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**Conversation:** December 2010 Bulletin



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**

## Bulletin

[www.lww-andovers.org](http://www.lww-andovers.org)

January 2011

Bulletin Editor: Ann Cobligh  
President: Kerri Ford

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### President's Letter

By Kerri Ford

Happy New Year!

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is starting the year by soliciting ideas and feedback from all members to set the State League priorities for the upcoming year. They will be holding both in person and online focus groups in January. Sessions are scheduled to last 90 minutes. Our regional in- person session is scheduled for Monday, January 10 from either 4:00-5:30 p.m. or 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Flint Public Library in Middleton. Online focus groups will be held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on each January 5, 6, and 13. You can register by visiting [clicking here](#). Questions can be directed to Terry Yoffie at [tyoffie@gmail.com](mailto:tyoffie@gmail.com).

With the beginning of the year also comes the League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover's annual *Running for Office* Workshop which will be held on January 12 at 7:00 p.m. We alternate Andover and North Andover hosting this event. This year it will be in the Selectman's Room in the Andover Town Offices. See the article below for more information on this opportunity to learn about running a campaign and the reporting requirements.

On January 25 Andover will hold a special election at which voters will be asked to approve the funding of construction of a new Bancroft Elementary School to replace the existing school, which has reached the end of its useful life. The project was approved at a Special Town Meeting on December 6, 2010 (*it was good to see so many League members there!*) but must also pass at the ballot box to move forward. *The League supports the project and encourages you to vote YES at the ballot box on January 25.* Please feel free to contact me if you have any remaining questions on the project.



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If you are unable to vote at your designated polling place on January 25 because of a physical disability, religious belief or absence from town you can vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office. Ballots cannot be removed from the Town Clerk's Office by voters but voters approved for an absentee ballot can either vote at the counter or request a ballot be mailed to the voter or a family member. Requests for absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk's Office by noon on Monday, January 24 and return absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk's Office by 8:00 pm on January 25. More information on absentee voting, including a link to the absentee ballot request form, can be found at [www.andoverma.gov/clerk/elections.php](http://www.andoverma.gov/clerk/elections.php).

The Holiday Dinner on December 8 was a great success. Many thanks to Ann Cobleigh and Heather Holman for organizing a fabulous evening and to the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Committee (Pat Edmonds, Tina Girdwood, Stefani Traina, Nancy Gump, Nancy Mulvey, and Rusty Dunbar) for a humorous and interesting look back over the decades! Also at the dinner, the League honored Joyce and Willard Robinson for their decades of dedicated service to the League by renaming the League of Women Voters book award, given to a junior girl at Andover High School for outstanding civic involvement, the League of Women Voters Joyce and Willard Robinson Book Award. Please read Nancy Mulvey's article below to learn more about the Robinsons. Also below you will find an interesting and informative article from guest columnist Lisa Schwarz on updating Andover's Master Plan, thoughts and reflections from Sue Tucker, and in-demand recipes from the Holiday Dinner from Ann Cobleigh.

I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2011!

### **Running for Office Workshop**

Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The League's *Running for Office* Workshop will be held in the Board of Selectmen's room, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet Street.

Andover Town Clerk, **Lawrence Murphy** and Office of Campaign & Political Finance representative, **Jason Tait**, will be on hand to discuss the nuts and bolts of running for office. Local town board representatives will be on hand to discuss their personal experiences running for office, as well.

Please contact Stefani Traina [steftraina@verizon.net](mailto:steftraina@verizon.net) or 978-470-3140 for more information.

Free and open to the public.

### **Time to Update Andover's Master Plan**

By Lisa Schwarz, Senior Town Planner, Town of Andover

Good planning helps create communities of lasting

value. Creating such communities takes effort, vision, and dedication. A Master Plan is a blueprint for the future that informs decision-makers of the citizens' vision and hope for the community.

The Andover Planning Board is rewriting the Town's Master Plan. It is a long range comprehensive document intended to guide growth and development in the Town for the next decade. The last Master Plan was adopted in 1992. As the times and technology change, an updated version is necessary.

A *Master Plan* is not a zoning document and does not regulate property or land use. However, the recommendations in the plan guide future decisions with regards to zoning and land use. **What is included in a Master Plan?** It includes analysis of population and demographics, the economy, housing stock, transportation systems and circulation, community facilities, and land use. It includes recommendations for implementation. It is based on public input, planning initiatives, existing development, physical characteristics, and existing social and economic conditions.

The planning process involves working through three very basic questions. ***Where are we now? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?***

Every town in Massachusetts is required to have a Master Plan. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 81-D, states, "a planning board established in any city or town under section eighty-one A shall make a master plan of such city or town." It is intended to provide a basis for decision making.

**What are the benefits of an updated Master Plan?**

- 1) The plan describes the Town's vision for the future and establishes existing and intended growth.
- 2) The plan provides facts on existing conditions and trends, enabling decision makers to better understand the impact of their decisions.
- 3) The plan includes information from different departments and sources. This information can be used in deciding and prioritizing which projects to undertake in the future.
- 4) The plan gives decision makers a steady point of reference for land use related actions.
- 5) The Plan allows a Town to consider workforce, education and local infrastructure capacity, so that appropriate economic development, housing, and transportation strategies can be developed.

