



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

April 2022

CANDIDATES NIGHT IS COMING!

Please mark your calendars for Candidates Night, which will be held on Wednesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. in the Hermann Room at the main library and carried live on FCTV public channel 13.

The doors to the Hermann Room will open at 6:30 p.m. Due to Covid restrictions, live audience attendance will be limited to the first 50 people at the Hermann Room doors. The audience will have an opportunity to submit written questions for the candidates up through 6:55 p.m. that evening.

There will be two lively contested races: six candidates vying for three open seats on the School Committee and three candidates competing for two openings on the Select Board. If you are unable to attend the meeting in-person, you will be able to submit questions for the candidates on the Falmouth League's website up through April 26; please send your questions to falmouthlwv@gmail.com.

Award-winning radio journalist Mindy Todd will moderate the program and outgoing Select Board member Megan English Braga will provide an overview of the roles of the elective Boards in Falmouth's Town government. The program will be broadcast live and rebroadcast on FCTV 13 during the two weeks leading up to the May 17 election.

Candidates Night is a joint production of the Falmouth League and FCTV 13, our community television station.

—Sylvia Szulkin

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Save the Date!

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 21, 2022

10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Coonamessett Inn

Falmouth, MA

Cost: \$25 per person

Stay tuned for more details

School Committee Observer Report

The Town of Falmouth has a nine-person School Committee, all of whom are volunteers and must be voted into office during the Town election. Each Committee member serves a rotating three-year commitment. The Committee chair and vice chair are newly elected every year by the Committee members. This year Natalie Kanellopoulos is the chairperson.

The Falmouth School Committee mission, which is read at the beginning of every meeting, is: “The Falmouth Public Schools create world-class student learning experiences. Our Clippers are empowered to pursue their goals, which are curiosity, integrity, and residency.”

The vision reads: “Clippers are creative, inquisitive, and engaged learners who participate in their community as socially responsible citizens. Clippers effectively communicate and solve problems that impact the world around them.”

In observing the Committee, it is obvious that the Committee members take their roles seriously. They are engaged and enthused about the work they do. The members are respectful of each other and the multiple people with whom they interact during the course of their work.

The meetings are still remote for the public, but the Committee has begun to meet together in the Falmouth High School Library. Attendees can attend via Zoom. Every meeting is structured the same, with time for open comments from the public, new business, and updates from administration. Meetings are scheduled every second and fourth Tuesday of the month; however, that may change depending on Town Meeting conflicts or if immediate matters have to be addressed sooner. For example, the School Committee met off schedule to vote on removing the mask mandate when the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provided updated guidance. In that instance, on February 15, the School Committee voted to allow for mask wearing to be optional within the Falmouth schools

starting February 28, 2022.

This past year the meetings kept mostly to the same format as previous years: a few minutes for open topics from the public and updates from the various department heads: School Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Human Resources, Director of Student Services, etc., and from the various school principals. Also, the Falmouth Health Agent and School Physician, who have been providing updates at every meeting for the last year or so, only periodically joined the meetings this year.

The Town website maintains the agendas and all notes from previous meetings.

In previous years, school trips and activities were discussed and approved by the Committee. This year moved more in that direction compared with the past two years. However, trips for students were still a mixed success. For example, the high school band was planning on going to New York for a competition, which was unfortunately canceled. But other trips were not, such as a three-day overnight at MBL. The high school band participated in a few off-Cape competitions.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Town Meeting approved a new position to be shared between the Town and the School Department—a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion officer, the first of its kind for Falmouth. A person was hired and began the process of meeting with various teams and stakeholders in Town. Unfortunately, the person who was hired has recently handed in her resignation and the position is open again. Superintendent Duerr acted quickly and has proposed to move the position to solely report to the School Administration, instead of split between the Town and the School. The idea was proposed to the School Committee this month and was well received. Dr. Duerr is hoping to have the position filled by July 1, 2022. In the meantime, one of the high school assistant principals will act in the interim.

New Member Profile

Meet our newest league member, Chinna Mapp.

Tell us about yourself:

I'm a human "being" and striving to remain inclusive and open-minded.



What brought you to join the LWVF?

I'd like to be a part of lasting and meaningful change.

What is one of your favorite places or things about the Town of Falmouth?

I enjoy the Heights and the Gus Canty Recreation Center. One of my favorite things about the town/community is that it's small and close-knit.

