturday 8 am to 8 pm	Town Election.
4/26	Monday 8 pm	Town Meeting begins.

**February 2010**

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

