

# **BULLETIN**

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

### **March 2017**

#### Calendar

3/4	Saturday 1 p.m.	Arlington Reads Together event at Town Hall, 730 Mass Ave. Details on page 5.
3/10	Friday 8 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in the Town Election.
3/10	Friday 7 to 9 p.m.	Books in Bloom, Robbins Library. Details on page 6.
3/13	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Phyllis Maddox's home, 55 Hillside Ave. Directions on page 2.
3/21	Tuesday 8 p.m.	Candidates' Night for the Town Election, Town Hall. See page 3 for information on volunteering to help.
3/25	Saturday 12:45 to 5 p.m.	Forum on Criminal Justice Reform at First Parish UU Church, 630 Mass. Ave. See page 8 for more information.
4/1	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Annual Town Election.
	Saturday 4/1	LWVA Fiscal Year begins. We invite members to pay annual dues by April 1 using the form on page 9.
4/12	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Introduction to Town Meeting for new Town Meeting members, Robbins Library Community Room, 700 Mass. Ave. Details on page 5.
4/24	Monday 8 p.m.	Annual Town Meeting begins.
4/30	Sunday 11:30 to 2 p.m.	Save the date for our annual Legislators' Brunch! Details will appear in the April 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

#### Like us on Facebook!

Many thanks go to Diana Eastman, new LWVA member, for starting the League's social media presence. You can now watch our Facebook page for upcoming events, comments, and updates. Copy and paste the following link:

https://www.facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Arlington-1930973093792988/

Or search for "League of Women Voters of Arlington" and like our page!

We are looking forward to a busy spring. Join the League for Candidates Night, Introduction to Town Meeting, and Legislators Brunch. Come as an attendee or volunteer to help. Bring a neighbor, friend, or family member. Consider driving for rides to the polls for the local election. Check this bulletin and upcoming ones for more details and contact information.

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Angela Olszewski

Directions to Phyllis Maddox's home:

55 Hillside Ave. is between Appleton St. and Florence Ave.

Follow Mass. Ave. to Park Ave. in Arlington Heights. Take Park toward Rt. 2 for 2 blocks to Appleton. Turn right on Appleton for one block to Hillside, then turn left on Hillside. 55 is the 3rd house on the right with a front porch and a large yew bush in the front yard.

If you are coming down Park Avenue from the south, take a left on Florence, then the first right on Hillside. 55 is about 8 houses down on your left.



#### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2016–2017

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
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

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.



# Local Candidates' Night Tuesday, March 21, 2017 7:30 PM Town Hall Auditorium, Arlington, MA

# Co-sponsored by Arlington's Vision 2020 and the League of Women Voters of Arlington, MA

I would like to thank all League members who have already volunteered to help the LWVA at Town Hall on March 21.

Starting about 7:30 PM, the candidates for major town offices will attend to say hello to members of the public before the televised event begins. League members will post precinct number signs in the corridors for candidates for Town Meeting and existing Members to chat with their constituents.

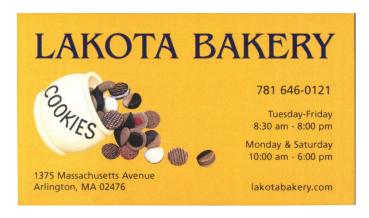
We will be happy to have you and other League members help that night for the following activities:

- Post precinct number signs (please arrive before 7:15 PM so they will be in place before the Town Meeting Member candidates arrive)
- Greet candidates and members of public on night of event
- Help set up before and/or pack up after the event

If you would like to lend a hand, please email me and let me know what you would like to do. See you at Candidates' Night!

Elizabeth Thompson elizw.thompson@gmail.com

*Voter Service Chair* 781-646-5942



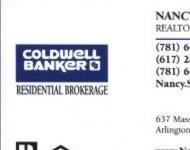


#### FITNESS FIRST

Arlington's Neighborhood **Health Club Since 1982** 

471 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781) 643-4300 Club Hours: M-F 5:30 am to 10 pm, S-S 8 am to 6 pm





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#### **Arlington Heights Nursery School**

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(Tel) 781-648-2345 - (Fax) 781-648-2544 www.LeoneLaw.com - John@LeoneLaw.com Initial Free Consultation for League Members

## 2017 Arlington Reads Together presents

# Transgender activist Nicole Maines of "Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family"

#### Saturday, March 4, 2017

at 1:00 p.m.
Arlington Town Hall
730 Mass Ave, Arlington MA
Free and open to the public

#### **Program Sponsors:**

Library Board of Trustees, Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group, Friends of Robbins Library, Friends of Fox Branch Library

