



BULLETIN */lwva.com*

November/December 2025

Calendar

Sunday November 9 2:30-4:30 p.m.	Gala Fundraiser for Cantilena Women's Voices, at Tryst. This is your chance to support one of our co-sponsors for the Untold Stories music event last June! Go to https://www.cantilena.org for online-only tickets. See page 8 for details.
Tuesday November 11 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.
Thursday November 13 7 p.m.	Fundraiser to support YourArlington, our local news website, at Donut Villa. Details on page 7.
Thursday November 19	Last day of the Untold Stories exhibit at Arlington Center for the Arts, 20 Academy St. Two LWVA members, Colleen Kirby and Paulette Schwartz, have artworks in the exhibit. It was juried by Beth Locke of the Arlington 250 Committee and Anne Linn of the LWVA, along with ACA staff. Details on page 9.
Thursday December 11 6 p.m.	Holiday potluck party at the home of Pamela Meister, 19 Village Lane, with speaker Jim Feeney. See page 3 for details. We will especially welcome our new members from the past year!

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

The fall season is my favorite time of year. My family has recently gone on the annual apple picking and pumpkin gathering excursion. The apple picking was confined to just a few varieties. But from a large field strewn with vines and pumpkins of all sizes, a few large, medium, and small pumpkins/gourds were chosen to decorate front steps and porches.

Arlington Town Manager Jim Feeney has graciously accepted the League's invitation to be our guest speaker at the Holiday Party on December 11. On the Town's website, <https://Arlingtonma.gov/departments/town-manager>, there is a link under "Quick Links" for a comprehensive list of goals for fiscal year 2025-2026. The list is quite lengthy. Take a peek. Angela Olszewski reminds me often that the League has the best speakers and potluck dinners. Please come.

Occasionally, the LWV of Arlington is asked by either the national league, LWVUS, or the state league, LWVMA, to add our voice to a particular piece of legislation or to participate in a rally, etc. Recently, Colleen Kirby, LWVA's Action Vice-President, participated in a rally at the State House to call on our government to take action to protect Massachusetts families from hunger by making sure the November SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) goes out on time. See page 5 for a photo.

Carolyn Parsons

LWVA Welcomes New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Joan Smeltzer and Stephanie Ford.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2025–2026

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Colleen Kirby, Action VP	339-222-3887
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Marina Popova, Secretary	339-707-0740
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
Laura Ahner, Candidates Night	360-907-2056
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Pamela Meister, Email Coordinator	781-646-8024
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Webmistress	781-648-9026

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're Invited to LWVA's Annual Holiday Party!

**Thursday, December 11, 2025
6:00 - 9:00 PM**

Pamela & Stephen Meister's Home – 19 Village Lane, Arlington

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's Annual Holiday
Potluck Party!

Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:00 PM.
Main course will start at 6:30 PM.

Our featured guest speaker this year will be **Arlington Town Manager Jim Feeney**! Jim succeeded Sandy Pooler as Town Manager on August 1, 2023. He served as Arlington's Deputy Town Manager for Operations from July 2021 to July 2023. Before that, Jim served as the interim Facilities Director from September 2019 to June 2021. During this time, he was tasked with overseeing building projects, as well as developing and implementing pandemic response strategies in schools and public buildings. Prior to this role, Jim served as Arlington's Assistant Town Manager, where he played a lead role in community relations and was responsible for capital project management and oversight of the Community Preservation Act-funded projects as well as serving as the Public Records Access Officer for the Town. Jim also served as Arlington's Health Compliance Officer and has performed the roles of acting Director of Health & Human Services and interim Director of Recreation. While working for Arlington, he also served as a lead facilitator at Boston University's Office of Distance Education.

Source: [James Feeney Named Arlington Town Manager | Arlington, MA Patch](#)

LWVA members, friends and family are most welcome to come and hear Jim speak about his priorities for Arlington, and to provide comments and ask questions.

Please contact Meredith Zona (email: meredith.zona@stantec.com or telephone: 781-540-4473) if you are able to attend, and to tell her what type of food you'll bring. Meredith can also arrange for a ride to and from the event if you need that.

Directions: Village Lane is a small loop street in East Arlington, on the Belmont side of Route 2 off Lake Street. From the Heights, take Park Avenue across Route 2. Turn left onto the access road (it becomes Lake Street), cross Pleasant Street, and turn left onto Village Lane. From the Center, take Pleasant Street toward Belmont, cross Route 2 and turn left onto Lake Street. Village Lane is on your left. From East Arlington, take Lake Street into Belmont. Village Lane will be on your right shortly after the on-ramp to Route 2. There is limited parking on Village Lane. You can also park on Cross Street or Albert Ave. on the Belmont side of Lake Street.



