



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

April 2025

Steering Committee Report

The *New Republic* article "Fighting Back: A Citizen's Guide to Resistance," begins this way:

Democracy is not a spectator sport.

That truism has been repeated by notables from Gen. Jim Mattis to Barack Obama to George Shultz, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state. But it's fitting that the person credited with first saying it was a private citizen whom nobody particularly remembers.

Lotte Scharfman (1928–1970) was a Jewish refugee from Nazi-occupied Austria who became president of the Massachusetts chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Our Annual Meeting is May 17th and we need you to participate!

Our speaker will be Patricia Gadsby, a founding member of Farming Falmouth, and a former board member and President of the Falmouth Farmers' Market. "As a society, we have outsourced our food supply to industry," she says. "It's time to bring food home again."

The purpose of Farming Falmouth, according

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to their website, is to "revitalize our local food system by cultivating an informed and engaged food community...We believe there are new opportunities to work with farmers and the community and help Falmouth realize its food-producing potential."

An important function of our Annual Meeting will be to choose a program for our focus in the coming year, as our current program, a new edition of "Falmouth in Focus" is completed. Some ideas are:

- The town meeting format; does it meet the town's needs?
- School system reorganization

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LWV Files Lawsuit to Protect Voting Rights

The League of Women Voters of the US, League of Women Voters of Arizona, League of Women Voters Education Fund, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates, Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote, Hispanic Federation, and NAACP are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ACLU of DC, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, the Legal Defense Fund, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC (Advancing Justice – AAJC). The groups are challenging the order’s usurpation of powers, including its directive for the US Election Assistance Commission to change the federal voter registration form to require burdensome submission of documents to prove citizenship, which many Americans do not have or cannot readily acquire. Under existing law, registrants already have to swear to their citizenship under penalty of perjury, and there is no evidence that non-citizens are registering to vote at significant rates.

“This executive order is a dangerous and unprecedented abuse of power — one that threatens to make it more difficult for American voters, particularly women voters, to participate in our elections,” said **Celina Stewart, chief executive officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States**. “In the League of Women Voters’ entire 105-year history, we have not witnessed an administration so determined to attack the voting rights of American women this aggressively — but we won’t back down. The League of Women Voters will fight to defend our democracy and to ensure this order is struck down in court.”

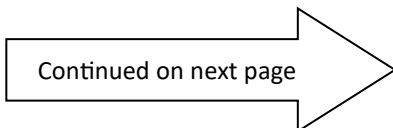
“This executive order is not only extreme,

but is also blatantly unlawful,” said **Marcia Johnson, chief counsel for the League of the Women Voters of the United States**. “It is an egregious assault on voting rights and the Constitution, and we cannot allow any President to use an illegal executive order to obliterate the rights of millions of voters. The League was founded on the fight for a woman’s right to vote, and we will continue to fight to ensure we protect and maintain this fundamental right for all.”

“This executive order is designed to suppress voters, full stop,” said **Pinny Sheoran, president of the League of Women Voters of Arizona**. “More than 1.5 million Arizona women change their last names after marriage, and this executive order seeks to make it harder for them to register to vote. LWV Arizona will not stand for that. Arizonans should not have to jump through unnecessary hoops to make their voices heard in our elections.”

The coalition also released the following joint statement about the lawsuit, *League of Women Voters et. al. v. Trump et. al.:*

“The president has no constitutional or statutory authority to unilaterally dictate how elections are run. This executive order is a blatant violation of the separation of powers. Election rules are decided by Congress and the states, and any attempt by the executive branch to override their power violates the Constitution. This order, based on a per-

Continued on next page 

Steering Committee Report, cont.

- Election safety and integrity
- The impact of 40B housing in Falmouth
- The bicycle path

Suggestions will be welcomed. Choose something you can be passionate about and willing to work on.

