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Loretta Peszynski,
Co-President

Margaret Brunson,
Co-President

Judy Weidemann,
Membership Chair

Office:
1272 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14209
884-3550
Fax 882-3797
E-Mail:
lwvbn@lwvbn.org

Janet Massaro,
Administrator

Office Open:
Mon-Thurs
Office closed Fridays

LWVBN website
www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS Home Page
www.lwvnys.org

LWVUS Home Page
www.lwv.org

Terri Parks,
Voter Editor
events@lwvbn.org

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA SPONSORS

*"The Heat is On - -
Climate Change and Emerging Policies"*

**SPEAKER: MARY G. WILSON
LWVUS PRESIDENT**

MODERATOR: BOB SHIBLEY, UB ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING
PANELISTS: KRISTIN CAMPBELL, SUCB POLITICAL SCIENCE
DAVID KOWALSKI, CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVIST
KATE FOSTER, REGIONAL INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

RECEPTION: 5:00-6:30 PM
SPEAKER & PANEL: 6:30-7:45 PM

BURCHFIELD PENNEY ART CENTER
1300 ELMWOOD AVENUE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK

THIS SPECIAL EVENT HONORS



TAFFY TARBELL (1921-2007)

AN OUTSTANDING LEAGUE LEADER WHO
SPEARHEADED THE SPRAWL CAMPAIGN

\$20 PER PERSON INCLUDES ADMISSION TO GALLERY,
TOURS, PARKING, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND PROGRAM.

CASH BAR

MAIL CHECK PAYABLE TO LWVBN TO:
LWVBN, 1272 DELAWARE AVENUE, BUFFALO, NY 14209

MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE THE NAMES OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE
COVERED BY THE AMOUNT SHOWN ON THE CHECK.

DEADLINE APRIL 15

THIS EVENT CONDUCTED BY LWVBN HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LWVNYS EDUCATION FOUNDATION TAFFY
TARBELL MEMORIAL FUND.

President's Message

The month of March has been a very eventful month for LWVBN. We started the month by submitting our nominations for achievement awards to be presented the LWVNYS Convention in May. After careful consideration we sent nominations in two categories this year, Youth Services and "Thinking Out of the Box." We are also automatically entered in the Bulletin Award contest. I'm sure we could have made other nominations but many of our projects are still in the planning stages and we won't know how they turn out until the end of this League year.

Our League members, the issues committee and the board of directors recommended to the LWVNYS that the current League program items be retained for 2009-2011, with the possible editorial update of the *Positions in Brief* to more accurately reflect current League activities.

The budget, bylaws review and the nominating committees have all been meeting and will report to the LWVBN board at the April board meeting. Their work is in preparation for the Annual Meeting that marks the end of the current League year. Mary (Mike) Egan, Annual Meeting chair, is making the arrangements for the event. The Annual Meeting will be June 6, 2009, at Le Metro Restaurant in Williamsville. Details will be printed in the May VOTER.

The board accepted with regrets the resignation of treasurer, Robert (Bob) Williams, who has a new job in Minnesota and has already left the area. Susan Davis has graciously agreed to take on the duties of treasurer until the end of this fiscal year.

Thank you to **Janet Goodsell** for her efforts in organizing a very successful Legislative Breakfast in the boardroom of WNED-TV. **Ellen Neumaier** (Environment), **Gladys Gifford** (Transportation), **Joann Ross** (Health Care) and **Joan Photiadis** (Reforming State Government) ably presented the League's positions to the legislators and their representatives. The legislators in attendance responded with their views on these issues. This was a great meeting and we had a full house!

I was very happy to see so many familiar faces at these meetings. I encourage all of you to come out and get involved in our meetings and activities this spring.

Margaret Brunson, Co-president, Administration

BEST WISHES TO ROBERT WILLIAMS

We wish you great success and happiness in your new job and home in Minnesota!

Great Decisions

Energy and the Global Economy is our topic for Thursday, April 2, 2009, at 1272 Delaware, from 10 AM – noon, to be facilitated by Bernice Baeumler. "Rising energy prices, driven by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East, and increasing demand from developing countries are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon?" I hope everyone can be on hand to tackle another formidable challenge we all face.