#### **Learn more about Arlington Reads Together 2017:**

https://robbinslibrary.wordpress.com/arlington-reads-together-2017/

#### Learn more about the book:

https://robbinslibrary.wordpress.com/2016/11/17/becoming-nicole-is-the-2017-arlington-reads-together-pick/

#### **Registration suggested:**

arlingtonreadstogether.eventbrite.com

#### For more information:

mdeedy@minlib.net or 781-316-3202

#### **Introduction to Town Meeting**

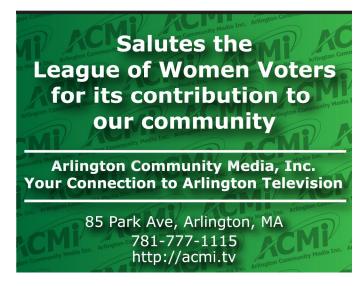
On April 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m., the Town Moderator will conduct an introduction to Town Meeting and limited warrant review in the community room of Robbins Library. If you are a new Town Meeting Member or a grizzled veteran of Town Hall and Town Meeting, please join the Moderator for an introduction to Town Meeting practices and procedures, the Warrant, recommended votes, substitute motions, debate and voting. This event is co-sponsored by the Governance Task Group of Vision 2020 and the League of Women Voters of Arlington.

#### Books in Bloom March 10 at Robbins Library

Join the Friends of Robbins Library and the Arlington Garden Club for an evening of stunning floral displays, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages in the elegant Robbins Library Reading Room & Rotunda March 10th from 7 to 9 p.m. Music provided by the Morningside Music Studio Jazz Combo.

For information and to order tickets, visit https://www.robbinslibrary.org/event/friends-of-robbins-library-and-arlington-garden-club-present-books-in-bloom/.







#### **Criminal Justice Reform Legislative Update**

By Colleen Kirby

The League of Women Voters supports comprehensive criminal justice reform that decreases the numbers of people in custody or under state control. We would like to see individuals get the support they need when they commit offenses, such as treatment for addictions, assistance for mental health issues, and training for behavioral issues to reduce re-offending. We want to make sure that impoverished individuals aren't adversely impacted, solely because of their poverty, or that collateral consequences don't derail the ability of those no longer in custody to remain out of custody. We encourage giving people second chances, and making sure that when they are under state control they are treated humanely. We would also like to see those in custody given incentives to rehabilitate so they can reenter society better than when they left. We also want to limit the burden of incarceration on children, families and communities. With this in mind we are supporting the following bills.

- 1. "An Act to reduce the criminalization of poverty" Sen. Brownsberger, Rep. Tyler (SD 1389, HD2929) This bill addresses fines, fees and court costs that impinge on an individual's ability to meet their or their families' needs. It addresses expunging records of individuals for some offenses committed if they were falsely accused. It also defines a felony to be a serious crime so that we can have better outcomes for individuals committing minor offenses. This bill will do away with what are essentially "debtor's prison" sentences in Massachusetts. New support by League in 2017.
- 2. "An Act relative to larceny" Sen. Jehlen, Rep. Chynah Tyler (SD1619, HD639) This bill redefines felony to be a serious crime by increasing the monetary limits involved. Continued support from 2015/16.
- 3. "An Act relative to the expungement of records of persons falsely accused and juveniles" Sen. Eldridge, Rep. Chynah Tyler (SD477, HD3162) Continued support from 2015/16.
- 4. "An Act relative to medical placement of terminal and incapacitated inmates" Sen. Pat Jehlen (SD1718) This bill addresses removing terminally ill or incapacitated inmates from custody so they can get the treatment they need at lower cost to the state. These individuals will be at low risk for re-offending due to their illness. New support from League in 2017.
- 5. "An Act reforming pretrial process" Sen. Donnelly, Rep. Rogers (SD884, HD3075) This bill should cut down on people held pretrial and enable more services. Continued support from 2015/16.
- 6. "An Act promoting restorative justice practices" Rep. Garballey, Sen. Eldridge (HD1957, SD1797) Enables use of community based restorative justice programs across the state. Continued support from 2015/16.
- 7. "An Act providing community-based sentencing alternatives for primary caretakers of dependent children who have been convicted of non-violent crimes" Sen. Brownsberger/Rep. Holmes (SD622, HD3613) Enables taking primary caretaker status into account when sentencing for non-violent crimes. New bill in 2017 currently undergoing review by the Legislative Action Committee.
- 8. "An Act reducing recidivism, curbing unnecessary spending, and ensuring appropriate use of segregation" Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Holmes (SD1652, HD3460) Restricts the use of solitary confinement and provides for oversight and data collection. Continued support from 2015/16.