— **Joan Boyer**

Steering Committee

[Editor’s Note: The excerpt from *The New Republic* was shared by Lynn Cohen, LWV Westford. The entire article can be read at <https://newrepublic.com/article/193193/fighting-back-citizen-guide-resistance>. You can read more about Farming Falmouth’s goals and events on their website at <https://www.farmingfalmouth.org/>.]

LWVUS Lawsuit, cont.

sistent false and racialized narrative, could disenfranchise millions of eligible voters. It mirrors the SAVE Act, which would add unnecessary barriers to voter registration and silence the voices of American citizens. These unlawful attacks on voting rights are part of a broader effort to undermine our democracy. We have filed suit to stop this executive order and to keep it from interfering with eligible voters’ participation in our elections.”

The complaint can be found at <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/Complaint%20-%20LWV%20v.%20Trump%20%282025.04.01%29%20-%20file-stamped.pdf>

[Source of this article: Press release from League of Women Voters, April 1, 2025]

Economic Blackouts

In response to the rollback of DEI initiatives by many companies, the LWVUS participated in an “economic blackout” on February 28. The League of Women voters of Colorado explained on its website as follows:

“Economic justice requires action, and collective spending power is one of the most effective tools for change.

“From March through May, targeted economic blackouts will challenge major corporations to address issues of equity, labor practices, and corporate responsibility.”

If you wish to participate in additional planned blackouts to show your support for ethical and inclusive business practices, the list of planned dates is below.

ECONOMIC BLACKOUT TOUR:

- | | |
|--|--|
| February 28th
Economic Blackout | April 21 - 28
General Mills Boycott |
| March 7 - 14
Amazon Boycott | May 6 - 12
Amazon Boycott 2 |
| March 21 - 28
Nestle Boycott | May 20 - 26
Walmart Boycott 2 |
| April 7 - 14
Walmart Boycott | June 3 - 9
Target Boycott |
| April 18th
Economic Blackout 2 | June 24th - 30
McDonalds Boycott |
| July 4th
Independence Day Boycott | |

Hands Off! Boston and Falmouth

Massive April 5 “Hands Off My Democracy” Turn-out in Boston

In Boston the weather forecast for Saturday was grim when thousands of ardent opponents of Trump and Musk’s policies and actions gathered on the Boston Common. My daughter Alison and I arrived at 11, just as the event began with a colorful, enthusiastic and excellent band playing from the Parkman Bandstand to liven up the crowd. To every one’s delight, Mother Nature held off until the final quarter hour of the two-hour schedule, when the rain came and lasted most of the rest of the day and into the night.

When speakers took the mike at the bandstand, the PA system was not powerful enough to reach those at the greatest distance on the peripheries of the Common. Then all of us able to hear were invited to become human megaphones, repeating and relaying as loud as possible the instructions from the podium for moving into Tremont Street to begin the march.

At noon we all began slowly, patiently and peacefully moving out of the Common and onto Tremont Street to parade all the way to the end at City Hall Plaza where Senator Markey and Mayor Michelle Wu were waiting to address the crowd. It was impressive to be part of such a mass of humanity making its way without incident, in spite of the rain. But as it intensified and there was no shelter, many of us began to retreat because we could not get close enough to hear the speakers.

The best part of the day was seeing strangers become friends, all joined together, 100,000 strong, to express our dedication to preserve government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and our opposition to those who would destroy what began in Massachusetts 250 years ago. The bright sea of banners of every color, shape, size and message reflected every aspect of our convictions. What a privilege it was to be part of all this with my daughter by my side.

—Marcia Pears Easterling

Meanwhile, on the Falmouth

Village Green....

Hundreds gathered to protest recent administration policies at an event coordinated by Indivisible, the Coalition for Social Justice, the Falmouth Immigrant Rights Coalition, and other local organizations.



Photo courtesy of Jeannine Lavoie

IWD Breakfast

The International Women's Day breakfast was held on March 11 at the Emerald Resort and conference center in Hyannis. The theme was Uniting Women, Empowering Equity: Building a Just Future Together.