—Misty Niemeyer
Membership

School Committee Observer Report, cont.

The Committee is addressing the changes that Covid continues to present to the schools, students, and faculty. Although this year has been far simpler than the last two, it has still presented challenges. However, the Committee members are committed to open discourse and working through challenges to figure out what is best for the students.

—Meghan Palanza
LWVF Observer

Pre-Covid Election Rules in Effect for May

As of late afternoon on Monday, March 28, Town Clerk Michael Palmer advises that the old pre-Covid rules will be in effect for the upcoming local election, scheduled for **Tuesday, May 17**. Thus, there will be no mail-in voting available to all voters. Only those voters who qualify to cast an absentee ballot under the limited conditions that have applied for many years will be permitted to vote by mail. In addition, there will be no early in-person voting.

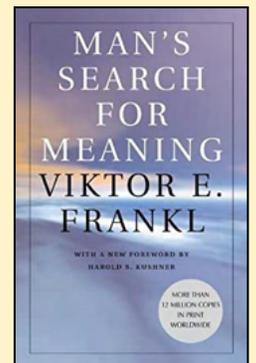
Obviously, the situation could change but we should be prepared for an election under pre-Covid rules. Should the rules change due to passage of pending legislation, we will notify the membership via e-blast.

—Judy Ziss
Legislative Committee

Expressions of Empowerment

Last month, we read the powerful words of Gloria Steinem regarding the power of the ballot. Yet voting, like many other acts we perform, is rendered meaningless absent the power of the human spirit. The "Self-Help" section on Amazon or Barnes & Noble (depending on your preference) is overflowing with commentary on the human condition, but one author stands the test of time in a very meaningful way.

"Humor was another of the soul's weapons in the fight for self-preservation. The attempt to develop a sense of humor and to see things in a humorous light is some kind of a trick learned while mastering the art of living." —Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search For Meaning*



—Maro Titus

LWVF NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names for leadership positions in the League of women Voters of Falmouth for 2022-23. Membership will vote on this slate of candidates at the annual meeting in May.

Board Members

1 st Vice President	Janet Lauer (2022-2024)
2 nd Vice President	Meghan Hanawalt (2022-2024)
Secretary	Karen Dacey (2022-2024)
Treasurer	Karen Epstein (2022-2024)
Legislative	Judith Ziss (2022-2024)
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson (2022-2024)
Voter Service	Jackie Rider (2022-2024)
Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin (2022-2024)
Publicity	Olivann Hobbie (2022)
Membership	Misty Niemeyer (2021-2023)
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale (2021-2023)
Bulletin Co-Editors	Mary Fran Buckley (2021-2023) Eileen Mattingly (2021-2023)
At Large	Lynne Rozsa
At Large	Maro Virginia Titus

Off Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Facebook	Penny Duby
Webmaster	Joan Boyer

Nominating Committee (2022-2023)

Chair	Stephanie Miele
Off Board	Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White
Board Members	Karen Epstein, Misty Niemeyer

In Memoriam

Madeleine Albright (1937-2022)

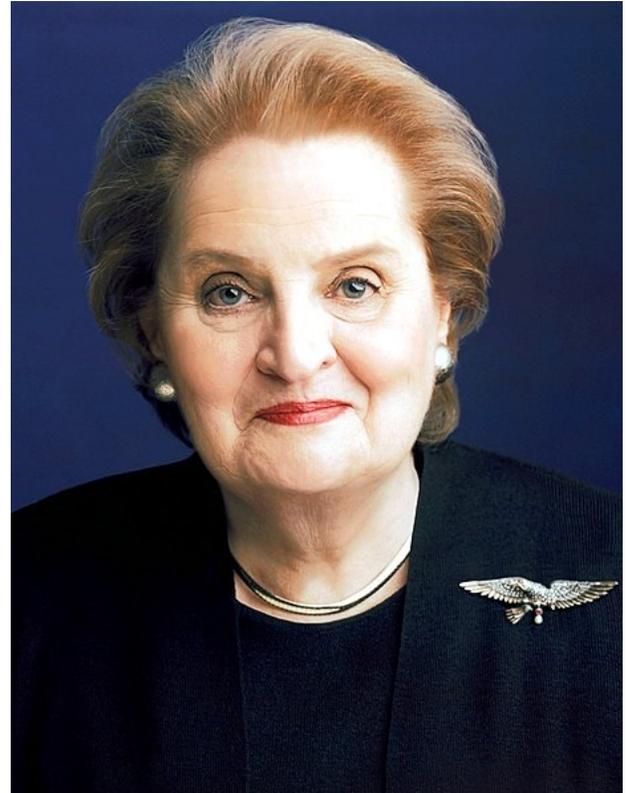
I believe we would be remiss to not acknowledge Madeleine Albright (1937-2022), the first woman to serve as Secretary of State and a tireless proponent of those marginalized by our society—women, in particular. In a short piece in Elena Favilli's book *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Immigrant Women Who Changed the World*, Albright (herself an immigrant who fled with her parents from a war-torn Czechoslovakia) is quoted: "It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent."

