

**May 2023**

**Calendar**

|         |                             |   |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| May 2   | Tuesday<br>7 p.m.           | LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email one of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.          |
| May 7   | Sunday<br>4 p.m.            | Cantilena presents its concert "Fired Up!", a call for equality and activism, at First Parish UU Church. Details on page 9.                                 |
| June 10 | Saturday<br>8:30 or 10 a.m. | LWVMA State Convention in Worcester, in person or on Zoom. Start time is 8:30 a.m. in person, 10 on Zoom. Details on page 10.                               |
| June 20 | Thursday<br>6 p.m.          | Annual meeting/potluck, live and in person, at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. Our guest speaker will be Arlington's poet laureate. Details on page 3. |
|         | Any time                    | Please pay your annual dues if you haven't already! You can use the form on page 11.  |

*Note:* The Annual Meeting Workbook will be emailed to members the first week of June.



Rep. Sean Garballey listens as an attendee asks a question at the Legislators' Brunch April 23. (Story on page 7.)  
*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*

## Co-President's Message

I thank Kathy and Paul Fennelly for hosting the Legislators' Brunch. A full house, wonderful food, and a lively discussion in person are so much better than looking at a talking head via Zoom. I asked, I thought, an innocuous question about passing legislation in favor of same-day voter registration. This is evidently a contentious proposition and will not be discussed by the House again any time soon. Who knew?

I am thrilled to announce that Arlington's poet laureate, Jean Flanagan, has agreed to be our speaker at Annual Meeting on June 20. Details on page 3. Ms. Flanagan provided opening remarks to usher in Arlington's Annual Town Meeting.

As a Town Meeting Member (TMM), being in the Town Hall auditorium after a few years of remote participation was a welcome relief. However, there were glitches with being heard from a few microphones. For a time, the audio from the moderator's microphone could not be heard in a "remote" room set aside for those who have health considerations. One TMM, speaking into a microphone, said that if he got any closer, "the microphone would be in my throat." As often happens with me, my viewpoint on an article changes depending on who is speaking. It is often the unintended consequences of an article that have escaped me as I review the reports in preparation for Town Meeting. To echo the woman sitting next to me on the first night, "Now, I do not know how to vote." Oh, and the noise prior to the Call to Order was deafening. Democracy is a wonderful thing!

*Carolyn Parsons*

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2022–2023

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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         | 339-223-3300 |
| Joan Martin, Treasurer              | 617-966-4521 |
| Anne Linn, Secretary                | 781-643-0356 |
| Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director | 781-646-9711 |
| Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service | 781-648-9026 |
| Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service      | 781-643-5431 |
| Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads      | 781-643-3429 |
| Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing  | 781-646-9611 |
| Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator     | 781-643-4345 |
| Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress         | 774-266-3422 |
| Samantha Dutra, Member at Large     | 857-266-9570 |

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.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO LWV ARLINGTON'S  
ANNUAL MEETING & PARTY – LIVE & IN PERSON!!!**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023**

**MEREDITH ZONA'S HOME  
1 ANDREWS WAY**

**APPETIZERS AT 6:00 P.M., DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.**

**FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL PROGRAM AND A BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING**

We are excited to have our first “live” Annual Meeting & Party since 2019! So please come along to socialize, enjoy great food, listen to our guest speaker, and find out what’s happening with LWV Arlington. The guest speaker for our program will be **Jean Flanagan, Arlington’s Poet Laureate**. We invite you to attend and learn more about the Poet Laureate position, and Ms. Flanagan’s plans for bringing more poetry to Arlington’s residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Please RSVP by June 16 to Meredith Zona at 781-540-4473, or Meredith.Zona@stantec.com. Beverages will be provided. Please let Meredith know if you can bring a dish to share. If anyone needs a ride or would like to car-pool, please call Carolyn Parsons at 781-646-9309.


