APRIL 2023

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LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Springtime means change is in the air (and in local government). The first day of spring rolled in on Monday, March 20, this year and will last through the beginning of June. For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, this day was the arrival of the Vernal Equinox: the Latin words for "spring" (vernal) and "equal night" (equinox). Traditionally, we celebrate the first day of spring

on March 21, but astronomers now say that the spring season starts on March 20th, in all time zones in North America. In 2020, spring fell on March 19th, the earliest first day of spring in 124 years and it will change again. The earth takes a bit more than 365 days to make a complete revolution around the sun. Our normal calendar year of 365 days means the extra time (about 6 hours every year) will result in fluctuation of the exact verbal equinox. This extended time is also why we have a leap year.

Nonetheless, springtime is a time of growth. Trees begin blooming. The first spring flowers (lilacs, irises, lilies, tulips, daffodils, and dandelions) start to sprout. The days are longer

and warmer and spring brings in new opportunities for the LWVCCA program participation and voter engagement. Opportunity presents itself in 14 of Cape Cod's 15 towns which hold town meetings and town elections between April 3rd and May 16th. The meetings and election dates, listed by town, are in the Voter Service report. Please refresh your memory and inform friends, family, and associates of these important dates. Also ask others to attend the meetings and *vote*.

We know that overall voter turnout in local elections has historically been only a fraction of what it should and could be. The persistent lack of participation in local elections and town meetings can skew the demographic characteristics of voters and residents who feel underrepresented as well as those who feel represented. This profoundly affects their experiences with decision makers and important decisions that impact our daily lives. It is essential that eligible voters appreciate the importance of their vote to their local community. We need to consider the best strategies that will better connect voters with local races and meetings to best address issues they care about as well as build a healthier democracy.

In preparation for spring elections the LWVCCA is preparing for three candidates forums to be announced in early April for Dennis, Harwich, and Brewster: see the Voter Service Committee report in this issue. The town of Barnstable does not hold elections until the fall of 2023 but the candidates are submitting nomination papers now and gearing up campaigns early. It is a big election season for Barnstable since all 13 town council seats and three of five school board seats are open for elections. You can find more details in the March 24 issue of the Cape Cod Times:

https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/local/2023/03/24/campaign-season-is-here-for-barnstables-november-election/70035717007/.

www.lwvCapecod.org

lwvcca@gmail.com.

http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/

You can connect with your Town Liaison and the Voter Service Committee to assist with voting. All are listed in your Member Handbook and Directory.

We have other events to look forward to including the Annual Meeting on May 18th, 5:30 at the Family Table Collaborative and a forum on housing on April 23rd 1:30 pm at the Cape Cod Community College Tilden Arts Center. You can read more about them under the committee reports in this issue of the Voter, and announcements will be emailed to you and posted online in the coming weeks.

Enjoy your spring! Get out and get involved in your community and as members of the LWVCCA remember the importance of educating and encouraging others to get out to vote, join a committee, run for office, or just support someone who is running. For some fun facts and a list of spring holidays visit https://factpackers.com/fun-facts-about-spring/

Jeanne and Mary

Jeanne Morrison Mary Hunter Utt Co-Presidents, LWVCCA

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Greetings. Your Budget Committee has met several times and you will have the opportunity to vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting in May. The numbers have increased like all things in these inflationary times.

We will be charging more for things like our Opening Meeting and Holiday Brunch and Annual Meeting but only enough to cover the increasing costs.

There are two items to note in regard to the League's finances. We are paying more for the translations and the technical expertise in our forums and events. The translations into Spanish and Portuguese come with a cost and because the League is reaching out to ALL of our voters, it's important that we keep this as an essential and not just an enhancement in our programs. In providing our programs to the widest audience, we've been

using Webinars and thanks to the Ed Trust, and Richard Utt's increasing expertise, we've been able to broaden our outreach. We ask that when you are asked for donations in the fall, you will be reminded of the education the League provides in Making Democracy Work!

Respectfully submitted, Amy Harris

CALENDAR

Board Meeting:

TUESDAY April 4 | —11:30 a.m. Zoom conference by invitation

EARTH DAY



SATURDAY, April 22|All Day

https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/

LWVCCA Public Forum

The Housing Dilemma:

Resources for Making Progress

SUNDAY April 23 | 1:30—3:30 p.m.

