



January 2026

This Month:

January 13 (Tuesday), 3:30-5:00: LWVW Board Meeting, Warren Building.

All are Welcome!

January 19, 11:00-1:30: 26th Annual MLK Jr Day Program and Lunch Celebration, Tishman Commons, Wellesley College

January 21, 6:30-7:30: Reception and talk with Professor Catherine Bueker, *Beyond White Picket Fences: Evolution of an American Town*, Wellesley Free Library, Main Branch

January 30, 10:00-11:00: Coffee with Police Chief Scott Whittemore, Wellesley Police Station

February 1, 2:00: Reading Frederick Douglass Together, Wellesley Hills Congregational Church

LWV Wellesley Engagement

Beyond White Picket Fences: Evolution of an American Town

**Wednesday, January 21, 6:30pm
Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library**

At our Opening Meeting in 2021, Professor Cathy Bueker shared her preliminary research into Wellesley's demographic shifts and how this impacts civic participation. Now, her project is complete and has been published in a new book, [Beyond White Picket Fences: Evolution of an American Town](#), which explores the racial, ethnic, and religious diversity of the Wellesley community.

Join us on January 21 for a presentation by Cathy of her research results and an exhibit of photographs by Wellesley High School students that was motivated by Cathy's work. (Several long-time LWVW members are featured in the exhibit!). The photo project was made possible by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council. Later, on March 27, Cathy will join LWVW members for a more in-depth discussion. This exhibit and presentation is recommended prior to our private meeting with Cathy.

Coffee with Police Chief Scott Whittemore

Friday, January 30, 10:00 am-11:00 am Wellesley Police Station

Have you met Wellesley's new Police Chief? Chief Whittemore took the oath of office in June of 2024. Now that he has settled in, we've invited him to join us for coffee. Some of the topics we'd like to cover: What are your goals and priorities for the Wellesley Police? How do the Wellesley Police handle calls that involve a family in crisis, such as domestic abuse or mental health situations? What resources do you provide to assist residents? Has sharing a social worker with Weston met the needs of your department? How do the Wellesley Police work with the Wellesley Public Schools? Do the Wellesley Police directly interact with students in situations involving bullying, online harassment, racism/antisemitism, safety concerns, and unhealthy relationships?

Bring your questions. RSVP to LWVWellesely2@gmail.com

Volunteer opportunity!

Assist with our local election work! Are you comfortable on the computer? Do you pay attention to details? This could be the opportunity for you!

We are seeking someone to join our team in supporting our online election guide for the Wellesley local elections. A six-week commitment, with the most intensive work in January. A short-term job with a big impact!

Contact Ann-Mara Lanza at ann-mara@comcast.net for more information.

Meet the Candidates Night Volunteers Needed

Have you been looking for a great opportunity to put your passion for democracy to work? Well, here it is! We are seeking volunteers to assist with our annual, critically important, democracy-supporting Meet the Candidates Night event, scheduled for February 12, 2026.

Surely there is something here for you:

- Join the Question Committee, where pertinent questions for the candidates are crafted that get to the root of important issues facing our town: **First meeting: January 13, 2026**
- Produce certificates to present to retiring town officials that will be honored at Meet the Candidates Night
- Provide support at Meet The Candidates Night, February 12, 5:30-9 pm

Email Diane Robitaille Hemond at dianerrh@gmail.com to let her know what interests you!

LWWW Book Read

[Invisible Women](#), by Caroline Criado Perez

We invite you to join us as we discuss **Invisible Women: Exploring Data Bias in A World Designed By Men**. Details of the March discussion will be forthcoming, but

now is a good time to start reading!

This book is available from the Wellesley Free Library in paper, e-book, or audio book.

Engage Beyond LWV Wellesley

Twenty-Sixth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Program and Lunch Celebration January 19, 11:00 am to 1:30 pm Tishman Commons, Wellesley College

This year's program features keynote speaker J.R. Harris, a renowned wilderness explorer, author, and speaker whose life's work reflects courage, endurance, and moral clarity. For more than sixty years, Harris has undertaken long-distance wilderness expeditions in some of the most remote and challenging environments in the world, often alone and unsupported. His experiences navigating uncertainty, persistence, and inner resolve offer a compelling parallel to Dr. King's teachings on conviction, resilience, and the courage to move forward even when the path is unclear.

The program will include a keynote address, facilitated table discussions, and lunch. We'd love for LWVW members to sit together. Please let us know you plan to join us by emailing LWVWellesley2@gmail.com, AND purchase tickets at [World of Wellesley MLK Day Program](#)

Reading Frederick Douglass Together: A community read of Frederick Douglass' inspiring speech, "*What to a Slave is the Fourth of July?*" February 1, 2 pm (snow date February 8) Wellesley Hills Congregational Church 207 Washington St.

Introduction by Dr. James Kloppenberg

LWVW has committed to providing five readers for this important event. Please let us know if you would like to take part, **email:** lwwellesley2@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

February 10 (Tuesday): LWVW Board Meeting, 3:30- 5:00, Warren Building

February 12: Meet the Candidates Night, 5:30-9:00 PM, Wellesley Free Library

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