And indeed, she wasn't!

Albright, known to admirers as a champion of democracy and human rights, said in 2020 that she had "a trick" to make sure her position was clear in a foreign policy arena dominated by men: "After too much of the small talk, I would say, I have come a long way, so I must be frank. Then I really did make a point of what I needed to say... I don't think frankly that I was rougher, tougher or anything than any man. I just think people were surprised to hear that language from a woman." In 2020, she was recognized as one of USA Today's Women of the Century. When asked to describe herself in six words she replied: "worried, optimist, problem solver, grateful American."

—Joey Garrison, *USA Today* via
Cape Cod Times, March 24, 2022

Madeleine Albright was an inspiration to all women; her life demonstrated what was possible, through tough determination and much hard work. Professor Heather Cox Richardson, in her March 23, 2022, *Letters from an American*, paid tribute to



Albright's accomplishments, closing with Madeleine's own words: "The act of striving is in itself the only way to keep faith with life."

Madeleine Albright stands among so many other women who were "firsts": Florence Nightingale, Marie Curie, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, Ada Lovelace, Sandra Day O'Connor, Sally Ride, Kamala Harris, to name just a few pioneer women. While Secretary of State, Albright explained her stand on women's issues: "The reason I made women's issues central to American foreign policy, was not because I was a feminist, but because we know that societies are more stable if women are politically and economically empowered." Her support for women was unconditional: "There is a special place in hell for women who don't help each other."

—*Mary Fran Buckley*

March Program: Amber Payne of *The Emancipator*

The monthly meeting on March 17 featured a guest speaker, Amber Payne. She is the Co-Editor of *The Emancipator*, the new initiative of the *Boston Globe* newspaper. This project is designed to give greater coverage to racial issues and anti-racist efforts. It is co-sponsored by the *Globe* and Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research. The latter organization was founded and is headed by Professor Ibram X. Kendi, the author of *How to Be an Anti-Racist* and other best-selling books on race in America.

Amber Payne is originally from Southern Maryland. As a high school student, she was already interested in journalism and worked as an editor on both the school newspaper and year-book. She attended



the University of Virginia, where she majored in media studies and studio art. She worked as a researcher and then a producer at NBC News and became the founder and managing editor of NBCBLK, a section of NBC News dedicated to telling stories by, for and about the Black community. Most recently, she has been a 2021 Niemann Fellow at Harvard University, where she explored “the cultural scaffolding needed to empower marginalized communities to share their stories in a way that resonates across the borders of race, faith and culture.”

Payne's talk was entitled “Revolutionary Storytelling: Empowering Communities to Share Their Stories.” She began by speaking about how a young African environmental protestor was cropped out of a news photo; it was not necessarily purposeful discrimination, but it reflected a lack of awareness and sensitivity. She stressed the importance of having people of color on news staffs and in positions of authority in media.

The Emancipator will not only cover Black/white issues but will also include stories about other peo-

ple of color and stories that reflect gender issues. Payne stressed that we as citizens should be alert to unfair coverage of minorities and should respond when we see it. Equity is important, as well as inclusiveness, so that the playing field is level for all.

Due to a last-minute emergency, the presentation was on Zoom instead of in the Falmouth Library as had been planned. Falmouth Community Television co-hosted so that they could both stream the program live and record it to put it up on their website.

For more information about *The Emancipator*, see <https://apps.bostonglobe.com/opinion/the-emancipator/>

To watch the recording of the Zoom meeting, see www.fctv.org/.