Tilden Arts Center

Cape Cod Community College

UPCOMING

Board Meeting

TUESDAY May 2 | 9:30—11:30 a.m. Zoom conference by invitation

Annual Meeting

THURSDAY May 18 | 5:30—7:30 p.m. Family Table Collaborative

To see our entire Google calendar, go to

http://lwvcapecod.org/lwvcca-calendar.
NOTE: Click on "Agenda" to see a list of all events. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

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SAVE the DATE: HOUSING FORUM

Sunday, April 23rd, 1:30, Tilden Arts Center at Cape Cod Community College

The Affordable Housing Dilemma: Resources for Making Progress

Please join us, as Town Residents, to learn about the urgency in making progress in housing supply and understand what work is being done to plan for housing. There are many resources to access in being able to advocate in our communities.

Speakers include:

- Paul Niedzwiecki, Chief Executive Officer for the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
- Tara Vargas-Wallace, CEO and President of Amplify POC
- Kristi Senatori, Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission
- Alisa Magnotta of the Housing Assistance Corporation
- Chris Flanagan, First Barnstable State Representative and Executive Officer of Homebuilders and Remodeling Association of Cape Cod
- Elizabeth Jenkins, Barnstable Director of Program Development
- Michael Mecenas, President of Health Ministries, Barnstable

Respectfully submitted, **Amy Harris** *Chair, Housing Committee*

DID YOU KNOW-?

...that several of our Cape Cod legislators have introduced legislation to strengthen Blue Economy projects in Massachusetts and to acquire funding for academic institutions, non-profits, and businesses to launch projects that benefit ocean health, marine life, and related environmental activities?

The Cape's Blue Economy Project, established in 2015 by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, is "a regional initiative to promote and sustain a maritime-focused economy on Cape Cod, the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and southern Plymouth County." In 2017 the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation, Inc.-

https://www.bluecapecod.org/ - was established to provide support for the Project. The project focuses on:

- A vibrant maritime and technology economy
- Healthy water, healthy communities
- A prepared and educated workforce for the future

This year, proposed state legislation would provide grant funding for Blue Economy projects in the Commonwealth, such as those preventing further ocean acidification and nutrient pollution, promoting liquid hazardous waste disposal, restricting fertilizer use, and encouraging future "blue community" planning.

The environment is our economy. Learn about our Cape Cod Blue Economy in a video here: https://youtu.be/6bm4P56IUyA.

Submitted by

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

Introducing
Sandy Zevon by Anita Rogers
Chris Morin by Sue Cameron

Dr. Sanford (Sandy) Zevon had been in medical practice for 45 years before he and his wife Madeline (also a LWVCCA member) moved to Brewster. Sandy retired 15 years ago and served as Chief of Cardiology at White Plains Hospital Center for eight years. He also served was an assistant clinical professor of medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He and Madeline had vacationed on the Cape for 50 years and bought property on Elbow Pond in Brewster long before retiring here. An incentive was that their sons and grandkids live in Rhode Island which is a lot closer than Westchester!

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As a new League member, Sandy is looking forward to attending information forums and candidate debates. He and Madeline attend all the Town Meetings in Brewster and are especially interested in environmental issues.

Sandy is an amateur photographer, jazz pianist, and avid reader – a recent favorite is After the Fire by Lauren Belfer, historical fiction about a longlost music manuscript by J.S. Bach and its journey from eighteenth century Berlin through the Holocaust and to New York in the present day. Another recommendation is Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty by Patrick Raddon Keefe. Other interests include traveling, swimming, and golfing. Sandy shared that he's 90 years young, and he seems to be anything but retiring – he was out paddle boarding on the pond last summer!

Dr. Sanford Zevon

40 Cranview Rd Brewster, MA 02631

Christine Morin grew up on Long Island, NY and went to SUNY Cortland as a Recreation major. Her first few jobs were in the field of Therapeutic Recreation. In 1974, she joined VISTA, today's Ameri Corps, and was placed in Georgia in the Department of Human Resources. She settled in a rural Georgia town, Dublin. There she worked developing volunteer programs for state agencies.

Fast forward, Chris moved to Virginia and in 2004 worked for the statewide domestic and sexual violence agency, where she received her initial training in the field. Her job was covering the statewide hotline. She presently is the Director of Prevention, Education and Outreach at Independence House.

Chris moved to Cape Cod in 2011. She and her partner have 4 children and 9 grandchildren, 2 of whom are in Massachusetts and see often. Her interests are social justice, having fun with friends and family, and rooting for her favorite baseball team, the New York Yankees – she says: "It's in the DNA!" Chris also enjoys gardening because it's a way to enjoy the outdoors and grow fresh

vegetables. She and Heidi have a plot at the community garden at the Senior Center.

