

12/10



BULLETIN

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

November/December 2020

Calendar

RECEIVED

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ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

11/3	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General Election. See page 5 for voting information.
	Friday 11/6	Last day of <i>Created Equal</i> , an art exhibit co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Arlington and the Arlington Center for the Arts.
11/12	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom audioconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email one of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.
11/16	Monday 8 p.m.	Virtual Special Town Meeting begins.
12/3	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	LWVA Virtual Holiday Party with Police Chief Juliann Flaherty. Details on page 3. Friends and family welcome!
12/13	Sunday 1 p.m.	League of Women Voters of Massachusetts 100th Birthday Celebration (virtual). Details below. Tickets \$25 and up.
	Monday 1/18	Save the date for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, which will be virtual. Details will appear in the January Bulletin.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

LWVMA is thrilled to mark this important milestone by celebrating virtually with all of you on **December 13th at 1:00pm**. Please join us as we host a fabulous fireside chat featuring Dr. Danielle Allen, James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard who is widely known for her work on justice and citizenship. Danielle will lead us in a discussion entitled: **"Massachusetts Post-Pandemic: A New Social Compact?"**

Our emcee and moderator will be Smayira Million, Director of the Butler Institute for Free Enterprise through Entrepreneurship and Director of the Diana International Research Institute at Babson College. We will also be honoring Pam Wilmot, Vice-President of State Operations for Common Cause (and previously the long-time Executive Director of Common Cause Massachusetts), for her outstanding work to improve democracy in Massachusetts. See <https://lwvma.org/lwvma-100th-birthday-gala/> for details and to purchase tickets.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
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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,

The LWVA is adjusting to its "new normal." We now depend on Zoom, not League members, to host our board meetings and programs. We held our first event of the season, a screening of *Borderland: The Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames*, in October. We also co-sponsored the wonderful art exhibition, *Created Equal*, with the Arlington Center for the Arts. A virtual reception with a panel discussion was held as an opening. You can still make an appointment to visit the exhibition through November 6 or see it virtually by accessing ACA's website.

Details about our upcoming holiday party, with guest speaker, Police Chief Juliann Flaherty, are available in this bulletin.

Another sign of the times is the upcoming virtual Special Town Meeting, which will start on Monday, November 16th. Town Meeting Members are being trained. Depending on the circumstances in the spring, it is possible that we will also need to hold annual Town Meeting in this manner.

While we would all rather be together to meet, plan, legislate, and socialize, it is good that we do have ways to gather virtually and stay in touch. I hope that all of you and your families are staying safe and well. Please try to join us whenever possible for a board meeting or program.

Angela Olszewski

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2020-2021

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
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Susan Born, Candidates Night	617-448-4179
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	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.



Invitation to LWVA's Holiday Party!

Thursday, December 3, 2020
7:30 - 8:30 PM

Virtual Meeting at Your Home via Zoom!

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's
annual holiday party!

Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to have our usual social gathering and potluck dinner to celebrate the year-end holidays. However, we're continuing with our tradition at this event of having an Arlington official give a presentation about his or her position in the town, with a follow-up question and answer period involving all attendees.

Our featured guest speaker this year will be Juliann Flaherty.

Juliann Flaherty is the Town of Arlington's Chief of Police. Please join us to learn about Chief Flaherty's history with the police force, and her plans for the future of this critical safety and enforcement branch of our town's government. Following the presentation, we welcome your comments and questions for Chief Flaherty.

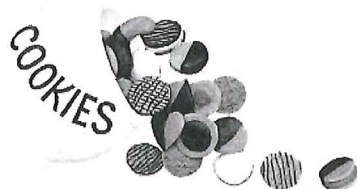
Friends and family members are welcome to participate.

LWVA members, please watch for an email from League member Janice Bakey in November that will include a Zoom registration link and instructions about installing and using Zoom on your computer if you don't have it already – there is no cost to download it.

Looking forward to "seeing" you December 3 on Zoom!

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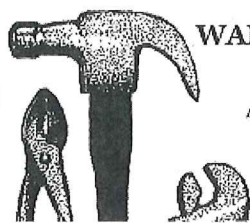
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Voting in Arlington

Early voting continues at the Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Mass. Ave., through Friday, October 30 at noon. On Thursday, early voting is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The voting entrance is on the right side of the building, by the parking lot, and the exit is on the left side, through the Town Hall Gardens.

On Election Day, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting locations are as follows:

- Precincts 1, 3, 5: Thompson School, 187 Everett St.
- Precincts 2, 4, 6: Hardy School, 52 Lake St.
- Precincts 7, 8, 10: Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Massachusetts Ave.
- Precincts 9, 11: Bishop School, 25 Columbia Rd. (entrance on Stowcroft Rd.)
- Precincts 12, 14: Brackett School, 66 Eastern Ave.
- Precincts 13, 15: Stratton School, 180 Mountain Ave.
- Precincts 16, 18, 20: Dallin School, 185 Florence Ave.
- Precincts 17, 19, 21: Pierce School, 85 Park Ave. Extension (entrance on Newland Rd.)

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts reports that to help reduce barriers to voting, the ride-hailing service Lyft is offering a 50% discount on Election Day. Use code 2020VOTE to take 50% off (up to \$10) one Election Day ride to a polling place or ballot dropbox. Since the LWVA is not offering rides to the polls, this may be of interest to some voters.