#### **Criminal Justice Reform Legislative Update (Continued)**

- 9. "An Act to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses" Sen. Creem, Rep. Carvalho (SD500, HD1794) Continued support from 2015/16.
- 10. Parole bills
  - a. "An Act to expand sentencing options" Sen. Brownsberger (SD1014) To increase participation in programming and enable parole to occur at appropriate time. Continued support from 2015/16.
  - b. "An Act related to parole" Sen. Brownsberger, Rep. Dave Rogers (SD1672, HD3151) Expands parole board to 9 and qualifications to include at least 3 with expertise with psychiatry, psychology, social work, or the treatment of substance use disorder; use of evidence based guidelines for release. New support by League in 2017.

#### **LWVA Co-Sponsors Forum on Criminal Justice Reform**

The Politics of Justice

**Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts** 

Saturday, March 25

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington

630 Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington Center

#### Speakers include:

- Sen. Will Brownsberger on the Council of State Governments omnibus bill
- Cassandra Bensahih of Jobs Not Jails on the Justice Reinvestment Act
- Sen. Ken Donnelly on mental health issues and pretrial reform
- Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan on restorative justice
- Idris Abdullah of Teens Leading the Way on juvenile justice
- Rahsaan Hall of the ACLU-MA's Racial Justice Program on the racial implications of this season's proposed legislation

Networking & registration begin 12:45 p.m.

Panel & discussions with panelists 1:15-4:30 p.m.

Action opportunities 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Bill Gardiner and Rep. Dave Rogers will offer a 30-minute workshop on interacting effectively with legislators.

RSVPs to end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info are appreciated but not required.

This free event is organized by the Mass Incarceration Working Group of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington.

Other cosponsors are: ACLU-MA, ACMI, Arlington Human Rights Commission, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Citizens for Juvenile Justice, Coalition for Effective Public Safety, Criminal Justice Policy Coalition, EMIT, EPOCA, First Unitarian Society of Newton Criminal Justice Advocacy Team, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, Jobs Not Jails, Leagues of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Arlington, and Winchester, MA Anti-Shackling Coalition, NASW-MA Criminal Justice Committee, Prisoners' Legal Services, Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, Restorative Justice RSVP, Teens Leading the Way, Wicked Sober, Women's League of Peace and Freedom Boston Branch, and First Parish Arlington's Racial Justice Coordinating Committee

# Our fiscal year begins April 1, so now is the time to pay dues! 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**	Dunainat Data			
Name	Precinct Date Zip Occupation			
Address	Zip Occupation			
Telephone F	Emailontact information sent to Arlington League members			
Please indicate if you do NOT want your c	ontact 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 ENCL				
TOTAL ELVEL	Ψ			
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 WMAIL TO: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., U	omen Voters of Arlington nit 1, Arlington, MA 02474 ***********************************			
************	***************			
Please check areas of interest and activity even if you	can't be actively involved THIS year.			
SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES	FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE			
Join the Board. Position:	AND COMMUNITY INFORMED			
Action: phone calls letters	Congress/Presidency/Election Process			
Bulletin: mailing soliciting ads	Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights			
Membership	Education/Child Care			
Nominating Committee	Environment/Recycling			
Publicity Writer	Health Care			
Voter Service: Rides to the polls	Justice/Courts/Prisons			
Candidates Night	Land Use			
Voters' Guide	Taxation/Budgets/Deficits			
Attend State League's Phonothon	Transportation/Urban Policy			
Be a discussion leader at local meetings	Voting Rights			
Fundraising activities	Warrant Articles Review			
Offer meeting refreshments	Welfare Policies/Basic Human Needs			
Post fliers and deliver brochures	Women's Issues			
Host a meeting in my home	Zoning/Community Development/Land Use			
Monitor elections for nonprofit organizations				
	SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON			
OBSERVE AT	Computer databaseFundraising			
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS*	Graphic designWriting articles			
Selectmen (Mondays)	Desktop publishing Other			
Redevelopment Board (Mondays)	Web site maintenance			
School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)	Membership development			
Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)	Moderating meetings			
Housing Authority				
<u> </u>	BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:			
	(for phone tree reminders) Call before o'clock			
*Some of these can be seen on cable TV	· ———			

# Drivers Needed for Town Election!

For the Town Election on **April 1**, the LWVA will provide rides to the polls from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you can work a shift as a driver, please call Phyllis Maddox at 781-646-4362 or email her at phyllismaddox@rcn.com

March 2017