Chris said "I joined the League because I wanted to be more involved in issues on the Cape and I'm always up for meeting new people." She is intrigued by our Youth Service committee, as an element of her existing job responsibility is to address high schoolers on the issue of interpersonal violence.

Chris Morin

757-869-4882 morinchris60@gmail.com 320 Wood Rd South Yarmouth, MA 02664

SCHARFMAN GRANT

Calling all Voter Education projects!

The Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program can help your League cover costs for voter education programs. A Scharfman grant can help with events around elections. Candidate Forums, Voters Guides, Issues meetings, and Meetand-Greet with Legislators. Grants can be written for non-election projects, too. Successful Scharfman grants have funded art exhibits, Know Your Town programs, Town Meeting informational handbooks and tech infrastructure like Zoom for voter service programs in our postpandemic world. Think creatively-if it is a voter service project, it probably meets the guidelines. Need some ideas? Go to the LWVMA for a list of previous grants. https://lwvma.org/citizeneducation-fund-2/citizen-education-grants-forlocal-leagues/

The grant forms are easy to complete and you can get up to \$300 for an individual League. Want to work with two other Leagues? Scharfman grants for 3 or more Leagues working together can request up to \$600.

Share your ideas with your local League board. The next grant cycle deadline is April 17. The June grant cycle deadline is June 12. Start planning now or plan for a future event.

The Scharfman Grant Committee has been brainstorming ideas to encourage local Leagues to

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write Scharfman grants for citizen education programs, projects and events. We thought it might be helpful to let more of our members know about the grants and got more members thinking about possible grants. We would like to ask you to include the message below in your newsletter or other communication with your members.

Thanks in advance and let me know if you have any questions or if we can help you with ideas for grants.

Sue Abrams sueabrams2@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Hi Members,

Just a short note regarding a very informative event that I attended on Saturday, March 25th sponsored by the Barnstable Youth Commission, Barnstable High School Green Club and the Sturgis East Environmental Club. Talk about an active group of youth! They partnered with Silent Spring to discuss "PFAS and Your Community." I have to say that even though I thought that I was pretty knowledgeable about this issue, I still learned some things that made me shudder. PFAS include a number of different chemicals that are found in many items that we come into contact with on a daily basis.... Cookware, shampoo and conditioner, make-up, furniture, rugs, food packaging, permanent press clothing dental floss..... yes, dental floss. Not all brands include PFAS but if you want to start paying attention look for ingredients beginning with fluoro and perfluoro..... Also, they showed two short films that you may want to check out. You can find them both on YouTube. The first one is "Forever Chemicals: The Threat of PFAS in Our Water" and the second "PFAS: The Secret Toxins in Your Body." Surely, this is a topic that we need to keep our focus on.

One of the speakers was Senator Julian Cyr. He has been very involved with this topic and has sponsored a bill that will create a trust fund for communities to be able to access for PFAS remediation and also targeting some ARP funds to be focused on PFAS. I do not have a bill number

for this yet, but will let you all know. PFAS are more dangerous because we live on top of our drinking water and because Cape Cod has very sandy soil, things that shouldn't end up in our water do through leaching. This is our home... we all need to take care of it. I did let the students know that the best way to make a difference with this, and many issues, is to keep up the community education and to register to vote and then show up at the polls!

Sue Brock

Legislative Dialogue 2023



Members of the Cape Cod legislative delegation, seated at the table, listen to guidelines for the "Dialogue with your Legislators at CCCC" event held Friday afternoon at Cape Cod Community College in West Barnstable. The event was hosted by the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. Ron Schloen/Wcape Cod Times

The LWVCCA recently held its annual Legislative Dialogue meeting -in person at the Cape Cod Community College—with our Cape Cod and Islands delegation. The event was held in the Great Hall and an adjacent small lecture hall in the New Science and Technology Building. The space was great and allowed us to have an informal session first with light refreshments and then the formal Q & A session. 60 people attended including League members and a few guests and our attending legislative contingent. Unfortunately, only one student attended, Thalles DeSouza, but he was the newly elected Vice President of the CCCC Student Government. He was great to talk with and offered a question for the legislators focusing on housing and financial aid for undocumented students at the college. We were also joined for a short time by CCCC President John Cox who expressed his enthusiasm for the League's event and indicated that we could look forward to working together again in the future.