**Friends, neighbors, spouses, etc., are most welcome!**

***Directions to Meredith’s House:***

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd. at the Summer St. traffic light across from the skating rink. Keep to the left at the fork and travel about 1/2 mile to Ridge St. Turn right onto Ridge St., then 1st left onto Cherokee Rd., 1st right onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st right onto Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is the tan-colored house directly ahead on the left. You may want to park on Old Colony Rd. Come in through the garage if you prefer not to climb the stairs to the front door.*

From Arlington Center, travel on Mystic St. towards Winchester and take a slight left on Old Mystic St. (about 3/4 mile north of Summer St.), then 2nd left onto Hutchinson Rd., 2nd left onto Morningside Dr., 1st right onto Windmill Lane, 1st left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.



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## State Reps Provide Updates on Legislative Work at April 23 Brunch

By Kim Haase

After a plenteous and delicious potluck brunch, Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers informed the large crowd about the House's activities in the new legislative session. (State Senator Cindy Friedman was unable to attend.)

Both Sean and Dave began by thanking our hosts, Kathy and Paul Fennelly, for welcoming us to their home after three years of Zoom events; this was the first in-person Legislators' Brunch since 2019.

Rep. Dave Rogers, who is now chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, summarized the accomplishments of the previous legislative session: the VOTES Act, expanding voting rights; a climate roadmap; and the ROE Act, codifying *Roe v. Wade* protections in our state. He added that there is more to do in these areas. Now they are focused on the 2023 budget.

Rep. Sean Garballey, who is a member of the Joint Committee on Higher Education and chair of the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, added that one priority will be comprehensive gun safety legislation, including outlawing ghost guns. He was pleased that four pieces of legislation he had worked on, some for many years, had finally been signed into law: allowing intellectually disabled students to attend state colleges and universities; granting all adoptees (not just those born before 1974) the right to get their original birth certificates; providing continuity of care for multiple sclerosis drugs, preventing insurers from dropping coverage; and using Federal climate bill funds for renewable energy.

A League member noted that the Governor's budget had level-funded public housing when current funding isn't enough to maintain properties. She also noted that state constraints limited the kinds of work that could be done on these properties. Sean said he and Dave were hoping to increase this funding. Other members noted how difficult it was to live on a low income, citing people they'd met as well as Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*, over 20 years old but still current.

A League member asked about funding to clean up Alewife Brook. Dave said that he and Sean had obtained a small earmark in the budget to start on this; the main problem is Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), which the MWRA is under a consent decree to fix, but the fix will take a long time and be very expensive. There is a bill to require the MWRA to close them and dredge the brook within 10 years. (See page 8 for more information.)

A League member from the Arlington, Mass. Invasives group (ArMI) asked Dave to talk about his bill on invasive species. Dave said the bill, filed with input from the Mass. Rivers Alliance, would consolidate oversight of this issue into one agency instead of the scattered approach now taken. It got out of its first committee but may take a while to pass.

A League member asked about the End of Life Options Act, introduced in many sessions, which would legalize medical aid in dying. Dave noted that because the issue had lost 52-48 percent in a 2012 referendum, legislators had been reluctant to take it up again. He was optimistic that it would pass eventually. Sean said that he also supported it strongly; he and Dave both encouraged constituents to let them know of their support. The League member noted that polling now shows 77% in favor, and the bill has strong safeguards against previous concerns.

Another member, currently President of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Eastern Mass., asked about the progress of bills to allow human composting, water cremation (alkaline hydrolysis), and green burials (green burials are not available in Massachusetts). Sean said he was open to these alternatives, especially since the town and state were running out of traditional cemetery space. He offered to work with the member. Sean also noted that last year the legislature had passed a bill to make public after 75 years the burial records of disabled people who had died in institutions.

(Continued on page 7)





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

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*Initial consultation is free for LWVA members*



Rep. Dave Rogers joins League members and friends at the buffet table at the Legislators' Brunch.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*

## Legislators' Brunch (Continued)

A League member asked about the new state auditor's plan to audit the legislature. Sean noted that this is generating a lot of discussion; the budget is already audited annually, as it should be, by an outside firm. Dave added that expenditures are public information ("open checkbook"). This new audit would apply to such things as committee creation and assignment, parking spaces, and the like. He and Dave both noted that whether the executive has this kind of power over the legislature may be a separation of powers issue.

