

# *BULLETIN*

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

*www.lwva.com*

## September 2011

### Calendar

9/17	Saturday 10 am to 3 pm	Arlington's Town Day celebration. Volunteers needed — see article on page 3. Come visit our booth and tell your friends! Rain date is September 24.
9/27	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Conversation, "Creating More Sustainable Suburbs: Lessons from Around the World," with architect Paul Lukez and guests. Arlington High School Learning Commons, 869 Mass. Ave. See page 5 for details.
10/11	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Conversation, "Revered and Reviled: Competing Images of Muhammad," with Professor Kecia Ali and guests. Arlington High School Learning Commons, 869 Mass. Ave. See page 5 for details.
10/25	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Conversation, "Health Care Reform: Where Are We Now?," with political scientist Andrea Campbell and guests. Arlington High School Learning Commons, 869 Mass. Ave. Co-sponsored by the LWVA. See page 5 for details.



League members at the May 26 Annual Meeting enjoyed hearing Doreen Stevens of the Arlington Historical Society talk about Vittoria Dallin and her many activities as an Arlington citizen.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*

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**Ann FitzGerald:** Membership **AnnFitz@rcn.com**

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**Margaret Reiners:** Bulletin Mailing **mlreiners@gmail.com**

## Co-President's Message

Over the summer months my focus has been on my gardens, time away from Arlington on Cape Cod, and my granddaughter. As August winds down my thoughts are shifting to events scheduled for the fall in Arlington.

Consider attending one of the Tuesday Night Conversations to be held at Arlington High School. Topics to be discussed are creating more sustainable suburbs and competing images of Muhammad. The LWV of Arlington is co-sponsor of the third talk, Health Care Reform: Where Are We Now? (Refer to page 5.)

The League has reserved a booth at Town Day where citizens will have the opportunity to register to vote and where information will be available as to how to run for Town Meeting. Many residents new to Arlington and New England have no idea how the local government operates. Does anyone have a folding table/card table that the League may borrow for Town Day? In the past Carma Forgie loaned her table, but Carma has moved. Please call me at 781-646-9309 if you have such a table. I will pick it up and have it dropped off at your convenience. Please consider volunteering for a time slot between 9 am – 4 pm. (Refer to the article on page 3.)

I thank all of you who have renewed your dues. If you have not sent in a check, please use the membership renewal form on page 9 and return it with your dues to membership chair, Ann FitzGerald. These dues payments are used to support the activities of the League at the national and state levels.

Last year at this time I wrote that the "rain was wonderful". As hurricane Irene is bearing down on us, I hope that the rain and wind will be moderate. On a personal note, my granddaughter, Kathryn, is not yet ten months old and is walking.

*Carolyn Parsons*

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2011–2012

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Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
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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.

**WE NEED YOU!  
FOR THE LEAGUE'S TOWN DAY BOOTH  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011**

Arlington's Town Day is approaching fast. As in past years, LWV Arlington will have a booth at this event that will be loaded with information about voter registration, League membership, policies, and activities, and other voter service literature. We are looking for volunteers to work in 1- or 2-hour increments from 9 AM to 4 PM.

This is an interesting, fast-moving event, with two to three people at the booth at all times. So if you're a seasoned Town Day pro, or you've recently joined the League and would be able to assist for one or two hours, Town Day is for you! If you can help out, please call Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753, or send an email to Meredith at [mzona@fstinc.com](mailto:mzona@fstinc.com).



### **LWVMA Action Alert**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports a pending Senate bill to tighten state regulations on the purchase of guns and to curb access to illegal guns.

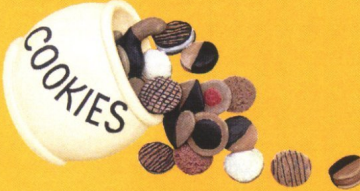


The League backs SB1195, the Prevention of Illegal Trafficking and Gun Violence, sponsored by Senators Sonia Chang-Diaz and Sal DiDomenico. Chief sponsors of the legislation in the House are Representatives Linda Forry, Cory Atkins, Russell Holmes, Ruth Balser, Denise Provost and Benjamin Swan.