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We thank **Senator Susan Moran**, Representative Chris Flanagan, Representative Kip Diggs, Representative Sarah Peake, Representative Dylan Fernandes, Representative Steven Xiarhos, and District **Director Michael Holcomb** from **Senator Cvr's** office for attending and sharing their thoughts regarding the questions asked. The Legislative Committee spent time prior to the meeting drawing up questions that targeted some of our priority areas. These were, Holtec and the threatened radioactive dumping into Cape Cod Bay, PFAS contamination in Hyannis drinking water, affordable housing on Cape Cod and the Islands, possible Medicare for All, improving elections in MA through the Access Act, preventing gun violence, transparency in government, LBGTQ rights and maternal health care. In general, legislators seemed to be in sync with the League's positions on the topics covered except most were not familiar with Senator Eldridge's Medicare for all Bill. The consensus seemed to be that the idea was good but they would have to look into the particulars. Unfortunately, we were unable to cover all of the questions so we will have to follow up on those as the legislative session unfolds.

All of the legislators were positive and were willing to work with the League to get important legislation passed. The 193rd legislative session looks to be a very busy one. We have just received the initial list of close to 100 priority bills from the LWVMA to follow. Our committee will spend some time looking through the list and determining which bills should be prioritized for our local League to focus on. You will be hearing more about this topic next month. For now, I would like to thank all of my committee members who worked to make this event the success that it was and thank you also, to those others who are not on the committee but were instrumental in its success as well, especially Jeanne, Amy and Richard. Finally, thank you to the members who attended. There is strength in numbers. For those of you who could not attend, a recording will be forthcoming on YouTube and through our website. Any thoughts or suggestions surrounding the legislative committee are welcome.

Until next month, **Suzanne Brock** *Chair, Legislative Committee*

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

On March 15, 2023 the LWVMA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Peer Discussion Groups hosted Jeffrey Gold and Devorah Jacobson, cochairs of the Reparations Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst. They spoke about the history of the "Stolen Beam" including some of its content and process.

PLEASE NOTE: The League has not taken a position on reparations, either at the state or national level. This activity was intended to educate ourselves on the pros and cons.

The program focused on the topic of Reparations owed to African-Americans for the "400 years of racialized plundering" beginning with the enslavement of Black Americans and the centuries-long practices of legal racial segregation and discrimination that have created a massive Black-White wealth disparity in this country. The Jewish Community of Amherst is involved with other statewide reparations committees, collaboration with Reparations4Amherst, and advocacy for the passage of the national H.R. 40, which would establish a commission to study the topic at the federal level.

The name "Stolen Beam" is a reference to a rabbinic deliberation in an ancient Jewish text (the Mishna) about the right thing to do when we discover that the house in which we live was built on a stolen beam. One rabbi argues that the entire house must be torn down and the beam returned; another rabbi argues that it makes no sense to destroy the home, yet some form of acknowledgment and compensation is owed to the owners of the stolen beam – thus the metaphor for the realization that our country was built on stolen land, with stolen lives and stolen labor. [Excerpted from The Stolen Beam Manual at:

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The LWVMA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Peer Discussion Group meets quarterly via Zoom. Please contact Mary O'Connor (moconnor8cox@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending the group.

Submitted by **Mary O'Connor**, *Chair, DEI Committee*

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Spring Elections, Tra La - Tra La

Spring elections are scheduled for all Cape towns except Barnstable. Turnout for local elections is notoriously low for lots of reasons – e.g., it's hard to keep track of who's running for what position, elections dates vary from town to town, people don't know what's at stake and forget that local elections can impact our lives more than state or local elections.

Want to beef up the turnout in your town? Voter Service volunteers can help you...for example, we can help you...

- Design a poster with your town's information that you can post in high visibility places (with their permission) such as Town Libraries, Post Office, community centers, grocery stores, coffee shop, condo or apartment building bulletin board.
- Work with your Town Clerk or community group to host a candidate forum for contested races. One such forum is already planned for Harwich on April 20.
- Provide a Voter Information table with specifics like where/when/how to vote at a farmers' market, food pantry, or community center.
- Provide a flyer that non-profit partners or community groups can use as a flyer or attach to emails.

Our experience is that the most effective way to reach the places to post/host information is for a LWV member to contact a friend at that place. *YOU* may know someone who works at a high visibility site and you may be in the best position to help us bring attention to local elections in your

town -- please contact Anita (earogers2@comcast.net, 508-255-6360) or Rosemary (rosemary shields@yahoo.com, 202-333-5309) for more information.

If nothing else, each of us can call a couple of friends and ask if they have a plan to vote in Spring elections or offer them a ride to the polls – thank you in advance!