A representative of the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands called everyone's attention to their current drive to fund a lawsuit to stop the building of a large housing development under Chapter 40B. They want to get the 10-year-old FEMA floodplain maps updated. Sean said that he and Dave would reach out to our Federal delegation about this. (See page 8 for more information.)

A League member asked how the rebate that went to taxpayers because of the budget surplus happened and whether it was likely to happen again. Dave said that it had originally been passed in the 1980s by the Citizens for Limited Taxation and had only been activated once before this year. He said that Gov. Baker had transferred funds so as to trigger the rebate. He felt that the funds spent on the rebate could have been better spent on housing and other issues. He noted that the House budget had changed the law so that all taxpayers would get the same size rebate, instead of the rich getting the most; he hoped the Senate would go along.

The same member asked what was happening with the taxes raised from cannabis sales, casinos, and sports betting. Sean noted that no constituents had told him they opposed sports betting. Since all the neighboring states have it, it makes sense to capture the revenue, which is earmarked for mental health, as is some of the cannabis revenue. Sean added that because new tax revenue was earmarked for spending priorities, the rebate was unlikely to be triggered again. For example, the "millionaire's tax" revenue would be spent on education and transportation. Dave noted that the governor's budget provided cuts to capital gains, business, and estate taxes that would most help the rich; he did not support those, but did support the overall budget package. He added that he and Sean were here to help those who are struggling, not the well-to-do.

A League member noted that the League was in favor of same-day voter registration; the Town Clerk reported that it might help about half a dozen people on any given election day, not a huge impact. Sean said that he and Dave both supported this, but after a very contentious floor debate, the issue lost by 30 votes. Some town clerks said the technology would be hard to implement; but Sean suggested that if Maine and Wyoming can do it, Massachusetts could. But enough very senior legislators opposed it, and the debate was so bitter, that it is unlikely to come up again for a long time. Dave noted that the VOTES Act had shortened the registration deadline to 10 days from 20 days before an election, and we do have better election laws than many states.

Dave thanked all local activists who spoke up on issues, saying that he and Sean were learning from them, and encouraged them to continue.

*Photos are on pages 1 and 6.*

## Mugar Wetlands Coalition Seeks Funding for Lawsuit

*From the Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands*

Arlington residents have filed suit to prevent construction of Thorndike Place, a massive four-story rental building and townhomes, in proximity to documented wetlands and floodplain. With no direct access to Mass Ave. or Route 2, all traffic will empty onto Lake St.

The Coalition to Save the Mugar Wetlands continues to promote awareness about the project and is raising money to fund the lawsuit.

What's at Stake:

- Wetland and Habitat Destruction
- Increased Flooding
- Increased Traffic
- Decreased Use of Thorndike Field

We need your help!

Donate! Contribute to the legal fund and learn more (details on our website).  
Join! Visit our website, <https://saveourwetlands.wordpress.com/>, and subscribe to our email list.

*Note:* The LWVA has opposed development of the Mugar Wetlands for many years.

### **Budget Amendments Would Fund Study and Plan Update for Alewife Brook**


Save the Alewife Brook (<https://savethealewifebrook.org/>) reports that two new state budget amendments have been filed for Alewife Brook: Dredging and Flooding Mitigation Study (#1019) and Update to Alewife Master Plan (#1020).

Amendment 1019 would fund a hydraulic study to identify the specific actions needed to protect affected communities from sewage-contaminated flooding. The study would also provide information required to secure federal and state funds. Funding for the study would go to the Mystic River Watershed Association, which has a long history of work in the area.

Amendment 1020 would fund an update to the 20-year-old Alewife Reservation & Alewife Brook Master Plan to reflect the climate change and widespread development that have exacerbated both flooding and combined sewer overflow discharges of sewage into the brook. The update would assess and reprioritize recommended projects based on current conditions.

