

BULLETIN

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

January 2018

Calendar

1/8	Monday 6:30 p.m.	“Backpack Full of Cash,” film about school privatization, First Parish UU Church, 630 Massachusetts Ave. RSVP requested. Details on page 9.
1/9	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Carolyn Parsons’ home, 23 Brewster Rd. Directions on page 2.
1/15	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, Town Hall. The LWVA is a sponsor. Details on page 3.
1/31	Wednesday 10 a.m.-noon	Automatic Voter Registration Lobby Day, Massachusetts State House, Room 428. Details on last page.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Paulette Schwartz, 20 Robin Hood Rd., 02474

Maaike van Westen, 49 Claremont Ave., 02476

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

Many thanks to Joan and Jim Robbio for once again hosting our annual holiday party. Good food, great company, and an engaging speaker made for a wonderful event. Please see the article starting on page 5 of the Bulletin for more details.

For those of you who missed the party, there will be more opportunities in the coming months to participate in the League. There will be an open seat for the Board of Selectmen in the local election. This usually makes Candidates Night a bigger and busier event. Watch your email and coming bulletins for ways to help with this and rides to the polls. The board is also busy planning for Legislators Brunch and will soon be inviting a speaker to our annual meeting. Please pass along any speaker suggestions you may have.

I hope to see you at an event soon. Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year!

Angela Olszewski

*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 2017–2018

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
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
Amy Pearsall, Publicity	646-483-8709
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Diana Eastman, Webmistress	774-266-3422
Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large	781-648-2447
Nancy Gray, Board Member at Large	781-646-4590

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.

JOIN US FOR THE 30TH ANNUAL
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday Observance

Keynote Speaker
Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson
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January 15, 2018
Light refreshments at 6:45 pm
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Presented by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee

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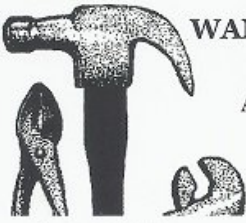


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Holiday Party Speaker Focuses on Energy and Environment

By Kim Haase



Ken Pruitt, Energy and Project Manager for the Town of Arlington, spoke about the Town's environmental commitments to an engaged and enthusiastic crowd at the LWVA's annual Holiday Party on December 13. The potluck event was hosted graciously by Joan and Jim Robbio.

Hired to help make Arlington more energy-efficient by obtaining and administering our Green Communities grants, Ken Pruitt began his work for the Town just last summer. He has a long and distinguished background in environmental policy, having served 9 years as executive director of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and before that for 5 years as executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners. His work for Arlington enables him to work directly to achieve environmental goals, not just to advocate for them.

In 2010, Arlington was among the first towns to be named a Green Community by pledging to cut energy use by 20% over 5 years and by satisfying 4 additional criteria. We have applied for and received \$1.3 million in Green Communities grants to implement the criteria, and we met them by 2015. For example, we switched all our street lights to LEDs in two phases (2011 and 2013), which saves about \$100,000 per year. We also replaced most school classroom and hallway lights with LEDs and replaced old boilers.

Fault detection and diagnostic systems in two schools (so far) allow us to regulate the heating, lighting, and air conditioning much more efficiently than before. These diagnostic systems make it much easier to find and solve inefficiencies (for example, if the heating and cooling systems are both on at certain times of year).

We have been replacing old Town vehicles with hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and now two all-electric vehicles. Town employees are now familiar with these and like them. Asked about charging stations, Ken said that two have been installed for the two Town electric vehicles. The stations in the Russell Commons lot involve a membership arrangement so that users charge the cost to their credit cards. (One user remarked that a parking charge is added, even during hours when parking is normally free.)

A League member asked whether people coming home from work and plugging in their electric cars have a big impact on energy usage. Ken said that the period when offices are still running and people are coming home and turning on lights and appliances is already the peak usage period, and that there are so few electric vehicles now that the additional burden is insignificant. In the future, though, he anticipates that utilities will charge more at peak usage times, so that people will have an incentive to start charging their cars late at night.

Another question was whether we could get a grant to subsidize the addition of charging stations in the Town. The cost of charging stations in homes (about \$1000) is an additional barrier to the adoption of electric cars. Ken replied that this is a statewide issue. Eversource sees charging stations as a business opportunity and will probably be installing hundreds of them in the next few years, distributing the cost among the ratepayers.

(Continued on page 7)



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

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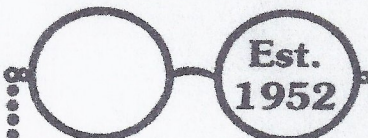


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Holiday Party (Continued)

Asked whether charging electric vehicles created more or less pollution than gasoline, Ken said that battery storage and power plants were far more efficient than internal combustion engines and therefore far less polluting. In addition, electric utilities must increase the amount of renewables they use by 1% a year, on top of what Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) requires.

Ken noted that we've put solar arrays on the roofs of 6 school buildings (the High School, the Ottoson, and 4 elementary schools). A digital display in the High School shows how much electricity is being generated. As part of the Solarize Arlington program in 2012, hundreds of households got solar panels too.