As a reminder, reprinted from March's Voter, here is the town schedule for elections, town meeting, etc.

Town	Town Meeting	Last day to register	Town Election	Final date to request mail-in ballots
Bourne	May 1'	May 6'	May 16'	May 6'
Brewster	May 1'	May5'	May 16'	May 9'
Chatham	May 6'	Apr 26'	May 11'	Apr 20'
Dennis	May 2'	Apr 21'	May 9'	Apr 25'
Eastham	May 6'	Apr 21'	May 16'	May 9"
Falmouth	April 10'	May 6'	May 16'	()
Harwich	May 1'	Apr 21'	May 16'	May 9'
Mashpee	May 6'	Apr 26'	May 6'	Apr 28'
Orleans	May 8'	May 5'	May 16'	May 9'
Provincetown	Apr 3'	Apr 19'	May 9'	May 2;
Sandwich	May 1'	Apr 21'	May 4'	Apr 27'
Truro	Apr 25'	Apr 15'	May 9'	May 2'
Wellfleet	Apr 24"	Apr 14'	May 1'	Apr 24'
Yarmouth	Apr 25'	May 2'	May 16'	May 9'

And finally we have some good news and bad news: "the good news" is the Sec'y of the Commonwealth has updated his webpage with a new Elections Division Page. The "bad news" is the previous QR code we published in the February Voter is no longer valid. But voila -- here's the new QR Code. Check it out. Become a Voter expert.



Submitted by **Anita Rogers** and **Rosemary Shields**

Co-Chairs Voter Service Committee

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Health Committee

LWVCCA and YMCA Cape Cod Host Suicide Prevention Forum

More than 120 people joined the LWV of the Cape Cod Area and the YMCA Cape Cod for a virtual forum and panel discussion on preventing teen suicide among Cape & Islands teens. The League's Health Committee and the YMCA's Y Achievers were privileged to feature three teenagers who spoke out about how suicide has affected them personally, their friends, their family members, and their school communities. Forum participants expressed their appreciation for the teenagers' presentations--calling their remarks insightful, heartbreaking, and inspiring.

Also sharing their professional experience in suicide prevention efforts, peer support programs, and organizations that offer support for those with "lived experience" were MA State Senator Julian Cyr, sponsor of the recently passed Mental Health ABC Act, Kim Mead-Walters, MD, Executive Director of Sharing Kindness, Daniel Rodrigues, LICSW, Director of Substance Use Disorders at the Duffy Health Center, and Catherine Fauth, School Adjustment Counselor at Falmouth High School. NAMI Cape Cod & The Islands Executive Director Jackie Lane moderated the forum.

The forum's recording is available on the LWVCCA website, and on our YouTube channel.

View a recording of the forum here: https://youtu.be/jaANM02l7Wo?t=1

Suicide prevention resources are available at this link:

https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/cape-cod-area/preventing-youth-suicide#resources

Complete bios of our panelists at this link: https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/cape-codarea/preventing-youth-suicide#panelists

Medicare for All bill

MASS-CARE is an umbrella organization for more than 80 member organizations--including LWVMA-- representing diverse constituencies, such as the elderly, low income people, various religious groups, labor unions, teachers, nurses, social workers, doctors, women, immigrants, and local towns and cities. Recently, MASS-CARE held a webinar on the recently proposed Medicare for All bill, sponsored by State Senator Jamie Eldridge and supported by the LWVMA. Several members of the LWVCCA Health Committee attended. The bills are H.1239/ S.744. An Act establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts. View the webinar here: https://youtu.be/izMQUae_BM

Mass-Care holds its next webinar about organizing to advocate for the bill on March 29. Zoom link here.

https://zoom.us/j/7944504373?pwd=WS9kYTVv M3Z2RXh6UzR2YWdMMXdrUT09

If you're interested in this issue, we expect that both the LWVCCA Legislative and Health Committees will be discussing it in upcoming meetings. LWVCCA's Madeline Zevon works with LWVMA as a liaison to MASS-CARE.

Submitted by **Carole Young-Kleinfeld**, *Health Committee*

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LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA BOARD 2022-2023

Officers for 2022-2023

Co-Presidents Mary Hunter Utt and

Jeanne Morrison

Vice Presidents

Programs Open**Operations** Open

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Voter Service Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields

Youth Service Karen Mazza

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Environment Allison Carter **Communication** Richard Utt **Newsletter** Richard Utt

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LegislationSuzanne BrockHousingAmy HarrisFlorence SeldinKaren Mazza

Lecture Series

Health Eileen Elias

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