



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

your
★ **VOTER** ★

Volume 27 Number 5

January 2022

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LWVNYS website

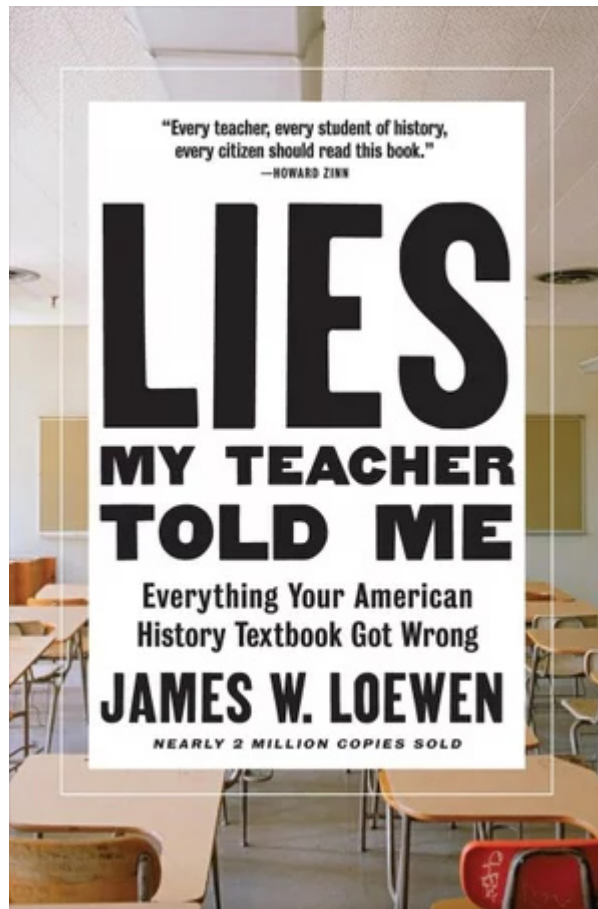
www.lwvny.org

LWVUS website

www.lwv.org

Voter is published 11 times a year. Send copy by the second Monday of the month to Terri Parks at lwvoter@verizon.net.

**Join us for an interactive
dialogue and book discussion**



January 25, 2022

6:45 - 8:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James W. Loewen ([goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com))

The discussion will be led by Robert L. Dahlgren, Ph.D., Professor of Social Studies Education, SUNY Fredonia

To participate, use the link below to register.

[Registration Link](#)

League of Women Voters Mission

The League of Women Voters is a good government organization that encourages informed and active participation in the political process, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports political parties or candidates.

Letter from Our President

Dear Members and Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We must remain optimistic. The state of our union is quite unsettling as we begin a new year. This should give us courage and confidence that our mission is more important than ever. It is key to remember that there are many people and organizations working to protect our democracy.

I am proud to be with you, our League members, moving us all toward that goal. Please join me in thanking our League volunteers with a shout-out to the 98 active volunteers in 2021 who are acknowledged in this Voter and give yourself a pat on the back as we are all in this together.

We received a decision on the Outer Harbor lawsuit against Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation. The judge has dismissed the case; the amphitheater construction will proceed. The Waterfront Committee will continue to work with our partners, the 21st Century Park on the Outer Harbor, Inc., the Western New York Environmental Alliance, Inc., and the Our Outer Harbor Coalition. They will keep us posted on what is to come.

Our holiday party on December 4 was delightful. Let us start the new year with a renewed energy to Make Democracy Work!

Lori Robinson

Membership Committee News

The Membership Committee is pleased to report our roster now includes the following new members: Sharon Murphy and Deborah Cohen of Buffalo, Barbara Snyder of Grand Island, JoEllen Pennella of Williamsville and Cheryl Forell-Tomasulo of Clarence. Welcome to our League family!

There is still time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so! Be sure to send in your renewal form, a check written to LWVBN and the membership survey. Individual membership is \$75, household membership \$110 and student membership \$20. You may choose to become a Carrie C. Catt member for \$85 or a Susan B. Anthony member for \$100. If you don't have your renewal form or interest survey, you can download them from our website (www.lwvbn.org). You may also renew from our website. Just click on the phrase Join or Renew in the navigation pane at the bottom of the home page. We hope all of you will continue your commitment to the League and all the fine and important work it does for our community.