To remain viable, a Master Plan should be flexible and dynamic. It must be able to respond to change as well as guide it. The 1992 Master Plan has led Andover for many years and many of the plan's recommendations were realized or are now in the process of being

implemented. A rewrite will bring Andover into 21<sup>st</sup> century with a series of new recommendations to be implemented over the next decade. ***Andover is a community worth planning for and creating lasting value for generations to come.***

**New Award Established:  
The Joyce and Willard Robinson  
Book Award  
Presented, December 8, 2010  
By Nancy Mulvey**

When I was doing research at the Historical Society on old League issues, I went through lots of old membership booklets to see what was being studied, who was a member, who was on the Board etc.

It soon became clear that one name continued to appear in a leadership position, in almost every booklet, so I started making a list. Joyce Robinson moved to Andover with her husband Willard and four children in 1971, and her League service in Andover (she had previously been active in NJ) began in 1972 when she became chair of Voters Service.

Following that she became First Vice President/Units chair, Business services, President from 1978-80, finance chair, membership booklet editor, public relations, bulletin editor, finance again, chair of nominating, Know Your Town book editor, finance again, Secretary, nominating, and vice president/program action. Over a 29 year period, Joyce held a Board or off-Board position for 20 of those years. In fact, the only way that Joyce got a few years off, was when she was on Nominating committee and recruited Willard to serve as treasurer, a post he held for 5 years!! For many years, Willard also assisted with the video-taping of LWV candidates' forums and community meetings.

We believe, and know that League members will agree, that the Robinsons' record of League service is outstanding and unlikely ever to be matched. Even in the years when not in an official position, their wise counsel and helpful direction have been readily available to League leaders.

In order to acknowledge and celebrate their service in an ongoing way, it is our pleasure to announce that the League of Women Voters book award, given to a junior girl at Andover High School for outstanding civic involvement, will henceforth be known as the League of Women Voters Joyce and Willard Robinson Book Award.

**Member Profile: Sue Tucker**

*This month's article is a little different. Looking ahead, we wondered what Sue's thoughts might be as to what the recently elected candidates might be faced with they take office in January. Understandably, she is quite busy tying up loose ends as she prepares for retirement, but was kind*



*enough to provide the following prepared article. Thank you, Sue!*

## **"League of Women Voters Memories"**

By Sue Tucker

I was LWVA President, 1974-76, from age 29-31. Of course, I was scared to death that I didn't know enough to lead the organization. The long-time Leaguers were welcoming and helpful, but the truth is I was totally intimidated in the beginning by the likes of Ginny Cole and Rusty Dunbar. On top of that I had to meet the very high standards of my predecessor, Nancy Mulvey. As the world turns, it was women like this who helped me get elected to the House of Representatives in 1982.

The League saved my sanity when I was a stay at home Mom with 2 little boys and a husband who traveled a great deal. I loved the opportunity to meet with smart women and know that I was part of shaping Andover's future. When the League spoke at Town Meeting, we had clout. (All the old boys who ran the town feared us, but never let on. They secretly crossed their fingers that the League would agree with whatever they were proposing.)

It was also a built in play group for my boys. Harriet Ahouse and a few other active members would bring their kids to meetings where they would play and often annoy other members as we struggled with the issues of the day.

Andover would not be the same community today without the League and AVIS. Almost all of our beautiful open space is due to these organizations. My first Town Meeting speech was on saving the old Turner Farm and Orchard on South Main Street. Oh, the plans we had!...a community garden and place for the schools to bring the students to learn about food, biology, and animals. Unfortunately we lost that fight, because the "budget was tight"...even though the price was ridiculously low by today's standards. I still think about that night when I drive by the old orchard, and what a wonderful community resource it would be today. Win some and lose some, but the League is always there fighting for ways improve life in town.

The other reason my first Town Meeting speech is memorable to me is that I had a new pair of shoes on called "clogs" which were the hip fashion of the day. As I walked up to speak, I came within inches of falling on my face - literally.

How much fun did we have being represented in the Massachusetts Senate by the legendary William X. Wall? I can't recall a single League issue he agreed on. Senator Wall did not "do issues": he did "constituent services". But the fact is, when I entered politics I learned a great deal from the Senator just marching in parades with him and noting how he knew every person on the sidewalk plus whether they had recently lost a family member or welcomed a new baby. He taught me

a basic truth: the personal touch very often trumps issues in politics.

I remember the study on casino gambling in the early 80's when I learned for the first time about how casinos represented the most regressive, unstable, and costly way for the state to raise revenue. Thirty years later I became the number one spokesperson in the Massachusetts Senate against putting casinos and slot parlors all over our Commonwealth. Interesting, huh?

## **Holiday Dinner Recipes as Requested**

By Ann Cobleigh

The following two dishes were served at the Holiday Dinner and since there were so many requests for the recipes it was agreed to publish them here. Enjoy!