Major features of the proposed law are a limit on the number of guns a buyer can purchase in a year to prohibit the bulk purchase of guns; a state database to track the secondary gun market; and a prohibition on convicted felons working in gun shops. The bill would also close loopholes in the existing gun laws by requiring lost or stolen weapons be reported to police within 24 hours and requiring guns received as gifts or bequests to be licensed within 180 days.

Contact your representatives about this important legislation!

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*Initial Free Consultation for League Members*

## **Arlington Community Education Offers Tuesday Night Conversations in September and October**

Several local organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Arlington, are joining with Arlington Community Education to co-sponsor a series of three dynamic panel discussions on issues of current concern. The conversations are moderated by *Fortune* magazine editor-at-large and Arlington resident David Whitford and take place in the Arlington High Learning Commons at 7:30 p.m. There is a fee of \$5 for each discussion. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required; contact Arlington Community Education at 781-316-3568 or follow the instructions on the web site at <http://arlingtoncommunityed.org>.

### **Tuesday, September 27**

#### **Creating More Sustainable Suburbs: Lessons from Around the World**

*With architect Paul Lukez & guests*

After World War II, the suburban model based on Levittown-style developments offered single family homes with private yards in a bucolic setting. Today, suburbia and its by-products have evolved into a more complex array of urban conditions across the globe. The contemporary metropolis now includes big-box development, lifestyle centers, strips, edge cities, inner-belt suburbs, ex-urbs and more. Together these development patterns consume an ever-increasing portion of our landscape and resources. What can be done to make the modern metropolis more sustainable? Based on research and practice in the US, China and Europe, Paul Lukez has developed new models for building more sustainable environments. We will discuss these models and consider how they apply to Arlington and other local communities. This event is cosponsored by Sustainable Arlington, a task group of the Town of Arlington's Vision 2020 committee. *Paul Lukez, FAIA, is an architect primarily engaged in projects in New England and China. His work has focused on developing strategies for creating more sustainable places with a stronger sense of identity. He is the author of Suburban Transformations and is completing Transforming the Mid-Polis.*

### **Tuesday, October 11**

#### **Revered & Reviled: Competing Images of Muhammad**

*With Professor Kecia Ali & guests*

People sometimes speak of a clash of civilizations between Islam and the West. This conversation will examine a reality that is much more complex and interesting. Muslims and Christians have understood and misunderstood each other over the centuries, and many key points of contention emerge around the figure of Muhammad. Looking at how writers have portrayed him historically reveals major shifts in attitudes toward women, war, revelation, and miracles. We will also explore the irreversible entanglement of Muslim and non-Muslim thinking about religion and the role of great men in an enlightened world. This event is co-sponsored by the Arlington Human Rights Commission. *Kecia Ali, Ph.D., teaches in the Religion Department at Boston University. Her books include Sexual Ethics and Islam, Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam, and a forthcoming biography of the 9th-century Muslim jurist *al-Shafi'i*. She lives in Arlington with her family.*

### **Tuesday, October 25**

#### **Health Care Reform: Where Are We Now?**

*With political scientist Andrea Campbell & guests*

The historic Affordable Care Act of 2010 promised to spread coverage to the uninsured and rein in the worst practices of insurance companies. Where does implementation stand now and what's happening with legal challenges to the legislation? Are states doing their part? How is public opinion trending? We'll discuss whether those beginning to experience the ACA's benefits are satisfied and how those who were worried about the law's impact—such

*(Continued on next page)*

## Tuesday Night Conversations (Continued)

as seniors on Medicare or workers with employer-provided insurance—are feeling now. And how is it that this reform passed at all, after a century's worth of failed efforts? This event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Arlington. *Andrea Campbell, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Political Science at MIT. She is the author of books on Social Security, Medicare and U.S. tax policy and politics.*



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## **LWVUS Guidelines for Major In-State Initiatives**

The LWVMA reports: *The LWVUS board has approved the following policy in response to comments received from Massachusetts League members and resolutions from Massachusetts and other state Leagues submitted at June's U.S. Council meeting concerning the procedures used in implementing the spring Clean Air ads targeting Sens. Scott Brown and Claire McCaskill.*

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### ***Guidelines for Major LWVUS/EF In-State Initiatives***

From time to time, the LWVUS/EF may undertake major advocacy, educational, visibility or membership campaigns or initiatives in one or more states. Major initiatives may enhance the League's effectiveness in achieving its educational, advocacy and organizational goals or further a current program or organizational priority. All aspects of major initiatives must be consistent with LWVUS/EF bylaws, policies, and positions.