Mary Ann Turkla, Membership Chair

Youth Voter Service Activities

On November 16, 2021, I visited three of Mr. Gillan's Participation in Government classes at Lafayette International School. Many of the students were not citizens, but eight students registered to vote. On December 15 and 16, 2021, Patti Meyer-Lee and I visited Ms. Abrams's and Mr. Murphy's six Participation in Government classes at Maryvale High School. Some students were already registered to vote or were not citizens, but 78 students registered to vote. The presentation each time included completing voter registration forms, discussing issues-based voting, and an activity involving differing points of view on gun ownership which demonstrated to students the variety of perspectives even within a similar, small group.

We hope to visit more classes in 2022. We have sent letters/e-mails offering this service to 89 high school social studies teachers in Erie and Niagara Counties.

Barbara Gunderson, Voter Service Chair

Our League Shows Support for Urban Family Practice



The LWVBN Healthcare Committee planned our annual holiday lunch at Classics V with speaker Dr. Raul Vazquez, founder of the Urban Family Practice. Dr. Vazquez, CEO of the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUACO), shared how they are supporting the West Side community. His talk is posted to our YouTube channel, <https://youtu.be/qptJa-y1zLo>. Thirty-seven attendees enjoyed his comments and responses to audience questions. There was wonderful support from attendees through monetary donations.

Before Thanksgiving, League members and other volunteers worked to bag holiday food items for GBUACO. Volunteers spent an average of 10 hours of active walking, reaching, lifting, carrying and cracking jokes! It is true that many hands make our work more fun!

Alberta Roman, Health Committee Chair

Dr. Raul Vazquez describes his work to the League Holiday Party attendees. Photo by Timothy Simon.



From right: Jim Anderson, Alberta Roman, Lori Robinson, Dr. Raul Vazquez, Toni Vazquez, Gladys Gifford. Photo by Timothy Simon.



League members Ramona Gallagher, Joyce DiChristina and Christine Reichmuth help pack holiday food bags. Photo by Alberta Roman.

Border Justice Issues in Western New York

On Monday, November 22, our League joined the WNY Peace Center Latin American Solidarity Committee and Immigrant and Refugee Task Force for a panel discussion about border justice issues in Western New York. We heard from people who are directly impacted by immigration policies locally. Buffalo is a border city and immigrant communities face different challenges based on their immigration status. Madi McEwan, Program Community Organizer at Justice for Migrant Families, moderated. She left us with actions we can take.

Did you know that in the week of November 15-22 alone, ICE left more than 30 people at the side of the road at a gas station in Batavia with nothing but the clothes on their back? People being released from the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia have no access to phones, appropriate clothing for the winter weather, food or money; they have limited or no English proficiency, and few transportation options. What should be a moment of joy and relief soon turns into a time of yet more adversity and dehumanization.

Justice for Migrant Families (JMF) has joined forces with Batavia volunteers at Los Samaritanos to make sure that every person who is released from the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility is reunited with family and community and has support in the final leg of their arduous journey. JMF has been able to help 200 people in 2021.

If you would like to support their release work, write a check to Justice for Migrant Families, Inc., and mail it to 371 Delaware Ave, Buffalo NY 14202, or donate at their website, <https://www.justiceformigrantfamilies.org>.

Request for League Award Nominees and Committee Members

It's time again to think about honoring local League leaders.

The Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award recognizes outstanding League leadership that reflects some of the many qualities that Joan has demonstrated in her long experience as a League and community leader. We selected five key characteristics exhibited by Joan that we feel are essential qualities for recognition: Ethical, Innovative, Resourceful, Respected, Steadfast. Please submit a paragraph of up to 250 words that describes how your nominee embodies these characteristics. Be sure to include each characteristic as you write about your nominee.

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara LEE Award is presented to a League member who has made a Long Term Commitment to the League with Energy and Excellence – in short, the initials “LEE.” The award honors Lenore Tetkowski, Leonore Lambert and Lenore Banks. Please submit a paragraph of up to 250 words about your nominee in which you note the approximate number of years the person served the League actively, and give examples of her/his Energy and Excellence in League activity.

Please email completed nominations to lwvoter@verizon.net or mail them to the League office by February 28, 2022. Be sure your name is noted as the nominator. Please feel free to contact me at lwvoter@verizon.net if you need help with your nominations. Contact me if you would like to serve on the Awards Committee also.