An Anti-Racist Reading List

Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Anti-Racist*

Ibram X. Kendi, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*

Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*

Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents*

Deborah White, *Too Heavy a Load: Black Women in Defense of Themselves, 1894-1994*

Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*

Sophie Williams, *Anti Racist Ally: An introduction to Action and Activism*

Civics Subcommittee

This subcommittee has begun a connection with Falmouth High School, with the goal of assisting teachers and students to prepare and execute students' civics projects. The League of Women Voters/Massachusetts provides guidance and has prepared a useful toolkit. On April 4, the LWVMA Civic Education Collaboration Network hosted a Zoom meeting in which some local Leagues reported on their programs. A summary of the meeting was sent to participating Leagues and a summary of the overall meeting and suggestions for ways Leagues can assist schools is below. The Falmouth Civics Subcommittee will meet in May to discuss our role with Falmouth High School; we welcome ideas from our members for this project.

Summary of Discussion (April 4 meeting of the LWVMA Civic Education Collaboration Network)

In general, we noted that the schools have experienced considerable disruption and stress due to the Covid pandemic and that this slowed down the readiness of schools to be able to contemplate having some form of civic celebration for the student-led civics projects. Some schools have been able to have their students engage in these projects and they are receptive to participating in some form of celebration. Where schools have excellent Social Studies leadership, less stress, and/or have been working with a specific curriculum model for doing student-led civics projects with consultant assistance, they have made more progress on the implementation of these projects. Where local Leagues have already developed relationships with the Social Studies Department Head of teachers within the department, they have had an easier time engaging the schools in some form of celebration project.

Roles the League Can Play for Civic Celebration Projects

1. The last stage of the student-led civics projects calls for the students to showcase their projects to an audience. League members can be an audience to hear students talk about their projects. Appreciation, commendation and relevant questions are good ways to be an audience.

2. The League can provide certificates of achievement to the students. Providing a certificate serves to highlight the importance of the civic skills that students are learning through these projects and the importance of their continued civic engagement.

3. Make a public statement if that fits with the event to commend the students for their work. Here is the message. "Congratulations on completing a civics project on a topic of your interest. The skills that you have learned in your civics project are life-long skills. Voting and being civically engaged to help our communities solve problems are essential actions to help make democracy work. The League of Women Voters is dedicated to the mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. We commend you for your efforts on this civics project and we encourage you to continue to strengthen these skills in your continued education."

4. Help the school identify community influencers who are relevant to the issues the students are studying and assist in inviting them to class or to the celebration project.

5. Help arrange for publicity.

6. Offer to post some student projects on your League website for further means of recognition.

More Involved Forms of Help If Desired by the Schools and If Your League Has the Person Power

1. In future years, if you are working with the school as students begin their projects, Leagues that have the bandwidth to be involved may offer to serve as mentors for students.

2. Offer League resources on the legislative process or on advocacy. The Needham League has some excellent resources they have posted on their website. <https://lww-needham.org/nhs-civics-projects/>

3. Offer an information guide on community resources that might be relevant to issues of interest to students. The Cape Cod Area League did this at the request of one school district and produced a Civic Resource Guidebook for Student-Led Civics Projects and this is on their website: https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/civics_resource_directory_july_2021.pdf

Treasurer's Report

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH			
Treasurer's Report#7 2021-22			
2/25/2022-3/20/2022			
	Budget	Total this	This Reporting
INCOME	FY2021-22	Budget year	Period
Ads	\$250	\$50	\$50
Annual Meeting	\$500	\$717	
Contributions - Friends	\$175	\$75	\$50
Contributions - Members	\$1,500	\$1,310	\$3
Dues	\$7,711	\$4,935	\$100
Funds Raisers	\$250		
Grants	\$0		
Transfer from savings	\$0		
INCOME TOTAL	\$10,386	\$7,087	\$203
		Total this	
EXPENSES	Budget	Budget year	This Reporting
	FY2021-22		Period
Action/Program	\$150	\$125	-\$25
Administration	\$350		
Web Site Fee	\$440	\$400	
Annual Meeting & Report	\$500	\$620	
Bank Fees	\$150	\$125	-\$4
Bulletin Postage	\$125	\$53	
Bulletin Printing	\$250	\$164	-\$20
Convention - National	\$0		
Convention -State	\$0		
Membership & Directory	\$800		
Participation / Donation	\$75	\$100	
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$3,508	\$3,025	
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$5,160	\$4,000	
Voter Service	\$1,500		
Special Projects	\$0		
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$13,008	\$8,611	-\$49
	07/01/21		01/23/22
checking acct	\$6,519	-\$1,524	\$4,995
LWV Educ Fund	\$1,113	\$385	\$1,498
	\$7,632		\$6,493

—*Meghan Hanawalt*
Treasurer

**A WORLD OF STORIES:
Live Storytelling Showcase**

On Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m., at Lawrence Academy, celebrate international voices from the Falmouth Public Schools during an inspiring evening of live storytelling.