#### *Consultation with State and Local Leagues*

In advance of the launching of a major initiative, the LWVUS/EF Board and staff shall do the necessary consultation and appropriate pre-planning with the state Leagues directly involved in the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will brief state League presidents on the rationale and scope of the initiative. The consultation may include communicating, coordinating and reinforcing the League's activities and/or message, and ensuring that the League speaks with one voice.

Information will be shared with state League(s) first, and unless otherwise directed by the state League leadership, the LWVUS/EF will work to ensure that appropriate supporting materials are prepared and distributed in a timely manner to state and local League leaders. Materials will be designed to help League leaders understand and assist in the initiative at the state and local level as appropriate. Examples of materials include information and response templates, additional factsheets, press releases, model letters to the editor and other substantive documents prepared in support of the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will work to help ensure that appropriate spokespersons are identified and briefed on the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will inform the LWVUS Lobby Corps members and the Ruth M. Shur Fellows of any major in-state initiatives in a timely manner.

#### *Monitoring and Results*

The LWVUS/EF will monitor the progress of major initiatives, including implementation challenges and successes, internal feedback and external response, and level of impact at the national, state and local levels. As initiatives progress, the information obtained may lead to adjustments.

Approved by LWVUS Board 7/28/2011

*Editor's Note: "EF" stands for "Education Fund."*

## LWVMA Testifies in Support of Secure Voting Equipment Bill

In support of House Bill 196  
An Act to Ensure Secure Voting Equipment

**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee Election Laws  
By Linda Freedman, LWVMA Election Process and Voting Rights Specialist  
August 15, 2011**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) supports House Bill 196 because it ensures that only paper ballots and only voting systems that use paper ballots will continue to be used in Massachusetts.

While we currently vote on paper ballots, there is no existing statute to guarantee this practice will continue. Without a law to that effect, we risk the possibility that this could change. This nearly happened when Massachusetts was ordered to provide special voting equipment for the disabled, including paperless electronic machines for the blind. Our Secretary of State opted to rent (not purchase) different kinds of voting equipment for the disabled. These were used and tested in a statewide election. All but one of them, a ballot marking device, were found to be inadequate in serving the needs of disabled voters.

Paper ballots are recountable and can be audited. Current paperless voting systems are not recountable. In an actual recount, only paper ballots can be accurately tallied, where paperless equipment can only provide the same numbers. In addition, paper ballots provide greater secrecy and the ability to verify the voter's intent.

Paper ballots save time and money, as many voters can fill out paper ballots at the same time. It takes only a few seconds to cast each ballot in an optical scanner. Touch screen machines are more expensive and require more machines, since they take longer for each vote. Polling places that employ the touch screen machines are more likely to have long lines of voters, discouraging untold numbers of potential voters from participating. Security needs for paperless voting equipment are also more costly.

The League of Women Voters has a long history of protecting voting rights, dating to its origin. In 2004, the League determined that "in order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections..." systems and procedures should be "secure, accurate, recountable and accessible." In 2006, the League further clarified their position with a resolution stating, "Voting systems should be easy to use, administer and understand..." In addition, it states, "The position on the Citizens' Right to Vote can be interpreted to affirm that LWVUS supports only voting systems that are designed so that:

- they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter's intent; and
- the voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent; and
- such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting; and
- the paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts; and
- the vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record; and
- routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts can be conducted in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction."

See <http://www.lwvma.org/voting.shtml> for the LWVMA's full position.

**The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts strongly urges the Joint Committee on Election Laws to pass House Bill 196 out of Committee with a positive vote and do everything you can to make it the law in Massachusetts.**

*Editor's Note: Rep. Jay Kaufman, one of Arlington's representatives, is the main sponsor of this bill. Please thank him for his sponsorship and encourage Arlington's other legislators to support it.*



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: 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 Tuesdays)
\_\_\_\_\_ 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

Clare and George Gordon, who have moved to Concord, were honored at the LWVA's Annual Meeting May 26 for their many years of service to the League.

In the past few years, Clare has served as LWVA Co-President and Publicity Director. For the State League, she continues to serve as a Program Specialist on Affordable Housing and Basic Human Needs.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*



**September 2011**

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

