

# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

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

## January 2015

### Calendar

1/12	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place, Apt. 428. (The location has changed since the previous Bulletin.) Directions on page 6.
1/19	Monday 6:45 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance at Town Hall. Refreshments at 6:45, program at 7:30. See page 3 for details.



Anne Linn, Town Counsel Doug Heim, Meredith Zona, and Kathy Fennelly at the LWVA's annual holiday potluck at Joan and Jim Robbio's home.

Story on page 5.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member:

Elizabeth (Liz) Orange, 35 Evergreen Lane

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

**Kim Haase:** Bulletin Editor [c.haase@comcast.net](mailto:c.haase@comcast.net)  
**Margaret Reiners:** Bulletin Mailing [mlreiners@gmail.com](mailto:mlreiners@gmail.com)

## Co-President's Message

Dear League Members,

Our seasonal holiday gathering was delightful. Our speaker, Town Counsel Douglas Heim, talked about his background and was quite candid in describing his interactions with such a politically active community. Our hosts, Joan and James Robbio, provide such a welcoming setting, and the potluck dinner is just the best.

As the League is a co-sponsor, I urge you to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance event. Bring your family and friends to meet other members of the community that you might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet. It seems to me that this year it is especially important to reinforce the value of Arlington as a welcoming community.

Peter Struzziero, Winthrop Public Library and Museum Director, became Arlington's new director of libraries at the end of December. A reception to welcome Struzziero is planned in the new year. Look for details in the local media. The League has a local position in support of a strong library system.

Happy New Year!

*Carolyn Parsons*

### Town Election Calendar Notes

Friday, January 31 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for Town Meeting members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice thereof to the Town Clerk.

Thursday, February 5 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for obtaining blank nomination papers.

Saturday, February 7 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for submitting all nomination papers to the Registrars of Voters for certification of signatures.

The Town Election is Saturday, March 28.



### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2014–2015

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
Joan Martin, Local Action VP	781-646-0752
Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer	781-646-4522
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service	781-646-5942
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Abigail Fair, Publicity	781-643-0666
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.

# **27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance**



**Monday, January 19, 2015**

**Guest Speaker: Afaa Weaver**  
**Poet, Playwright, Scholar**  
Winner of the 2014 Kingsley Tufts Award

Music by People's Baptist Church Ensemble

**Invocation by the Rev. Marta Flanagan**  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church


**Benediction by the Rev. James Savage**  
St. Eulalia Church, Winchester

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. with light refreshments  
Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

**Robbins Memorial Town Hall**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**

*We will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Arlington Food Pantry.  
A free-will offering will benefit public and nonprofit programs that further the goals of  
Dr. King.*

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781-643-3429.

## Town Counsel Speaks at Holiday Party

*By Kim Haase*

Doug Heim, Arlington's Town Counsel for the past year, spoke and answered questions after an abundant and delicious potluck at the LWVA's annual holiday party, hosted by Joan and Jim Robbio on December 4.



Heim came to Arlington after stints in municipal law in New York (which had 600-700 attorneys) and Boston (which had 30-40 attorneys). In those cities, he specialized in particular areas (law enforcement in New York, schools in Boston). In Arlington, he works with all the Town agencies on a great variety of issues. He particularly appreciates the Town's high level of civic engagement and its reliance on volunteers, as well as its highly professional Town government, the seriousness of Town Meeting debates, and citizens' level of information and commitment to good public policy. He noted that Arlington is one of the largest municipalities to have a town rather than a city form of government. Heim also admires the role the Arlington League has played in informing the public about Town Meeting articles and about candidates and ballot issues.

Heim said that the Legal Department has a staff of 5, including one other attorney, who deals with workers' compensation issues. He noted that Newton, twice the size of Arlington, has nine attorneys to Arlington's two. Arlington uses outside counsel for a few specialized areas.

The Town Counsel's primary role is to represent the Town and its interests in any legal questions; after that, he represents the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, and other town officials or individual employees as needed. In a typical day he encounters many different issues, from zoning issues to contracts. An important goal is to make sure town officials don't break the law accidentally, or inadvertently act against the Town's best interest. Another is to achieve government accountability and transparency in maintaining public records, without losing efficiency or being overwhelmed by process. Heim noted that all public records requests come to the Legal Department, which can be a bottleneck, so it is best if the Town bodies publish their minutes and other records promptly.

Asked about the recent ruling by the state Attorney General's office that the Board of Assessors had violated the Open Meeting Law, Heim said that he had represented the Board of Assessors before the state, but was not surprised by the decision.

A major focus of the next few years will be executing the master plan that will soon be decided. Major proposals will emerge that will involve changes to zoning laws; the Planning Department and others will be drafting the laws with the Town Counsel providing advice. The Town Counsel will also be involved in projects such as the rebuilding of the high school and infrastructure work.

Many thanks to the Robbios for their hospitality!



***Directions to Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place, Apt. 428 (Phone: 781-648-8649)***

Watermill Place is a condo building located next to the Old Schwamb Mill on Lowell Street in Arlington Heights.

*From Arlington Center:*

Follow Mass. Ave into the Heights. At the former Nicola Pizza, bear right onto Lowell Street and pass a few houses. Watermill Place will be on your right. Continue to the end of the building to the large Watermill Place sign. Turn right into the parking lot and drive past the green awning. There will be marked visitor spaces in front of you. If none are available you can park on Lowell Street, on the side where the building is.

*From Park Avenue:*

Follow Park Avenue down the hill to Mass. Ave. Continue straight and cross over Mass. Ave. (Brigham's Ice Cream and the UPS Store on two of the corners). Go over a bridge (Gold's Gym on the right). Take the first (sharp) right onto Lowell Street (Peter Pan Superette on the corner). Go over another bridge. There are about six houses very close together on the left. Watermill Place is on the left after the houses. Take a left into the driveway and drive past the green awning (entrance) to marked visitor spaces. If no spaces are available, you can park on Lowell Street, on the side where the building is.

Enter the building at the green awning. The name list is alphabetical by last name. Press A to get to the middle of the alphabet, then press Z repeatedly to arrow down to my last name, Olszewski. When my last name is highlighted, press the CALL button.



**Salutes the  
League of Women Voters  
for its contribution to  
our community**

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The League welcomes new members at all times. Thank you 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..... \$60
\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd member in household ..... \$23
\_\_\_\_\_ Student (full-time) ..... \$20
\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ \_\_\_\_\_
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If \$60 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

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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 Thursdays) \_\_\_\_\_
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

## **LWV Arlington Receives Scharfman Grant**

Earlier this fall, the Arlington League applied for a \$250 Citizen Education Grant, the Daniel Scharfman Grant, to pay for some of the costs associated with Candidates' Night in 2015.

We recently learned that we were successful in obtaining this grant!

The grant money will be used to help pay for the Voter's Guide and other items such as Town Meeting candidate mailing postage and printing costs, and candidate name tag printing costs.

The Arlington League was also fortunate to receive this grant last year, in the amount of \$200, to help defray our expenses for the 2014 Candidates Night.

—*Meredith Zona*

**January 2015**

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

