

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

March 2013

Calendar

3/8	Friday 6:30 to 9 p.m.	Books in Bloom at Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave., co-sponsored by Friends of the Robbins Library and the Arlington Garden Club. See page 7 for details.
3/10	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	LWVA Legislators' Brunch at Kathy and Paul Fennelly's home, 97 Gray St. See page 3 for details.
3/11	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Ann FitzGerald's home, 162 Summer St. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
3/13	Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon	LWVMA Day on the Hill. See page 5 for details.
3/21	Thursday 8 p.m.	Candidates' Night for Town Election, co-sponsored by Vision 2020 and LWVA. Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. See last page for details.
	Monday April 1	LWVA Fiscal Year begins. Please renew your membership using the form on page 9. Thank you!
4/6	Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	LWV House Tour in Concord. See page 6 for details.
4/9	Tuesday 7:30 to 9 p.m.	"Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism," book talk by Prof. John Burt of Arlington, AHS Media Center. Details on page 8.

Note: See page 7 for a Town and Federal Election calendar.

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,

As I write this message, a winter storm is approaching for this coming Sunday. This Sunday would have been the date for our Legislators Brunch, but one of our representatives had a scheduling conflict. I am so pleased that this year's brunch is to be held on March 10th, hopefully under clear, blue skies. This is a great opportunity to hear from our state legislators and for us to lobby for a particular position. Gun control measures, recycling issues, or the water quality of the Mystic River would be interesting talking points. Please come. A friend or neighbor would be most welcome.

Vision 2020 and the League are once again co-sponsoring Candidates' Night, which will be held on March 21st at the Arlington Town Hall. As questions from the audience are screened before being put to the candidates, there is a need for thoughtful and relevant questions to be crafted. Give some thought to topics that you would like to hear explored, bring a few questions, and enjoy the evening.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Ann FitzGerald's home, 162 Summer St:

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 2012–2013

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
Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service	781-646-5942
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Betsy Rulon, Publicity	781-648-0169
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
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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.



**MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND -
LWV ARLINGTON'S ANNUAL
LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH**


BRING A SPOUSE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

**Sunday, March 10, 2013, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
@ Kathy and Paul Fennelly's Home, 97 Gray St., Arlington**

All our current State legislators – Senator Ken Donnelly and Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers will be present, plus Arlington's past Representative Will Brownsberger (now a State Senator who represents folks outside of Arlington).

**Please contact Meredith Zona, mzona@fstinc.com
or tel. 781-648-2753,
if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food.
Meredith will also arrange for a ride to and from the brunch if
you need that.**

Directions: 97 Gray St. is at the intersection of Gray St. and Churchill Ave., which is the 4th 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 4th 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 plenty of street parking.




Margaret Potter
Director

Arlington Heights Nursery School
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Day on the Hill 2013

March 13, 2013; 10 am - 12 noon

“Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport” is the theme of the League’s annual Day on the Hill lobbying day at the State House on **Wednesday, March 13**. The focus will be on how to be an effective advocate on League-supported issues with your State Senators and Representatives. The Day on the Hill program runs from 10 a.m. to noon in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House. After the program, many League members meet with their legislators, by pre-arrangement, to discuss League-supported legislation.

The more people who visit their legislators, the more influence the League has. There’s strength in numbers.

Rep. Thomas Conroy will use an upcoming piece of legislation to illustrate the process of drafting legislation, getting sponsors, and the role advocacy plays, including how the state and local Leagues can be effective in presenting their positions on legislation. A second speaker from an advocacy organization will discuss the issue from that point of view.

The state League’s legislative specialists will talk briefly about key bills expected in this session of the legislature. Details on the bills, including specific talking points, will be distributed to local Leagues before Day on the Hill, so you will have the information you need to make the case with your legislators.

Calling members:

Need timers and other helpers for annual Candidates Night

Here's a chance to give some valuable help at the March 21 Candidates Night. Please email Elizabeth Thompson if you would be willing to be one of the timers to track the time of each candidate's presentation according to the limits set out for each office. They will have a certain period of time to make an initial statement, give replies to questions and make closing statements. This forum is jointly sponsored with Arlington Vision 2020, and the League manages the actual presentation portion of the evening.