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League Joins Rally for SNAP

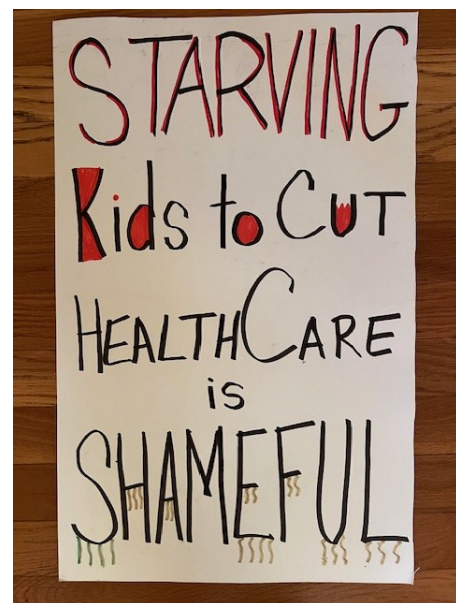
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) members joined other anti-hunger advocates for a rally at the Massachusetts State House Tuesday, October 28.

The rally, led by the coalition Make Hunger History (<https://makehungerhistoryma.org/>), called on government to take urgent action to protect Massachusetts families from hunger by making sure November SNAP benefits went out on time. SNAP is the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program run by the federal government.



Colleen Kirby of the LWVA (right), with Kira Arnott of Rep. Dave Rogers' office, at the State House rally October 28. Below is the full text of the poster.

Photo by Colleen Kirby





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Donate today to keep independent
journalism alive in Arlington!

You're Invited to Support Local Journalism November 13

By Kim Haase

The League of Women Voters has a strong position in favor of local news on page 83 of its issues statement:

https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/ImpactOnIssues_2024-FINAL-DIGITAL.pdf

Among other things, it says, "The League supports credible and ethical local journalism, in whatever format it is published, as essential to our democracy."

One way to support local journalism, and to have fun doing it, is to attend this year's annual event in support of YourArlington (<https://yourarlington.com/>), our independent local news website for the past 19 years.

I'm on the board of YourArlington (as secretary, as you might guess). I've been supporting and volunteering for YourArlington for several years, because in our current political state, we desperately need independent media.

The event is Thursday, November 13, at 7 p.m. at Donut Villa, 319 Broadway, Arlington. Our special guest is Lisa Hughes from WBZ, who will be interviewed by Jim Concannon, our board chair. There will be ample refreshments and a cash bar. To get tickets, go to <https://yourarlington.ticketspice.com/ya2025annualevent>.

It would be wonderful to see many League faces there! And if you can't make it, a donation of any amount will be very welcome. You can provide one-time or monthly support by going to <https://yourarlington.com/donate/>.