There were 250 people in attendance and 30 tables showcasing community resources for women. Inspirational presentations were given by women from different organizations across the Cape that represent women's issues. Four Cape legislators, Sen. Julian Cyr, Rep. Kipp Diggs, Rep. Chris Flanagan, and Rep. Hadley Luddy were also present

Many thanks to Penelope Duby, Meghan Hanawalt and Chinna Mapp who were on the planning committee representing LWVF.

—Janet Lauer
First Vice President

Legislative Committee Report

The Legislative Committee has sent a statement to our Legislators voicing our very strong support for the End of Life Options Act (H. 2505/S.1486). We noted that even a legislator who would not want to avail himself or herself of the options set forth in the bill would enable others to make a choice for themselves. We also pointed out the very strong protections against its misuse and the multiple opportunities for a person to retract his or her choice.

The LWVMA has just issued its list of bills it supports or opposes for the current term. The Committee will be reviewing that list and selecting the bills it wants to emphasize in its advocacy.

—Judith Ziss
Legislative Committee Chair

Civics Committee Report

We look forward, and we know other LWVF members look forward, to sitting in on Civics classes at the high school when students present their Civics Projects. Unfortunately this year, because of health and scheduling issues, it is unlikely that we will have that opportunity.

—Judith Ziss
Civics Committee



IWD Breakfast speakers appeared both in person and on screen. Attendees at left are listening to Sen. Liz Miranda, 2nd Suffolk District.

Amanda Gorman: “The Hill We Climb”

As we celebrate National Poetry Month during this chaotic and extremely divisive time, it seems appropriate to revisit Amanda Gorman’s inaugural poem, “The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country.”

Amanda Gorman recited this poem during President Biden’s inauguration on January 20, 2021. Attendees at the ceremony itself and those watching on television or online were mesmerized by her sparkling presence and delivery on the stage. She was the sixth inaugural poet and, at 22, the youngest to deliver an inaugural poem. Her words were hopeful, at a time



when our nation needed a positive message for our future; she, however, did not white-wash our past.

*We close the divide,
Because we know to put
Our future first, we must first
Put our differences aside.*

In the poem, she characterizes herself as a “skinny Black girl, descended from slaves and raised by a single mother, [who] can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.” Yet her decision to accept the invitation to read a poem was a very

difficult one. Ms. Gorman detailed her fears and concerns in a *New York Times* op-ed January 20, 2022. President Biden’s inauguration was a few weeks after rioters pillaged the Capitol, the very place where Ms. Gorman stood. She was “scared of failing my people, my poetry. But I was also terrified on a physical level... I did know at the inauguration I was going to become highly visible—which is a very dangerous thing to be in America, especially if you’re Black and outspoken and have no Secret Service.” Friends begged her not to accept the invitation; one even warned her to be ready to die, that it wasn’t worth it.

Other friends recommended that she buy a bulletproof vest. She and her mother practiced drills where her mother would crouch under the podium to shield Ms. Gorman’s body from bullets. She was unable to sleep the night before she had to let the Inaugural Committee know her decision.

In bed, a thought struck her. “Maybe being brave enough doesn’t mean lessening my fear, but listening to it. I closed my eyes and let myself utter all the leviathans that scared me...What stood out most of all was the worry that I’d spend the rest of my life wondering what this poem could have achieved. There was only one way to find out... What I found out waiting beyond my fear was all those who searched beyond their own fears to find space for hope in their lives, who welcomed the impact of a poem ... I may have worked on the words, but it was other peo-

Continued on next page

Diversity Committee Movie Matinee April 19

Beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee of the League of Women Voters Falmouth is offering its April public program, a film *Harlem Rising* that shows how lives have been transformed by a program known as “The Harlem Children’s Zone.” We hope you will also be able to meet Amber Payne, executive producer of the film and publisher of *The Emancipator*, to learn more about the story behind the film.