Terri Parks, Awards Committee

Honor League Volunteers from 2021

For the past several years, we have compiled a list of the folks who have helped carry out the work of the League. Each year before the pandemic, the list grew longer! Most of the people on the list are League members. Many people have volunteered for two to 10 different League activities and many times during the year for each activity. Some of the people on the list volunteered once or for only one specific activity, such as registering new citizens to vote or hanging voter information on doors. With no naturalization ceremonies, a reduced number of tenant council elections, and fewer voter registration events this second year of COVID, we think 98 volunteers is an impressive number. We value the work of each person below regardless of the number of hours or activities where you've helped the League further its mission.

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."
Rabindranath Tagore

Andrea Baldi	Nadine Halliwell	Kathleen McCormick	Alice Rosenthal
Terry Bisson	Ruth Haines	Laura McDade	Mary Scheeder
Dot Brown	Marie Hanrahan	Liz McGough	Deborah Shiffner
Judy Capodicasa	Cindy Havey	Lillis McLean	Taylor Seitz
James Carr	Barbara Hefferon	JoAnn Mecca	Onda Simmons
Eileen Cassidy	Mary Herbst	Peg Mergenhagen	Joan Simon
Sharon Cramer	Jennifer Hoffman	Sally Metzger	Margaret Sontag
Sandy Cummings	Fran Holmes	Margaret Meyer	Lynda Stephens
Susan Czynny	Judy Huber	Nora Mikes	Sue Stievator
Nancy DeTine	Alison Hyde	Ellen Moomaw	Lee Tetkowski
Marian Deutschman	Maxine Insera	Patti Meyer-Lee	Lyle Toohey
Joyce DiChristina	Barb Jezioro	Ellen Neumaier	Pat Townsend
Krista Doerfler	Shirley Joy	Sandra O'Hara	Mary Ann Turkla
Susan Dombrowski	Janice Juliano	Terri Parks	Lynne Vallone
Alan Dozoretz	Joanne Kahn	Lisa Parshall	BJ Vandewater
Mike Egan	Marlene Katzel	Lauren Petit	Kate Wagner
Joan Eschner	Beth Kauffman	Dave Petit	Therese Warden
Maria Evancho	Linda Koenigsburg	Lauren Pristach	Judy Weidemann
Ramona Gallagher	Becca LaCivita Team	Cindy Pristach	Pat Wille
Scott Gehl	Nina Lukin	Elaine Puchlerz	Amy Witryol
Ellen Gibson	Kathie Macaluso	Lucy Rados	Elizabet Zausmer
Gladys Gifford	Janet Massaro	Christine Reichmuth	Ann Zawicki
Janet Goodsell	Helen Mayo	Lori Robinson	Janet Zehr
Barbara Gunderson	Kathleen McCarthy	Alberta Roman	

Lori Robinson, President

League Discussion Group

The next meeting of the LWVBN Discussion Group will be on Thursday, January 27, 11:30 a.m. at a local restaurant. It may be the Family Tree on Bailey Avenue. We will try a lunch meeting instead of the usual Zoom meeting we conducted since beginning the discussion group. Attendees will order from the menu. We welcome all League members to join us. Please contact Marian Deutschman if you plan to join us. We will discuss the following:

1. Is the US on the edge of an autocracy? This lengthy and well-written article in the Atlantic is worth reading. One of the questions is: what can the average American do about this, besides vote for people who are sane and want to maintain our democracy?

In The Atlantic's cover story, Anne Applebaum, a Pulitzer-Prize-winning staff writer, explains how modern dictators have joined forces to undermine democracy around the world. Applebaum, who has returned from reporting at the Poland-Belarus border, shares her thoughts about this new axis of autocracy.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/archive/2021/12/the-autocrats-are-winning/>

2. Trump's Next Coup Has Already Begun

<https://www.theatlantic.com/archive/2022/01/january-6-insurrection-trump-coup-2024-election/>

3. Democracy is backsliding across the globe. The U.S. is part of the problem. - The Washington Post

Democracy remains under siege — and the United States is part of the problem. Those are the depressing findings of a new report from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral.