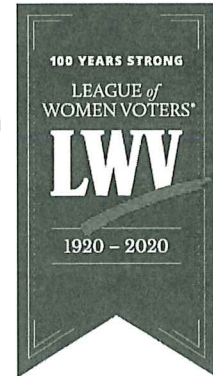
If you have a mail-in ballot, you can mail your ballot to the Clerk's Office (postage is paid) or use one of the three secure ballot return boxes. Before you put a ballot in a box, please be sure it is clearly marked for ballots.

- East Arlington - Outside the Fox Branch Library (175 Massachusetts Ave)
- Arlington Center - In front of Town Hall (near the bus stop, to the right of the construction)
- Arlington Heights - Outside ACMI Studios (85 Park Avenue)

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by November 3 and received at Town Hall by November 6. Ballots can be deposited in dropboxes until 8 p.m. on November 3. However, the earlier you submit your ballot, the more promptly it will be processed.

For more information about voting procedures in Arlington, go to <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting>. For more information about voting in Massachusetts, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm>. You can also track your submitted ballot at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>.

You can find the LWVMA ballot question positions at <https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LWVMA-BQ-position-2020.FINAL-3.pdf>, and other voting information at <https://lwwma.org/voting-and-election-information/election-2020/>.





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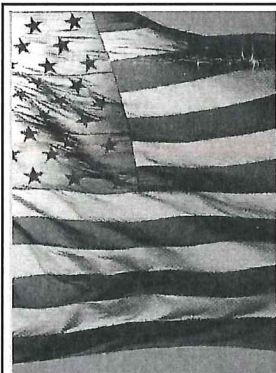
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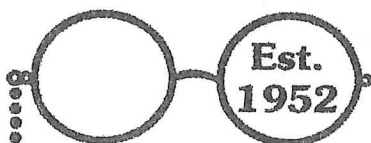
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***Borderland* Film Highlights Little-known Activist**

By Kim Haase

Last week, LWVA members joined Smith College alumnae and Arlington Center for the Arts staff in a virtual showing and discussion of the 55-minute documentary *Borderland: The Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames*. Kevin Friend, the director and producer of the film, and Kate Klise, the screenwriter and narrator, introduced the film and then, after the film showing on Vimeo, answered questions from the audience.

In the filmmakers' words, "Blanche Ames Ames (1878-1969) was an artist, an activist, a builder, an inventor, a birth control maverick, and a leader of the woman suffrage movement in Massachusetts. She was a woman of privilege who was not afraid to shock polite society. Her name doesn't appear in most American history books. This, too, is part of her story."

Ames has a double last name because she was born Blanche Ames and married Oakes Ames, no relation to her. She came of Radical Republican stock: her maternal grandfather was Benjamin Butler, the Civil War general who was military governor of New Orleans during the Civil War, and her father, Adelbert Ames, was the Reconstruction Governor of Mississippi. Her father, a suffragist, sent his daughters to college, and Blanche attended Smith College, where she studied art and was president of her class, making a pro-suffrage speech to President William McKinley when he visited the college. Her husband, also a suffragist, was a professor of botany at Harvard.

After living with her husband's mother for the first few years of her marriage, the couple bought land in North Easton, and Blanche designed and built a house for them, called Borderland, on land that is now Borderland State Park. She was also a leader of the Massachusetts suffrage movement, creating political cartoons promoting a pro-suffrage vote in the November 1915 state referendum. The referendum did not pass in Massachusetts (or in New York, New Jersey, and Ohio, which held referenda at the same time). As we know, it took a few more years to pass women's suffrage as the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

Blanche Ames founded the Birth Control League of Massachusetts in 1916 and was a leader in it for many years. At one point she was arrested in downtown Boston for publicly demonstrating the use of a condom using a wood carving of a penis. She left the League in the 1930s because she disagreed with Margaret Sanger's support of eugenics.

Ames continued to work as an artist in several media, including illustrating her husband's work on orchids. She had four children and many grandchildren, several of whom are interviewed in the film. One, Oakes Plimpton of Arlington, supplied the copies of Blanche's political cartoons that are on display along with the Created Equal exhibit at the Arlington Center for the Arts, which continues until November 6 — see it if you can! See <https://www.acarts.org/current-shows>.

Kevin Friend and Kate Klise took 2 1/2 years to research and complete the film *Borderland*, which you can find more about at <https://www.borderlandthedocumentary.com/>. Kevin and Kate noted that Blanche Ames was also a believer in the right to die, though they don't know if she exercised it herself. She died at the age of 91, many years after her husband.

Those of us who saw the Borderlands house and grounds on film are eager to visit when the park opens to visitors again. We're hoping for an LWVA field trip.

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**We welcome new members at all times.
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

_____ 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 _____

**OBSERVE AT
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS***

_____ Selectmen (Mondays)
_____ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
_____ School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
_____ Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
_____ Housing Authority _____

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

**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

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

General Election Plans

Because of the pandemic, we aren't planning to provide rides for the General Election November 3. Those who usually ask for rides are most likely to vote by mail-in absentee ballot, and it would be hard to ensure the safety of both drivers and passengers.

November/December 2020

Jane Morgan
School Committee
Arlington High School, 6th Floor
869 Mass. Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476-4701

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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