Bernice Baeumler



LWVNYS CONVENTION 2009

May 15 – 17, 2009, Doubletree Hotel, Syracuse, NY

LWVB/N is entitled to ten (10) delegates. **The deadline for convention registration is April 7, 2009.** If you wish to attend the convention as a delegate, please let me know as soon as possible. The LWVB/N board will select delegates at the April board meeting and send the registration form right away. To date I have the names of three potential delegates. **VOTING delegates will be registered as a group by LWVBN.**

The complete call to convention will be available at the LWVNYS web site or contact Margaret Brunson at events@lwvbn.org.

The convention begins with a buffet lunch on Friday, May 15. There will be forums and discussion groups throughout the afternoon. Stan Lundine, Chair of the Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, will speak at Friday’s dinner. Workshops and plenary sessions will take place throughout the day on Saturday. The luncheon speaker will be Senator David Valesky, Vice President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the dinner speaker will be journalist, Jay Gallagher. The final plenary session occurs Sunday morning. There will be many workshops, some entertainment, awards, prizes and shopping. Don’t forget the silent auction.

Make your own Hotel Reservation. Hotel reservations must be made before April 24, 2009. The cost of a single or double room is \$134.00. Make reservations directly with the hotel (315) 432-0200 during business hours or after hours (800) 222-TREE. The convention code is LWV.

Non-voting delegates and observers may attend all or part of the convention. You must make your own reservations and register for the events you wish to attend.

Margaret Brunson, Co-President

LWV Mission:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



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Two Outstanding League of Women Voters' Leaders

Mary G. Wilson



Mary G. Wilson is the 17th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). A longtime resident of New Mexico, Ms. Wilson has been a League member since

1986 and has held leadership positions at the national, state and local levels.

Professionally, Ms. Wilson is an attorney with 30 years of experience in diverse fields of practice including estate planning, litigation, regulatory compliance, commercialization and privatization, corporate and environmental law, and employment law. As in-house counsel for two large private companies (EG&G Mound Applied Technologies, Inc., and Ecology & Environment, Inc.) and two federal agencies (U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), she has provided legal and policy advice to top level management as well as directed both in-house legal staff and outside counsel.

Ms. Wilson is an owner of a small business (Aungier & Wilson, P.C.) and an advisor on initiatives to privatize government services and to create commercial opportunities at downsized government facilities. In these capacities, her unique project planning and project implementation expertise is invaluable.

Ms. Wilson has been admitted to the Bars of the States of New Mexico and Colorado, the United States District Courts for the Districts of New Mexico and Colorado, and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a member of the National Association of Women Lawyers and the American Bar Association. She received her J.D. degree from the University of Denver in 1975.

In 1986, Ms. Wilson was recognized with the "Woman of the Year" award from the U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque. In 1987, the Albuquerque YWCA honored her with its "Women on the Move" award.

Ms. Wilson graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana with a B.A. in 1972. She resides in Albuquerque and Albo, New Mexico, with her partner of 33 years, Jose A. Mora. Her hobbies include working with the horses at their ranch and conducting genealogy research.

Katherine "Taffy" Tarbell



The League of Women Voters lost an accomplished leader and tireless advocate when Katherine (Taffy) Tarbell died in 2007. She died on Independence Day, fitting for a woman whose life was committed to public service and to carrying out the

League's mission of promoting an active and informed citizenry.

After graduating from Wellesley College in 1943, Taffy worked as a field examiner for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). She completed a master's degree in Public Administration at the University of Minnesota in 1949 and married Ted Tarbell in 1952. When she left the NLRB to raise a family, she began a new "career" as a League member. She helped found the LWV Kenmore and was its first president. She also served as LWVNYS vice president.

When the local Leagues in the Buffalo area merged into the LWV of Buffalo/Niagara, Taffy became chair of the Local Government Committee. In that capacity, she spearheaded an Education Campaign on Urban Sprawl. She single-handedly obtained more than \$100,000 in grants for the campaign. The campaign won local, state and national awards in public education from the American Planning Association. Under her guidance, a position on urban sprawl was adopted by the state League in 1999, and the LWV Buffalo/Niagara published "At Taxpayers' Expense: How Government Policies Encourage Sprawl in Erie and Niagara Counties."

Although her League involvement was a major part of her life, Taffy also worked for a union of medical residents in Buffalo hospitals and as a labor law researcher for a Buffalo law firm. She was active in the Girl Scout Council of Buffalo and Erie County and the North Presbyterian Church of Amherst. Taffy was also a Democratic candidate for the Tonawanda Town Board, and she ran for the Erie County Legislature and New York State Senate and Assembly.

