



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

"Earth, Air, and Water: Managing Lexington's Conservation Lands"

Lexington has 1400 acres of conservation land -- 12 per cent of the total area of the Town -- a much larger fraction of space than in comparable towns in our area. The League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum on October 5 will discuss how this land became conservation land, and how the Town cares for it today.

Conservation Department staff members Karen Mullins and Emily Schadler, along with Stew Kennedy of the Conservation Commission and Lexington Conservation Steward Bob Haussein, will talk about the history, acquisition, and stewardship of conservation lands in Lexington as well as the future of promoting and protecting our Town's natural heritage.

This is the first in a series of 2012-2013 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Coffee will be available at 9:15 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:30 in the Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. The library is easily accessible by Lexpress and from the Minuteman Bikeway. For more information or to carpool, contact the League at 781-862-6435. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the Committee that continues to provide excellent First Friday Forums:
Nancy Adler, Sandra Shaw, Judy Uhrig, Peggy Enders, Lisah Rhodes and Jinx Crouch.

Bulletin Editor: Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti – Nancor1106@gmail.com
Membership: Wendy Manz – wendy_manz@yahoo.com
Melinda Walker - melinda.walker@rcn.com

Rides to the Polls

Thank you to Dave Horton and Lisa Smith who drove voters to the Polls for the primary and to Liz Andrews for coordinating. We anticipate a greater need for volunteer drivers for the state and national election in November. If you can help, even for an hour or two, please call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

Lexington's 300th Celebration Continues

The 300th Celebration continues with the musical fashion revue "Breeches, Bloomers, and Bellbottoms, Oh My!" on Saturday, October 27, 2012. It will be a fun event so plan to attend: Lexington High School at 7:30 pm.

"Climate Change and Geoengineering" Presented by David Keith Sunday, October 21, 2012 Cary Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Should we try to limit climate risks using planetary scale climate engineering?

Learn about the latest research from world expert David Keith, Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics at Harvard and Professor of Public Policy at the Kennedy School.

David Keith, winner of MIT's prize for Excellence in Experimental Physics works at the interface of climate science, energy technology and public policy. He is a leading world expert on geoengineering and was named by TIME Magazine as a Hero of the Environment. He is a dynamic and fascinating speaker and will talk on a subject at the forefront of climate change research.

"Geoengineering may prove to be the last card we can play in dealing with climate change. There is no better person to tell us about this exciting and controversial new field than David Keith. "

—Kerry Emanuel, Professor of Atmospheric Science, MIT, and Lexington resident

Admission is free!

LWVL Evening Forum

"The Voting Wars of 2012" With Professor Charles Stewart, MIT

**Tuesday, October 30, 2012, 7 p.m.
Lexington Depot, 13 Depot Square**

Since the election of 2010, a number of states have passed laws that have imposed new voter ID requirements and restricted access to the polls. These laws reverse a trend, begun with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to make voting more accessible to all Americans. Opponents of these laws worry that they will have a disproportionate effect on the ability of racial minority voters, as well as the less affluent and students, to vote in 2012. Many worry (or hope) that these laws will have an influence on who wins the presidency in November.

This talk discusses the rise of these laws, which are intended to tighten-up access to the polls, and the larger political context that has led to their passage. Despite the clearly partisan politics of these laws, Professor Stewart will discuss why they are unlikely to have much of an influence on the outcome of the 2012 presidential election. This is not to say that problems with election administration more generally couldn't lead to a repeat of the 2000 fiasco. Many of the "battleground states" have features of their voting systems that could lead to controversy, conflict, and chaos, should the results of the election rest on an election dispute in one of these states.

About the Speaker:

Charles Stewart III is the Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science at MIT, where he has taught since 1985. His research and teaching areas include congressional politics, elections, and American political development. His current research about Congress touches on the historical development of committees, party leadership, and Senate elections. Since 2001, Professor Stewart has been a member of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, a leading research effort that applies scientific analysis to questions about election technology, election administration, and election reform. He is currently the MIT director of the project. Professor Stewart is an established leader in the analysis of the performance of election systems and the *quantitative assessment of election performance*.