As we improve our energy use and face environmental challenges, Ken said that much of the low-hanging fruit has been picked and that the next steps will be more challenging: installing fault detection and diagnostic systems in more buildings, dealing with sea level rise and extreme weather conditions, a program called Heat Smart Massachusetts to install highly efficient heat pumps, and rebuilding the High School to use far less energy. We could make the new high school carbon neutral if the State agrees, though the last 5% is the most expensive and may not be feasible. Some cities have committed to net zero emissions by 2050, though no one knows yet how to do this. Even getting to 70-80% would require major structural changes such as ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps and replacing windows in most older homes.

There are tax incentives for investment in solar and wind power and in electric vehicles, which remain in the federal tax bill. The state provides a rebate for electric vehicles and home solar systems. Our utility bills fund the Mass Save program of free energy audits, though very few have obtained them.

In answer to other questions: A developer is interested in putting canopies of solar panels over the Russell Common lot, but there are other development options for that lot as well; we would need to look into the costs and benefits of doing it for other town and school lots. Tesla solar roof tiles, which would make an entire roof solar, are currently very expensive but may come down in price. The shutdown of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant by 2019 will have a major impact on the energy supply, but grid managers are already planning ahead for it. The utilities are using it to argue for increased natural gas capacity, but we are focusing on renewables. Pipelines are mostly used to send gas for export rather than for domestic use.

See next page for photo.

Editor's Note: You will notice that this issue of the Bulletin has many more ads than previous issues. We are very grateful to all our new advertisers for their support, and to our member Nancy Gray, who sought them out.



Ken Pruitt, Energy and Project Manager for Arlington, and his wife, Teresa Doksum, at the Holiday Party December 13.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox

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**Free Film Screening at 6:30 p.m.
Community Conversation at 8:15 p.m.**

**Monday, Jan. 8
First Parish Unitarian Church
630 Mass. Ave., Arlington**

Sponsored by:

Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance
Citizens for Public Schools
First Parish Unitarian Church
Education Associations in Arlington, Belmont, Burlington and Lexington

Post-screening discussion led by:

Jordon Berg Powers, Mass Alliance, Lisa Guisbond, Citizens for Public Schools and Mary Cummings, Senate District Coordinator for the Mass. Teachers Association

Space is limited. RSVP to Mary Cummings, mcummings@massteacher.org

In Memoriam: Barbara Muldoon

By Kathy Fennelly

[Editor's Note: Barbara Muldoon, a League member since 1975, died on November 12 at age 79. For more information, see <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wickedlocal-arlington/obituary.aspx?n=barbara-j-muldoon&pid=187232642>. The Muldoon family has requested that donations in her memory be made to the Arlington Libraries Foundation.]

I first met Barbara after the Blizzard of '78. She was walking her kids to school, I was just out walking with my preschool children. We lived blocks apart near Robbins Farm Park and had children close in age, but were separated by her patrician bearing and my cluelessness about suburban motherhood and adult friendships. She had worked for ten years as a financial analyst where she advanced through her exceptional intellect. I had several years of secretarial work and primary school teaching. She was surrounded by family — both hers and her husband Bob's — and my family lived outside of New York City, 200 miles away.

We met again and again at LWV meetings and I found she was very willing to treat me as her intellectual equal, and when we both ended up moving to the Parmenter School neighborhood, we worked together to try to keep our school from closing. She joined the Library Board of Trustees around the same time I was on the Permanent Town Building Committee and Robbins Library was in the final stages of the rebuild/renovation. We had many opportunities to discuss a project that meant so much to us both.

It was with great joy that I joined the Robbins Library Board of Trustees in 2002 and worked with Barbara for common goals. One of our last projects together was writing the bylaws for our now flourishing Arlington Libraries Foundation. Draft after draft, she would have insightful comments to make so that future boards would have the flexibility they would need to make decisions as well as strong guidance to conduct routine business. We were so lucky to have her kind, but brilliant mind at every library board meeting.

And I will miss our casual conversations about Bob's latest case or the Museum of Fine Arts, or her trips to Rockport or whatever wonderful thing her children were doing — my friend of 40 years.

Our fiscal year began April 1. Please pay your dues if you haven't yet!
Thank you so much 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

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 Thursdays)
- 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

LWVMA Lobby Day for Automatic Voter Registration

**Wednesday, January 31
10 a.m. to 12 noon
Massachusetts State House, Room 428**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will be working hard to get the automatic voter registration bill out of the Joint Committee on Election Laws and to the floor of the House for a vote in January.

Plan to join LWVMA and the other members of the Election Modernization Coalition for a lobby day on automatic voter registration at the State House Wednesday, January 31.

AVR automatically registers eligible Massachusetts residents to vote when they interact with the Registry of Motor Vehicles or another state agency that offers voter registration. Residents can always choose to opt out. See <https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/AVR-Talking-Points.pdf> for more information.

January 2018

**League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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