

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts
www.lwva.com

January 2011

Calendar

1/10	Monday 6 to 8 pm	Arlington Education Foundation annual fundraiser at Tryst, 689 Mass. Ave., honoring Janice Bakey. Details on page 7, reply form on page 6.
1/10	Monday 7:30 pm	LWVA Board Meeting at Ann FitzGerald's home, 162 Summer St. All members welcome. See page 2 for directions. Note later than usual meeting time.
1/11	Tuesday 4 to 5:30 pm 6 to 7:30 pm	LWVMA "Town Hall" meetings, Morse Institute Library, 14 E. Central St., Natick. Details on page 5.
1/17	Monday 6 pm	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, Town Hall. See page 3 for details.

Town Election Calendar

2/10	Thursday 5 pm	Deadline for obtaining blank nomination papers for Town offices.
2/7	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for Town Meeting members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice thereof to the Town Clerk.
2/14	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for submitting all nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office for certification of signatures.
2/28	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for filing certified nomination papers with Town Clerk.
3/14	Monday 8 pm	Voter registration deadline for Town Election.
4/2	Saturday 8 am to 8 pm	Town Election.

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,

January is the time for new beginnings and resolutions. As you think about your resolutions, I ask you to resolve to become more involved with the League.

Attend an upcoming program and bring a friend with you. Our annual Legislators Brunch provides a wonderful opportunity to participate in an engaging discussion about current issues on Beacon Hill. Our monthly lunch series, which is now broadcast by ACMI, is a great way to hear from local officials and others who are playing an active role in important projects.

Volunteer to help with an event. Each year, we sponsor Candidates Night to provide a forum for our local candidates to be heard and respond to questions. This important voter service program would not be possible without the commitment of League members. Watch for ways to volunteer in an upcoming bulletin.

Spread the word about the League. As a League member, you recognize and support the League's work. Tell your friends and neighbors about our positions, programs, and projects. We welcome guests at our events. Encourage them to attend and learn more.

I wish you a happy and healthy new year!

Angela Olszewski
Co-president

Directions to Ann FitzGerald's home:

162 Summer Street is on the south side of Summer Street, a few houses to the east of the intersection with Oak Hill Drive. Unit 1 is the first-floor unit.

Summer Street is very busy, so you should park on the south side of the street. If you are coming from the center, you can turn into Oak Hill Drive, turn around, and park on the south side.

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.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance

**23rd Anniversary
Monday, January 17, 2011**

Guest Speaker:

Emerson Stamps

Author of

Don't Look Them in the Eye: Love, Life and Jim Crow

Music by: St. Paul's AME Choir

Tapas begins at 6 p.m. in Town Hall.

Please bring table ready finger food or dessert to serve six.

Program begins at 7:15 p.m.

Robbins Memorial Town Hall
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Call 781-643-4345 for information

*A free-will offering will benefit the Martin Luther King Memorial
in Washington, DC, the African American
Society Scholarships, and the Arlington Public Schools*

We will be collecting non-perishable items for the Arlington Food Pantry



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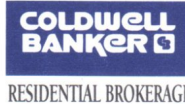


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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

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State League to Host Town Hall Meetings in January



The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts wants to hear from you! This past election season underscored for all of us how much our communities need the League. The Strategic Planning Committee and the state board of directors are working to serve members and communities better and your feedback is essential.

Please join us to share what you believe are the key areas the League should work on, what you like and want continued, and what you feel needs improving.

We will be holding a series of “town hall” meetings across Massachusetts to hear directly from members about the issues they are concerned about. There are two formats we will use, an online option and a face-to-face option.

Each face-to-face and online session will last 90 minutes and is facilitated by a professional in the field, who is providing her services pro bono.

If you received an email about this event on or about December 15, you can reserve a place by clicking the link in the email. If not, call the state office at 617-523-2999 or email Terry Yoffie, Strategic Planning Committee Chair, at lwvmasp@yahoo.com or tyoffie@gmail.com.

Town Hall Meeting dates and locations are as follows. The closest one to Arlington is in Natick.