The Harlem Children’s Zone has changed the lives of several generations of children and led to a revolutionary social project that has been shown to break the cycle of poverty and violence. From serving one block of population in the 1990s to 97 blocks today. It serves 28,000 children and adults in 31 programs in two schools.

In the words of the director, Rayner Ramirez, “The narrative arcs of the students, parents and community members are intertwined with the history and promise of the Harlem Children’s Zone, as told by its founder, Geoffrey Canada, and his fellow founding mothers and fathers who vowed to do whatever it takes to make sure that every child in the zone succeeds. Using archival video footage filmed by Black and Brown youth, the film captures Harlem’s transformation from the 1970s to 2000s.”

The film and discussion will be in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library on the ground floor.

Amanda Gorman, cont.

ple who put those words to work. What we’ve seen isn’t just the power of a poem. It’s the power of the people.”

—***Mary Fran Buckley***

References:

Gorman, Amanda. *The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country*. Penguin Random House, 2021.

Gorman, Amanda. “Why I Almost Didn’t Read My Poem at the Inauguration.” *New York Times*, Jan. 20, 2022.

Full text of the poem: <https://thehill.com/homenews/news/535052-read-transcript-of-amanda-gormans-inaugural-poem/>

Video of Gorman at inauguration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZ055illiN4>

welcome

To our new members:

Lisa Bronson
Colleen Cunningham
Judith D'Olympia
Richard Mikolajczak
Pamela Morrone
James Morse
Carol O'Brien
Katherine Quinn
Casey Quirk
Marjorie Roache
Carolyn Solomon
Wendy Welsh
Esther Wheeler

Nominating Committee Report 2025

Board Members

*Steering Committee

1st Vice President:	Janet Lauer (2024-2026)*
2nd Vice President	Sheila Scott Gordon (2024-2026)*
Secretary:	Richard Johnson (2025-2027)*
Treasurer:	Joan Boyer (2025-2027)*
Legislative:	Judith Ziss (2024-2026)
Natural Resources:	
Voter Service:	Felicia Bordick (2025-2027)
DEIB:	Don Gibbons (2004-2026)
Membership:	Misty Niemeyer (2024-2026)
Observer Corps:	Meghan Palanza (2025-2027)
Publicity:	Mary Fran Buckley* & Eileen Mattingly (2025-2027)
At-Large:	Bruce Woodin (2024-2026)
At-Large:	Susan Loucks (2025-2027)*
At-Large:	Janice Rook (2024-2026)

Nominating Committee (2025)

Chair:	Kathy Mortenson
Off Board:	Eileen Miskell, Mary Harris**
Board Members:	Misty Neimeyer

* New member of Board

** New member of Nominating Committee

LWVF Proposed Budget 2025-2026

LWV FALMOUTH PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026

INCOME

\$ 200	Ads
\$ 300	Contributions - Non- members
\$ 650	Contributions - Members
\$1610	Dues
\$5000	Development / Fund Raisers
\$7,760	INCOME TOTAL

EXPENSES

\$ 250	Action/Program
\$ 222	Administration
\$ 68	Postage
\$ 500	Web Site Fee
\$1000	Annual Meeting & Report
\$ 50	Bank & Paypal Fees
\$1150	Development/Road Race
\$ 750	Printing
\$0	Convention - National
\$ 250	Convention -State
\$ 200	Membership & Directory
\$ 525	Participation & Gifts
\$2290	Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)
\$3328	Per Member Pay US (PMP)
\$ 300	Voter Service

\$10,883 EXPENSE TOTAL

\$12,015.66 TOTAL CASH (as of 4/4/25)

*Budget Committee 2025: Denise Morreale, Chair; Meghan Hanawalt;
Kathie Mount; Joan Boyer, Treasurer*

Make your voice heard today!

Contact Information for Your Legislators

(Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number when writing.)