You will receive a copy of this article since it is available only to subscribers. For subscribers, here is the link:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/11/23/democracy-is-backsliding-across-globe/>

4. C-SPAN Video

[Carroll Doherty on Political Typology | C-SPAN.org](#)

5. Pew Research Report: The Political Typology

In polarized era, deep divisions persist within coalitions of both Democrats and Republicans.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2021/11/09/beyond-red-vs-blue-the-political-typology-2/>

Marian Deutschman

New York State League Receives \$1M Gift

On Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2021, the League of Women Voters of NYS (LWVNYS) announced it has received an anonymous \$1 million donation to expand and strengthen its fight to defend democracy and voting rights for all.

The donation, the largest ever received by LWVNYS, comes during a time of great transformation for the organization which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019. This gift will allow the League to bolster efforts to address voter suppression at the state and local level. With this gift, the League will expand efforts to educate voters and work to ensure voting ease and access for all New Yorkers.

Judie Gorenstein, president of LWVNYS, said, "With the beginning of our second century of work, the State League sees this gift as a new opportunity that will create a more impactful State League for all New Yorkers. While this is a significant gift, it does not fully fund the State League in perpetuity..."

Who Is Reference Man? Should He Be Retired?

Regulators of radiation use a hypothetical individual to compute the bodily exposure from a specific release of ionizing radiation. This individual is “Reference Man.” The official definition, adopted by the International Committee on Radiological Protection (ICRP) in 1974, is this:

“A male 20-30 years of age, [who] weighs 70 kg (154 pounds), is 170 cm (67 inches) tall...is a Caucasian and is a Western European or North American in habitat and custom”

The [Gender + Radiation](#) organization is working with [Beyond Nuclear](#) to change this outdated picture, to develop a proposal for “Reference Little Girl” that would reflect the fact females are more sensitive to ionizing radiation than men, perhaps because of a higher percentage of body fat. Exposure during childhood is also more serious than equivalent exposure later in life. Communities of color are more often exposed to radiation resulting from uranium extraction, nuclear testing, and disposal of nuclear wastes. All of this requires a rethinking of the concept. Federal regulation of radiation is complicated and has changed over time. But this much is clear: with regard to the risk of developing cancer, young adult males represent the most radiation-resistant part of the human life cycle, and young girls the least.

My husband and I recently watched the award-winning MSNBC documentary *In the Dark of the Valley* that tells the story of the Santa Susana Field Lab near Los Angeles. A major nuclear accident took place there in 1959. Cleanup of the site by the Department of Energy, Boeing, and NASA has been slow, leading to additional danger from the Woolsey fire of 2018. The film features two mothers living in the Simi Valley near the site and their young daughters, who are victims of cancer. You can meet them in the [film trailer](#). You can watch the [entire feature-length film](#) at NBC.com and various streaming sites, but should be warned that the background music is almost intolerable. You also need to keep in mind that the toxic chemicals at the site may well be as much implicated in these environmental cancers as ionizing radiation. The mothers’ activism is an inspiring story that underlines the point of working toward greater recognition of the age and gender imbalance in the effects of ionizing radiation.

Pat Townsend, West Valley Citizen Task Force member



New Year's Wishes

While there continue to be major challenges to our democracy that affect us all, the League of Women Voters continues its work on behalf of everyone. We hope that you have a healthful and productive year in 2022 and are able to join us as we undertake these challenges.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2022

Note: Due to social distancing and stay-at-home practices, meetings are subject to change and may take place via phone or computer. Please contact the committee chair for the latest information.

Tuesday, January 4, 4:00 p.m.
Program, Issues & Events Committee
via Zoom

Thursday, January 6, 1:30 p.m.
Education Committee
via Zoom

Monday, January 10, 4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting
via Zoom

Wednesday, January 12, 2:00 p.m.
Local Government Committee
via Zoom

Wednesday, January 19, 4:00 p.m.
Waterfront Committee
via Zoom

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
via Zoom

Friday, January 21, 1:00 p.m.
Money in Politics Committee
League Office

Tuesday, January 25, 6:45 p.m.
Lies My Teacher Told Me Discussion
via Zoom

Thursday, January 27, 11:30 a.m.
League Discussion Group
TBD

Thursday, January 27, 1:30 p.m.
Education Committee
via Zoom

Friday, January 28, 11:00 a.m.
Healthcare Committee
via Zoom