Lisa Hughes of WBZ

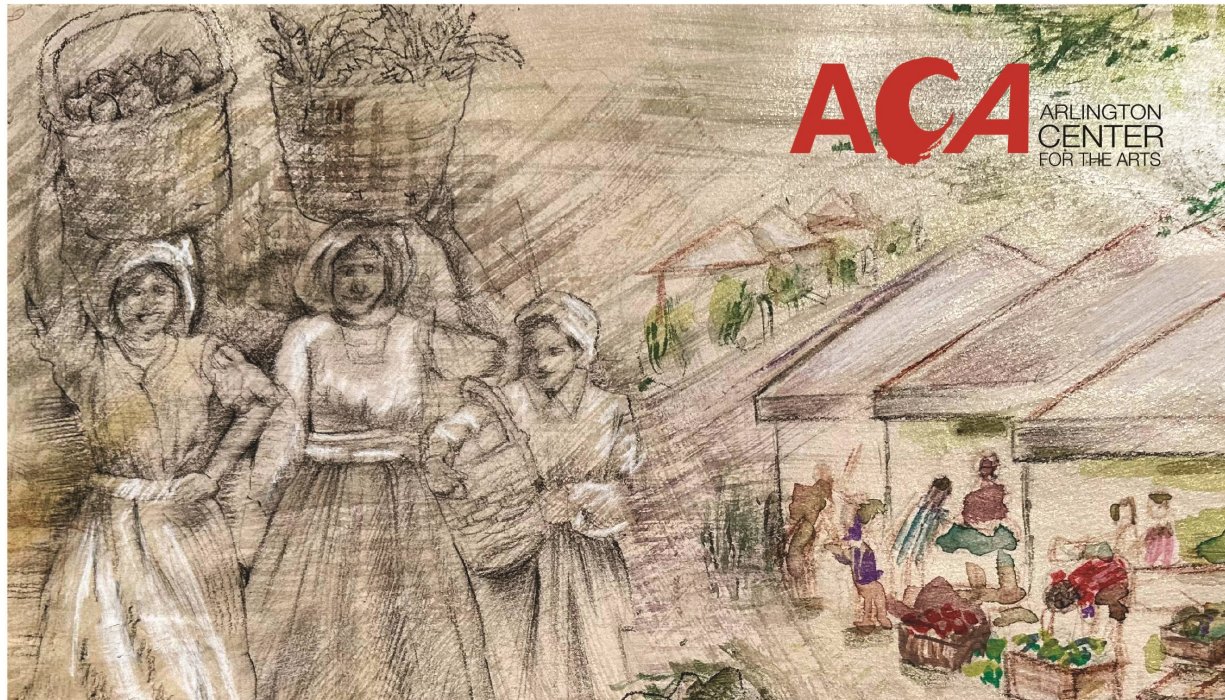
cheers to 45 years

A Gala For Cantilena Voices

Celebrate 45 years of Cantilena with an afternoon of music, community, and celebration. Enjoy passed appetizers and drinks, bid in our silent auction, and enjoy a performance by Cantilena's own voices, all in support of our upcoming season!

Sunday, November 9th 2:30-4:30pm
at Tryst, 689 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA

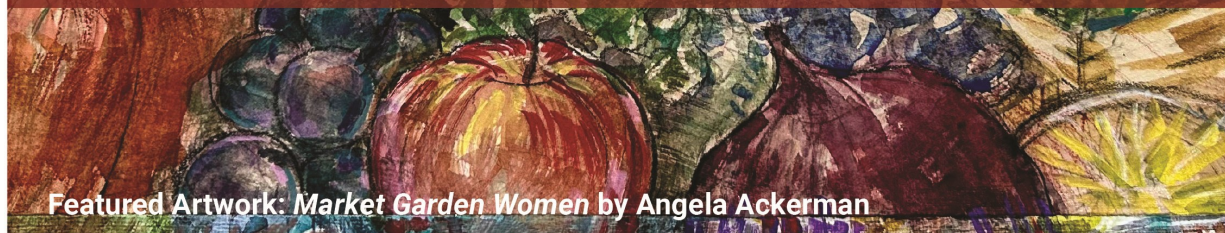




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UNTOLD STORIES

SEPTEMBER 18 - NOVEMBER 19, 2025



Featured Artwork: *Market Garden Women* by Angela Ackerman

OPENING RECEPTION: Thur, Oct 9, 6-7:30PM

Arlington Center for the Arts is pleased to present *Untold Stories* in partnership with the **League of Women Voters of Arlington**. *Untold Stories* brings to life many unique stories and points of view that deepen our understanding of community. This exhibition also highlights anecdotes and personal connections that reveal untold stories of our community in surprising and thoughtful ways.



This exhibition is presented in partnership with League of Women Voters of Arlington as part of the Arlington250 celebration, and received support from the Grants Committee of the Arlington Commission of Arts and Culture.

20 ACADEMY ST ARLINGTON, MA 02476 | 781.648.6220 | ACARTS.ORG

Membership Dues Information

By Ann FitzGerald

LWVA members no longer receive written reminders of dues renewals on April 1. The League of Women Voters of the US (<https://www.lwv.org/>) should now send out a reminder to you. Dues are divided between the national, state, and local leagues.

You should have received a notice to register at the LWVUS portal. if you didn't receive it, you can go to the portal and register yourself. Go to <https://www.lwv.org/> and click Member Log In. Your name was sent to LWVUS for renewal purposes and is listed on the membership roster. The site is secure and has a verification process.

The LWVUS portal requests dues of \$75, but you can contribute any amount over \$20.

If you prefer to renew by check, you will be a member of the LWVA only, not the state or national League. Make out a check for \$60 to "League of Women Voters of Arlington" and send it to me:

Ann FitzGerald
162 Summer St Apt 1
Arlington, MA 02474

Call me at 781-646-9711 or email annfitz@rcn.com if you have questions.

November/December 2025

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