She was a role model, mentor and friend. If it was a thorny issue, a puzzling question, or research that needed comment, Taffy was there to offer assistance. Her responses were always careful, well considered and clear—her confidence in the strength of the League and her devotion to its principles paramount.

**Please join us to honor Taffy Tarbell and meet Mary Wilson on April 30, 2009,
at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center.**

Local Government Committee

For almost two years, members of the Local Government Committee (Anne Huberman, Marian Deutschman, Lynda Stephens, Lynne Vallone, Dot Brown) have been working with a task force organized by County Legislator Maria Whyte to write and promote a law to establish an Erie County Planning Board. Erie County is one of only four New York counties without a planning board. Establishing a planning board is a necessary step in the implementation of the Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth, a process the League supports through its land use position.

We have also participated in the Western New York Environmental Alliance organized by the Community Foundation. Anne Huberman attended the first two congresses in October and February, and Anne, Janet Massaro, and Lynne Vallone met with the Urban Regeneration and Land Use Task Group twice between the two congresses. The Community Foundation's goals in forming the alliance among area environmental organizations are to "establish a shared agenda for our environment, identify priorities for focus and action, and strengthen the capacity of the region's environmental organizations." The third and final congress will meet in April, after which the group will announce the shared agenda.

Recently the League was invited by County Legislator Michelle Iannello to participate in the Erie County Green Actions Community Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the county's Energy and Environment Committee. She expresses its mission as "to work and communicate with all municipalities to become the most Eco-friendly Community in Upstate New York." She hopes to "identify and pass green policy initiatives." Anne Huberman and Janet Massaro attended the first meeting of this group. We heard a presentation on LED lighting systems and discussed ways that we could act most effectively. The subcommittee will meet monthly.

Anne Huberman, Local Government Co-Chair

Join Us for Spring Sweep

Join the Waterfront Committee in picking up trash on north Squaw Island in the Niagara River on Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 10 a.m.–noon. We will again be under the auspices of the Shoreline Sweep organized by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. All Leaguers and friends are welcome. It's fun and the view is terrific from the long fishing pier!

Call Sally Metzger, so we can plan supplies and arrange rides, if needed. Or e-mail Sally at events@lwvbn.org

Bring gloves, hat or sunglasses, jacket, sunscreen, water and maybe a camera or binoculars for the shore birds. There are no restrooms.



We will drive into the park from Niagara Street on the ramp-like entrance next to 1726 Niagara Street, Buffalo. It's a short block north of the Niagara Street/Scajaquada intersection. The entrance has a large billboard and a small park sign. From the park entrance, cross the bridge spanning the Black Rock Canal (making sure that no one is already on the bridge as it has only one lane). Then drive straight ahead (west) to the river. Turn right under the International Railroad Bridge and drive to the parking area at the end of the road where we will start our work.

Sally Metzger, Waterfront Committee

In Appreciation

We send big thank-you to Lee Lambert for moderating East Aurora's Candidates' Forum, Lynn Wilkins and Sue Marom for keeping time, Judy Weidemann for organizing the forum, Ellen Moomaw for collecting and looking over questions for the moderator, and to all the Leaguers who attended. The Forum featured candidates running for Village Trustee, including our Libby Weberg. Joe Logan videotaped it for showing on the local cable channel. A photo advertising the Forum appeared on the front page of the East Aurora Advertiser.

Ellen Neumaier

We've Embarked on The Low Carbon Diet

Choosing to take on global warming/climate change – a top priority this year for our national organization – on January 31 LWV/BN's Natural Resources Committee kicked off an action-generating and community-building program called the Low Carbon Diet with a "Climate Change Café," complete with small tables seating four, thematic decorations, inspiring music to set the mood . . . and of course coffee, tea, fruit and home-baked goodies.

The café was set up so each of us had the opportunity to give voice to our feelings – both our fears about global warming and then our hopes that humanity will be able to successfully tackle it. As we did, we managed to begin letting go of our fears; you could both hear the enthusiasm and see the camaraderie between us grow. As we opened our hearts to our hopes, we could not help to come up with ideas for action. We then grouped ourselves mostly into community-based "eco-teams," with each of us committing to "losing" several thousands of pounds of CO₂ a year.