### **Recipe: Best Vegetarian Chili**

*Serves about 8*

#### *Ingredients:*

1 can White Kidney Beans  
1 can Red Kidney Beans  
1/2 cup Lentils, cooked  
1/2 cup Bulgur Wheat  
1 28-oz can Crushed Tomatoes  
2 cups Yellow or Red Onion, finely chopped  
1 cup Bell Pepper, finely chopped  
1 cup Carrots, diced  
4 cloves Garlic, finely minced  
2 TBLS Chili Powder  
2 tsp Ground Cumin  
1 tsp Ground Cinnamon  
1 tsp Ground Coriander  
1/2 tsp Cayenne Pepper (or to taste)  
1 cup Vegetable Broth  
Sea salt and ground black pepper, to taste  
Extra Virgin Olive Oil

#### *Directions:*

In a large pot, sauté onion, bell pepper, carrots, and garlic in olive oil over medium heat until onions are translucent (about 5 minutes). Add chili powder, cumin, coriander, cinnamon, and cayenne pepper. Cook for another 5 minutes, stirring regularly. Add vegetable broth and simmer about 15 minutes. Season with Sea salt and pepper to taste.

### **Recipe: Caponata Di Melanzane**

*(Eggplant Relish)*

#### *Ingredients:*

1 large Eggplant, diced small  
1 Red Pepper, diced small  
1 Yellow pepper, diced small  
1 cup (or jar) Kalamata pitted black olives, chopped  
1 large Onion, diced small  
2 stalks Celery, diced small  
1 28-oz can Chopped Tomatoes  
2 Tbls Capers  
1/2 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil  
2 Tbls Red Wine Vinegar  
1 tsp Sugar  
Salt and Pepper to taste

1/2 cup Pine Nuts, toasted

*Directions:*

Heat Olive Oil in a large pan, sauté Onion and Peppers about 5 minutes. Add the Eggplant and Celery. When vegetables are tender, add remaining ingredients. Simmer 30 minutes until flavors blend. Adjust salt and pepper as needed. Let cool and refrigerate. Best made 1-2 days ahead (truly better the next day).

Serve at room temperature, sprinkle on pine nuts and serve with toasted Italian bread or choice of crackers. This versatile relish can be used as a side dish, a filling, or add to an omelet.

Toasting Pine nuts: Lightly toast in a skillet. They will become fragrant but watch carefully as they can quickly burn.

**Correction: Last name "Gamble"**

Apologies to Alex Gamble. In the November 2010 Bulletin article about our young videographer, Alex's last name was mistakenly noted as Campbell.

**Winter/Early Spring Calendar**

For the most up to date calendar information visit [our website](#)

**January 2011**

- 12 Wed Board Meeting, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- 12 Wed Running for Office Workshop, 7:00 p.m.  
Board of Selectman's Rm, Town Offices,  
36 Bartlett St
- 14 Fri Lunch & Conversation, 11:30 a.m.,  
Panera, Rtes 114 & 133, North Andover
- 20 Thu February Bulletin - Article Submissions  
Deadline
- 25 Tue Andover Special Election
- TBD LWVMA Program Planning

**February**

- 9 Wed Board Meeting
- 14 Tue Lunch & Conversation, 11:30 a.m.,  
Panera, Rtes 114 & 133, North Andover
- 18 Fri March Bulletin - Article Submissions Deadline

**March**

- 2 Wed Last day to register to vote for town elections
- 9 Wed Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Mon Lunch & Conversation, 11:30 a.m.,  
Panera, Rtes 114 & 133, North Andover
- 21 Mon April Bulletin - Article Submissions Deadline
- TBD Andover Budget Forum
- TBD Andover Candidates' Forum
- TBD North Andover Candidates' Forum
- 22 Tue Andover & North Andover Town Elections

**Available Board Positions**

*If you'd like to have a greater impact on democracy in our communities, consider joining the League Board of Directors. The following positions are accepting*

applications/nominations for the current fiscal year:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Primary Responsibilities</b>
Secretary	Keep board and annual meeting minutes
Membership Chair	Keep membership data, organize membership materials, coordinate new member recruitment
Nominating Chair	Coordinate nominating slate for officers and directors
Legislative Action Chair	Distribute Action Alerts, write monthly column for the <i>Bulletin</i>
Cable TV - Andover	Coordinate local cable coverage of events
Andover School Committee Observer	Observe school committee meetings and write a summary monthly column for the <i>Bulletin</i>

## About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 90-year old national nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of individuals in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates for office, elected officials or political parties at any level of government.

The Andover/North Andover League focuses on topics directly impacting the citizens of our communities.

Membership in the League is open to all women and men.

## Membership Form

--Sign up online at [www.lwv-andovers.org](http://www.lwv-andovers.org) or complete and mail the below form. The League's membership year is July-June.

\_\_\_\_\_ New      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Basic Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Contributing Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Sustaining Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100+ Patron

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 yrs. old and over)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Household Dues (2+ persons in same household)

\_\_\_\_\_ In addition to my membership fee, I'd like to make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_Enclosed is a separate check containing my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Education Fund, which supports the LWV's educational activities.

Please make checks payable to:  
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