The group thanks Representatives Dave Rogers, Sean Garballey and Christine Barber for filing and co-sponsoring these earmarks. Thanks also to Dave Rogers' aides Kira Arnott & George Armstrong for their hard work and support.





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**SUNDAY**  
**MAY 7**  
**2023 at 4pm**

**FEATURING**  
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by Joan Szymko

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*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) Grants Committee, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency.*

**TICKETS (Free-\$25) AND CONCERT DETAILS AT:**  
[www.cantilena.org](http://www.cantilena.org)  
*Cantilena participates in the Card-to-Culture program, offering EBT, WIC and ConnectorCare cardholders free admission to this concert.*



**ARLINGTON COMMISSION  
FOR ARTS AND CULTURE**

*Note: The LWVA's own Patti Muldoon will be one of the speakers from the community, as will Pearl Morrison, who emcee'd Arlington's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance for many years. Patti will play Susan B. Anthony!*



## LWVMA Invites Members to June Convention

*From the State League*

Please join us for the 2023 Convention, *Better Together: Building an Inclusive Electorate*. We hope you'll join us IN PERSON for the first "live" LWVMA Convention since 2019! The Convention is being held at Clark University in Worcester on Saturday, June 10. We are eager to gather as a community and look forward to reconnecting with many of you after a long four years. We would love to see you in-person, but if that is not possible, please plan to join us on Zoom. There is no limit to the number of members who can attend from any local League, though the number of voting delegates is limited.

**Where:** Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA, & on Zoom

**When:** Saturday, June 10, 2023

8:30 am to 4:00 pm (in person)

10:00 am to 4:00 pm (on Zoom)

### **Why:**

- Plan the program and pass the budget for the next biennium
- Participate in interactive break-out sessions on important topics
- Elect LWVMA Officers and Directors

There will be plenary sessions, a keynote speaker to be announced, and breakout sessions for small group discussions.

For further details, and to register, please go to <https://lwvma.org/convention-2023-better-together-making-democracy-work-for-everyone/>.

**Our fiscal year began April 1, so please send your dues if you haven't yet!  
Thank you!**

**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**

- \_\_\_\_ Action: phone calls \_\_\_\_\_ letters \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Bulletin: mailing \_\_\_\_\_ soliciting ads \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_\_ Nominating Committee
- \_\_\_\_ Publicity
- \_\_\_\_ Voter Service: Rides to the polls \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Candidates Night
- \_\_\_\_ Voters' Guide
- \_\_\_\_ Host a meeting in my home

**FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE  
AND COMMUNITY INFORMED**

- \_\_\_\_ Congress/Presidency/Election Process
- \_\_\_\_ Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
- \_\_\_\_ Education
- \_\_\_\_ Environment/Climate Change
- \_\_\_\_ Health Care
- \_\_\_\_ Justice/Courts/Prisons
- \_\_\_\_ Housing/Zoning/Community Development
- \_\_\_\_ Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
- \_\_\_\_ Transportation/Urban Policy
- \_\_\_\_ Voting Rights
- \_\_\_\_ Basic Human Needs
- \_\_\_\_ Women's Issues/Gender Issues
- \_\_\_\_ Housing/Zoning/Community Development
- \_\_\_\_ Other

**OBSERVE AT  
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS\***

- \_\_\_\_ Select Board (Mondays)
- \_\_\_\_ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
- \_\_\_\_ School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
- \_\_\_\_ Conservation Commission
- \_\_\_\_ Housing Authority

**SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON**


- \_\_\_\_ Writing articles
- \_\_\_\_ Computer spreadsheet
- \_\_\_\_ Desktop publishing
- \_\_\_\_ Website management
- \_\_\_\_ Moderating meetings
- \_\_\_\_ Membership development

\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

Please add my name, street address, phone number, and email address to the LWVA mailing list: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

(Note: This information will not be sent to anyone outside the LWVA)

**MAY 2023**



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