Date & Times	Location	Leagues
January 4 2 pm to 3:30 pm 5:30 pm to 7 pm	Plymouth	Southern Leagues and eastern/southern coastal Leagues
January 10 4 pm to 5:30 pm 6 pm to 7:30 pm	Northampton	Western Leagues
January 10 4 pm to 5:30 pm 6 pm to 7:30 pm	Topsfield	Northern Leagues
January 11 4 pm to 5:30 pm 6 pm to 7:30 pm	Morse Institute Library 14 E. Central St. Natick	Metro Boston Leagues
January 5 7 pm to 8:30 pm	Online	All Leagues
January 6 7 pm to 8:30 pm	Online	All Leagues
January 13 7 pm to 8:30 pm	Online	All Leagues

AEF Benefit Reply Form (see next page for details)

Yes, I/we plan to attend the Arlington Education Foundation's January 10th Benefit (\$50/person).
 No, I/we are unable to attend, but we support the Arlington Education Foundation's important work.

Enclosed is our donation in the amount of:

\$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other

Make checks payable to: "Arlington Education Foundation" P.O. Box 80 Arlington MA 02476

Name: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____

My employer participates in a matching gifts program for which I intend to apply.
 I do NOT want my name to appear publicly as an AEF donor.

Arlington Education Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) public charity. All gifts are tax deductible.

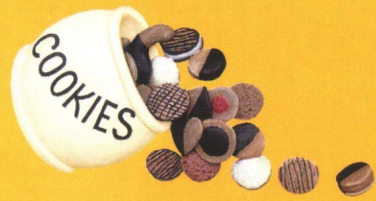


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For those who would appreciate this opportunity to honor Janice Bakey, our longtime member (and current Email Coordinator), as well as to benefit an organization in which many other League members have been active, we are reprinting this invitation letter. You can find the reply form on the previous page.

November 2010

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Arlington Education Foundation,

Did you know that Arlington residents have been supporting our schools through local education foundations for 20 years? The **Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund** was founded in 1990 by **Janice Bakey** to fund innovative classroom projects. Inspired by Janice's pioneering efforts, the **Arlington Schools Foundation** was created to support systemic school improvements. Last year, AEEF and ASF merged to become the **Arlington Education Foundation**. For 20 years, Arlington residents have supported AEEF, ASF and now AEF to help teachers and students excel in every way—and it all started with **Janice Bakey**.

We invite you to join the Arlington Education Foundation at our annual fundraiser to honor Janice Bakey on the 20th anniversary of the realization of her dream. Whether you know her as a prominent member of the School Committee or an organizing member of Vision 2020, through her work on the Safe School Task Force or from one of the many other vital Arlington committees and organizations she has chaired over the years, you surely know that Janice Bakey deserves our acclaim.

Please join us at **Tryst**, 689 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington on **Monday January 10th** from **6-8 PM** for sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, dessert, coffee, a cash bar and the opportunity to pay tribute to a pillar of the Arlington community.

AEF is a nonprofit foundation that raises private funds for school projects that go beyond what public funds can afford. Virtually every dollar we raise goes directly into Arlington's schools, supporting teachers and students and enhancing teaching and learning across the district. Your presence at this event not only supports AEF's work, but acknowledges the vision and effort of the woman whose dream made that work possible.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Steinitz
President

P.S. We hope to see you on January 10, 2011—but if you can't join us, **we hope you'll still make a donation** to support Arlington's teachers and students through the Arlington Education Foundation.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee received a letter similar to the following from an Arlington High School student, and the LWVA co-presidents agree that our members should have the opportunity to contribute to this activity in support of democracy. The student's letter added, in part, "Model Congress is an irreplaceable activity that I have had the privilege to partake in recent years. It serves as an eye-opening experience in democracy and politics that I believe will stay with me for the rest of my life. It has inspired me to further involve myself in the promotion of democracy and human rights."

The Model Congress takes place March 31-April 3, 2011 (see <http://www.pennmc.org/> for more information).

I am writing to request your financial support for an extra-curricular initiative at Arlington High School designed to teach students about government. Our AHS Model Congress team has been accepted for the third consecutive year to compete at the prestigious high school model congress event at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Last year, four of our students received individual awards for excellence in debate at the competition.

Members of the Model Congress team play the role of senators and representatives to the United States Congress. To prepare, they do extensive research on current political issues, learn parliamentary procedure, and practice their debating skills. Students who participate often report that it was their best high school experience, and are inspired to continue their interest and involvement in politics.