Senator Dylan Fernandes
617-722-1330
dylan.fernandes@masenate.gov

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

Representative Thomas Moakley
(617) 722-2800 x7302
Thomas.Moakley@mahouse.gov

Senator Elizabeth Warren
(202) 224-4543
<https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/shareyouropinion>

Senator Edward Markey
(202) 224-2742
<https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion>

Congressman Bill Keating
508-771-6868
Info.keating@mail.house.gov

Letters to the Editor

The Falmouth Enterprise

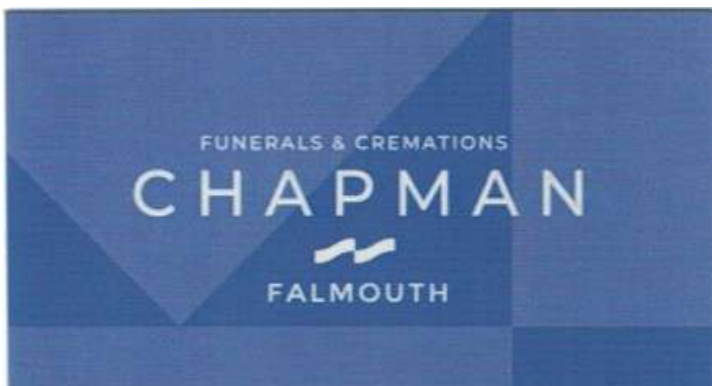
Letters can be mailed to 50 Depot Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540 or e-mailed directly to the editor at paradise@capenews.net.
General email: newsroom@capenews.net.

The Cape Cod Times

Email to letters@capecodonline.com or mail to Letters, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601.


The Boston Globe

Send an e-mail to letter@globe.com or mail to Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.




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2024 Friends of the LWVF

Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider

LWVF Board of Directors 2024-25

Board Members

First Vice-President	Janet Lauer*
Second Vice-President	Sheila Scott-Gordon*
Secretary	Richard Johnson*
Treasurer	Joan Boyer*
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	Shared Chairmanship**
Voter Service	Chinna Mapp
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging	Don Gibbons
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Observer Corps	Meghan Palanza
Publicity/Bulletin Co-Editors	Eileen Mattingly, Mary Fran Buckley*
At-Large	Bruce Woodin
At-Large	Karen Epstein
At-Large	Janice Rook
At-Large	Felicia Bordick

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Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Facebook	Penny Duby
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Web Administrator	Gayle Simundza
FCTV	Lynne Rozsa

Nominating Committee

Chair Stephanie Miele

*Member of Steering Committee

**Shared Chairmanship by Richard Johnson*, Kathy Mortenson, Denise Morreale, John Carroll, Sally Palmer. Richard Johnson is Board Representative.

Meeting and Event Calendar

April 7, 7 p.m., Lawrence School Auditorium	Annual Falmouth Town Meeting
April 19, 2 p.m., Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library	Film Viewing and Discussion: <i>Harlem Rising</i>
April 29, 6:30 p.m., Gus	Board meeting
April 30, 11 a.m., Upper Cape Tech School, Bourne	Luncheon (date changed from April 16)
April 30, 7 p.m., Hermann Room, Falmouth Library	Voter Service Committee Candidates Night
May 17, 9:30 a.m.	LWVF Annual Meeting
May 27, 6:30 p.m., Gus Cauty Center	Board meeting

Contact us:

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Website: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>

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

Submissions for the May issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due by May 5, 2025. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com

Save the Date

Candidates Night

Wednesday, April 30, 7 p.m.

LWVF Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 17, 9:30 a.m.



The League of Women Voters of Falmouth presents a film from Tilt Shift Media, *Harlem Rising*, a “chronicle of the remarkable history and lives transformed by The Harlem Children's Zone.” Learn about how true leadership and a concerted effort can transform the life of a community. Meet Amber Payne, Executive Producer of the film and publisher of *The Emancipator*, to learn more about the story behind the film. Discussion to follow the film.

Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library

300 Main Street, Falmouth

Saturday, April 19, 2 p.m.



League of Women Voters

P.O. Box 450

Falmouth, MA 02541

April 2025

JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action



Image by Kit Irwin