Middle and high school students and educators from six countries will present compelling, personal stories on themes of diversity, belonging, and respect.

The program is presented by the Falmouth Public Schools, the Immigrant Refugee Alliance, and the Stellar Story Company with special guest storyteller Theresa Okokon, host of the national media program "Stories from the Stage." It is supported by the Falmouth Education Foundation.

See Upcoming Events for more information.

**Contact Information
for Your Legislators**

Senator Susan Moran
617-722-1330
Susan.Moran@masenate.gov

Representative David Vieira
617-722-2230 and press 5
David.Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Dylan Fernandes
617-722-2013 and press 3
Dylan.Fernandes@mahouse.gov

Congressman Bill Keating
508-771-6868
[https://keating.house.gov/contact/
email](https://keating.house.gov/contact/email)

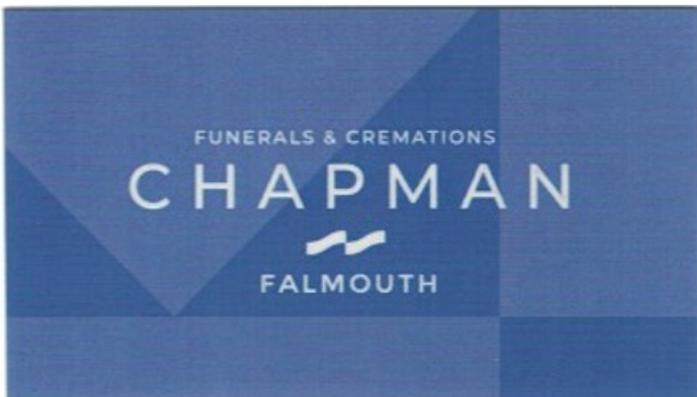
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Falmouth, MA 02540
508-540-5164
Fax: 508-540-5175



FUNERALS & CREMATIONS
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FALMOUTH



Get my Goats
Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control
Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd info@getmygoatscapecod.com
774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

Upcoming Events

A World of Stories

Featuring
international
voices from
the Falmouth
Public Schools



Strengthen the community
through the art of storytelling

Thursday, April 14th. 7pm
Lawrence School
113 Lakeview Ave, Falmouth, MA

FREE. Doors open at 6:30pm

Sponsored by



Presented by

Falmouth Public Schools,
Immigration Refugee Alliance, &



LWVF Board of Directors 2021-2022

Steering Committee

First Vice-President, Steering Committee Chair	Joan Boyer
Second Vice-President	Maggie Sweasy
Secretary	Marcia Easterling
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Treasurer	Meghan Hanawalt
Bulletin Editors	Mary Fran Buckley Eileen Mattingly
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale
Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
Voter Service	Sylvia Szulkin, Acting
At Large	Lynne Rozsa
At Large	Maro Titus
Board Moderator	Joanne Voorhis

Off-Board Specialists

Social Media	Penelope Duby
Webmaster	Joan Boyer
Historian	Jacqueline Webster

LWVF Friends 2022

Barbara Douglass
Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

Member Event Calendar

Tuesday, April 26	Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Gus Canty Community Center
Wednesday, April 27	Candidates Night 7:00 p.m. Hermann Room , Falmouth Library and on FCTV
Saturday, May 21	Annual meeting, 10 a.m. Coonamessett Inn
Tuesday, June 28	Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Gus Canty Community Center

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member.

If you wish to join the League, send your check made out to the address below. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number.

If you prefer, go to our website at www.lwvf.org. Click on "Join" to join or renew and pay online.



Submissions for the next issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on May 5, 2022. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com

Contact us:

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>



League of Women Voters

P.O. Box 450

Falmouth, MA 02541

April 2022 Bulletin

JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action



Image by Kit Irwin