The 16 students on the Model Congress team face significant financial expense to attend a competition; they must pay for hotel accommodations, transportation, and conference fees. In previous years, the cost was around \$420 per student, but that cost has increased to over \$500 this year due to increased transportation costs. We are asking for contributions both to subsidize some of the group costs and to offer partial scholarships to students of limited income who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Please contact one advisor of the club, Ms. Kerry Dunne, at 781-316-3577 with any questions. Contributions can be made out to "Arlington High School" and sent to Kerry Dunne at Arlington High School, 869 Mass Ave, Arlington, MA, 02476. Thank you for your support of this meaningful activity.

Deputy Town Manager Provides Fresh Perspective at Holiday Party

By Kim Haase

At the 2010 Holiday Party on December 9, LWVA members welcomed Deputy Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine and his wife Rita.

After a wonderful potluck dinner, Chapdelaine spoke briefly and answered questions.

The Chapdelaines are newcomers to Arlington; Chapdelaine started work in April 2010, just when Town Meeting was about to start. He had previously served in various city and town administrative positions, most recently in Fall River. The contrast between Fall River and Arlington was striking: it is in much worse shape economically than Arlington, difficult as Arlington's problems are.

Fall River's governance is also different from Arlington's, with a strong mayor and city council form of government. Chapdelaine noted that while Arlington's legislature is a town meeting instead of a city council, its executive is far more diffused than that of a city with a mayor: the appointed Town Manager, the elected Selectmen, and the independently elected Treasurer and Town Clerk all play executive roles, as does Town Meeting in making some appointments.

The Deputy Town Manager's major responsibility is the town budget, which is due in January and then goes to the Finance Committee for consideration before being voted on at Town Meeting. He is preparing two alternative 2012 budgets: one that is level-funded with 2011, and another with 10% cuts to most departments, reflecting the expected deficit if there is no override. He is also trying to cut costs during the rest of FY 2011. Budget cuts are difficult because some areas are so thinly staffed that any further cuts would eliminate them.

One major focus of Chapdelaine's efforts is on energy savings. Arlington has been awarded a Green Community designation, which makes it eligible to apply for grants. The Town has been awarded a grant to begin changing street lights to LED, which provides the same light with half the energy expenditure and, with new fixtures, should reduce light pollution. This initial project will replace only 500+ lights out of about 3400. Two other energy-saving projects will replace the steam traps at the High School and upgrade the Hardy School's electrical system.

A major problem for the town budget, according to Chapdelaine, is the inherent structural deficit: revenue can rise only 2.5% per year at most, but costs have been rising at a much greater rate. This year's deficit is \$3 million. The town must either vastly reduce services or increase revenue. The local meals tax raises only \$240,000 per year, and Pay As You Throw would not raise much either. The development of the Symmes site, when it happens, will produce a lot of revenue. Other than that, Arlington is almost fully built out, and there is little opportunity for new growth.

Chapdelaine noted that it is time to start meetings to inform the community of the budget situation so that people can provide input about prioritizing cuts and other issues.

Chapdelaine also answered questions about budget cuts, the GIC, retiree benefits, street maintenance, the dog issue, the Town's bond rating, and other topics.

Photo on next page



Holiday Party hostess Joan Robbio, LWVA Co-President Angela Olszewski, Deputy Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine, and Rita Chapdelaine at the LWVA Holiday Party.

Photo by Kim Haase

Clare Gordon, Marjorie Cohn, Nellie Aikenhead of the Arlington Land Trust, George Gordon, Patti Muldoon, and Kathy Colwell at the November League Lunch at the cable studio.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



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
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

In Memoriam: Frances Cameron

Frances (Simopoulos) Cameron, an active member of the League of Women Voters of Arlington since 1972, died on November 8, 2010, at the age of 83. Frances worked for the State Department as a secretary, here and all over the globe. She is survived by her daughter Melanie and by many nieces, nephews, cousins and other loving relatives and friends.

Elizabeth Thompson, past LWVA President, recalls that Frances served on the LWVA Board in the early 1980s and, partly because she lived near Spy Pond, was always interested in environmental issues as they touched on the Pond – water quality, erosion, hurricane damage to the willows after the two hurricanes of the early 1980s, and construction of the playground on the edge of the Pond between the Elks Club building and Linwood St.

In her later years Frances continued to attend many League events. In 2005 she observed several elections during the LWVA's study of the conduct of local elections.

January 2011

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