The League's Membership Drive is On!

Look for information in the mail from Wendy Manz and Melinda Walker regarding this year's Membership Drive.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

"Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVLexington>

Watch the League's Forums on Demand

If there is a League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum that you've missed or would like to see again, log onto <http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand.html> and scroll down to "League of Women Voters" under Categories.

LWVMA

Annual LWVMA Fall Appeal/Phonathon

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will be reaching out to loyal supporters with its annual Phonathon beginning October 13.

Members giving before October 8 and over \$100 will have 15% of their donation returned to their local League. And those who donate any amount before October 8 will not be called during the Phonathon.

LWVMA plans for the coming year include:

- Citizen education programs for Fall 2012 elections
- Providing funds for local Leagues through the Citizen Education Grant Program
- A new, improved lwvma.org website
- Two League leader events-fall and spring
- Coming together at the May 2013 LWVMA convention
- Continued opposition to attempts at voter suppression
- And more

You can donate on-line at <http://lwvma.org/donatenow.shtml> or by mailing a check to LWVMA, 133 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114. Checks made payable to LWVMA (501©4) are not tax deductible. Checks made payable to LWVMA Citizen Education Fund (501©3) are tax deductible.

The League is counting on you and appreciates your generous support.

**Mary McFadden Hastings will present
“Building Your Child’s/Grandchild’s Education Fund”
Sunday, October 28, 2012, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

On Sunday, October 28, 2012, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington MA, Mary McFadden Hastings, Managing Director-Investments of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC located in Waltham, Massachusetts, and long-time Lexington resident, presents a free public talk entitled, “Building Your Child’s/Grandchild’s Education Fund.”

The presentation is sponsored by the Planned Giving Committee of the Cary Memorial Library Foundation. The event will give parents and grandparents of children of all ages an overview of educational planning strategies to meet one of life’s biggest financial challenges.

Ms. Hastings is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, an Accredited Asset Management Specialist™ and Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor™ with over 35 years of financial services experience. The presentation will include advantages of the 529 college savings plans. These savings plans are known as “qualified tuition plans.”

At a time when college costs are outstripping inflation, averaging 8.3% for public universities, it is never too early to plan, even for an as-yet unborn child. “The earlier you start, the less you have to save.”

So whether your children or grandchildren are toddlers or teens, mark your calendars now for this exclusive educational event.

The Planned Giving Committee of Cary Memorial Library Foundation (CMLF) has established the Maria Hastings Cary Legacy Society to recognize those who provide for Cary Memorial Library in their estate plans, through wills, IRA/Retirement accounts, life insurance, donor-advised funds or charitable gift annuities. CMLF is a 501(c) (3) charity that serves as the primary fundraising organization for the Library. For more information about CMLF and the Legacy Society, call 781-862-6288, ext. 322 or email: CMLFoundation@CaryLibrary.org.

For questions and reservations contact: Kat MacDonald @ (781) 862-6288 x322
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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the October 2012 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at Nancor1106@gmail.com by October 25th.

Dates to Save:

- October 21 *Pros and Cons of the Death with Dignity Initiative*
Ballot Question #2
First Parish Church, 3:00 p.m.
- Climate Change and Geo-engineering talk*
Cary Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- October 27 “Breeches, Bloomers, and Bellbottoms, Oh My!”
Lexington High School, 7:30 p.m.
- October 28 “Building Your Child’s/Grandchild’s Education Fund”
Cary Library, 3:00 p.m.
- October 30 LWVL Evening Forum “The Voting Wars of 2012” with
Professor Charles Stewart, MIT at the Depot, 7:00 p.m.
- November 6 Massachusetts State Election**



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