We will give you the timers to hold, a yellow sign meaning time almost out and a red sign for time's up. You will get more details that night. We need 4 timers and a backup if possible to allow for unforeseen problems.

You can reply simply Yes or No by email to Elizabeth (elizw.thompson@gmail.com or phone her at 781-646-5942) if you need more detail. It's an easy and fun way to contribute to the League. No experience or rehearsals are necessary. We can use other people to help with set up and/or take down of some of our materials.

LWV House Tour in Concord

Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle invites you to spend a day touring seven unique Concord homes that highlight new concepts in energy efficiency, accessibility and design. Pick up your map/guide between 10 and 12 at the Alcott School, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, and then chart your own course among the houses. Enjoy displays on technologies for sustainable and comfortable living. Get inspiration to improve and beautify your own home.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 on April 6. Purchase tickets online at www.lwvcc.org. Tickets may also be reserved by mail. Send check, name for pickup, phone and email to: LWVCC House Tour, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA. All proceeds benefit the League of Women Voters.

For information, visit www.lwvcc.org and <http://lwvcc.org/housetour2013.html>, email House-Tour@lwvcc.org, or call 978-254-1598.



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

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Town and Federal Election Calendar

3/4	Monday 5 p.m.	Deadline for filing certified nomination papers with the Town Clerk.
3/15	Friday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the Town Election.
4/6	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. The League will need volunteers to drive voters to the polls; the April Bulletin will provide details.
4/10	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the U.S. Senate Primary.
	Monday 4/22	Town Meeting begins.
4/30	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Primary for special U.S. Senate election.
6/5	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the U.S. Senate Special Election.
6/25	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Special U.S. Senate election.

Robbins Library Books in Bloom Event March 8

The Friends of Robbins Library and the Arlington Garden Club are once again co-sponsoring Books in Bloom, to benefit both the Library and the Garden Club. The event is Friday, March 8 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Library. It features literary-themed floral displays, Arlington authors displaying and selling their books, savory hors d'oeuvres and sweets, beer and wine, and music by The Don Hemwall Trio.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door and are available at the Circulation Desk at the Robbins Library or by email from Patsy Kraemer of the Garden Club (patsylkraemer@comcast.net or 781-858-8629) or Amy McElroy of the Friends (ae65@verizon.net or 781-648-4109). Checks to be made payable to Arlington Garden Club.

Arlington Community Education Presents:

Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism: Lincoln, Douglas & Moral Conflict in Democracy

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30-9 p.m.

Arlington High School Media Center, 869 Massachusetts Ave.

\$10, payable at door or by registering at

<http://www.arlingtoncommunityed.org/>

Professor John Burt discusses his new book.

"...Burt's conclusions about the limits of liberal politics, about democracy itself being the barrier to ending a pervasive evil, have deep resonances for nations today."

— *John Stauffer, author of The Black Hearts of Men*

In 1858, challenger Abraham Lincoln debated incumbent Stephen Douglas seven times in the race for a U.S. Senate seat from Illinois. More was at stake than slavery in those debates. In *Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism*, literary critic John Burt contends that the very legitimacy of democratic governance was on the line. In a United States stubbornly divided even now over ethical issues, the overarching question posed by the Lincoln-Douglas debates has not lost its urgency: Can a liberal political system be used to mediate moral disputes? And if it cannot, is violence inevitable? Join us for an evening with Professor Burt as he discusses what historian Daniel Walker Howe calls "...the most profound exploration of the enduring significance of Lincoln's rhetoric since Harry Jaffa's classic [*Crisis of the House Divided*] of 1959. A magnificent achievement."

John Burt is a professor of English at Brandeis University. He has published several books of literary criticism and collections of poetry.

The talk will be moderated by Charles Skidmore, former AHS principal. It is co-sponsored by the *Arlington Advocate* and Robbins Library.

The League's fiscal year begins April 1, so it is time to renew your membership. 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..... \$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 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

Please Bring Your Friends and Neighbors to

Candidates' Night

Sponsored by Arlington Vision 2020 and the LWVA

Thursday, March 21

Town Hall Auditorium
730 Massachusetts Avenue

Meet with Town Meeting candidates and Town-wide candidates
from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Forum for candidates for Town-wide offices at 8:00 p.m.

*Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up as well as timing. See page
8 for more information.*

MARCH 2013

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