Since then, the eco-teams have worked together to reduce our household carbon footprints, availing ourselves of a creative and systematic approach in a workbook entitled: *The Low Carbon Diet, How to Lose 5000 Pounds in 30 Days* by David Gershon – that takes on the whole project with considerable (and much needed) humor. There are currently five eco-teams, each with at least one eco-team leader: in Buffalo (Ann Huberman & Joan Photiadis), East Aurora (Ellen Moomaw), Amherst (Janet Massaro), and Grand Island (Lee Tetkowski & Janet Goodsell), and one for our Board (Judy Weidemann), which has been meeting via conference call. While many participants have mentioned that we are already taking many of the actions in the workbook, we are still able to take new actions to reduce our carbon footprint. The enthusiasm for the program is widespread. The eco-team meetings are fun and educational get-togethers. Joan Photiadis, for one, exclaimed that "meeting in small groups exchanging ideas for reducing your carbon footprint has encouraged me to really try. It's not all that hard to incorporate energy saving ideas into daily life. I feel so virtuous making these changes, really I do!" Lee Tetkowski has added that she, and others in her eco-team now "think about it (how to reduce the carbon footprint) each and every day." Already there are signs that subsequent rounds of the Low Carbon Diet could rally inactive members as well as bring in new and even young members. There's a 20-year old participating in the East Aurora eco-team, a (formerly) inactive member joined the Grand Island eco-team and local environmentalists, Nan and Walter Simpson, joined the League upon hearing of our commitment to take on global warming.

At the end of this first round of the Low Carbon Diet, the eco-teams are planning to come together and tally our collective annual CO₂ reduction. We are also working on ideas for where else to take and introduce the Low Carbon Diet, along with yet other ideas for how to reduce the carbon footprint of our community. On Saturday April 18th, we plan to celebrate our accomplishments with a vegetarian pot-luck lunch and plan for the future. The location will be announced later For more information contact Sandy Chelnov at events@lwvbn.com.



Are you curious about the Low Carbon Diet? Even if you have not participated yet, join us on April 18th! The Low Carbon Diet is meant to spread, "go viral", if you will. Communities around the country are taking up the call. Close by, in Rochester, with the support of the Mayor, activists are working to implement a plan to involve 100,000 people with the Low Carbon Diet over the next 3 years, with the intention of reducing the area's carbon footprint by 250 million pounds of CO₂ annually. Shall we, in the Buffalo/Niagara region follow in their footsteps?

Sandy Chelnov, Natural Resources Committee

Calling League Members to Consensus Meetings on the National Popular Vote Compact

Monday, April 20, 2009.

11:30 a.m. at the League Office, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo (bring a brown bag lunch,
 or beverage provided)
7:00 p.m. at the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst

As long time advocates for the direct election of the president, League members will be asked to decide this basic question:

Is the National Popular Vote Compact acceptable as a way to accomplish the direct election of the president?

The LWV is a grassroots organization. League members select governmental issues for study and action. Following study, members determine League position upon which action is based. This time-honored process sets League apart from many other organizations. We hope you will join us on April 20th, at the League Office or at the Harlem Road Community Center to make your opinions known on this important national issue.

**The consensus questions from the LWVUS are below and on Page 8.
 Please bring them with you to the April 20th meeting.**

LWVBN National Popular Vote Study Committee

National Popular Vote Compact Consensus Questions

Amending the Constitution

1. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
- b. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

2. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.
- b. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
- c. The group could not reach consensus

Congressional Consent

3. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
- b. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

Enforcement**4. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**

- a. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.
- b. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway
- c. Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.
- d. The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.
- e. The group could not reach consensus.

Uniformity**5. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**

- a. The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.
- b. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

Popular Election of the President**6. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.**

- a. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college.
- b. It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

Achievability**7. Which statements reflect the views of the group?**

- a. The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.
Agree Disagree No Consensus
- b. A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.
Agree Disagree No Consensus

More background information about the National Popular Vote Compact:

Jan-Feb 2009 LWVBN VOTER, Pages 5 & 6

March 2009 LWVBN VOTER, Insert

For detailed information, go to www.lwv.org. In the Members section of the menu, The National Popular Vote Compact is found in the Projects and Programs category.

Regional Water Issues

President Obama recently announced an unprecedented investment of \$475 Million in his Fiscal Year 2010 Budget to restore the Great Lakes - an effort that is key to creating jobs and growing our economy. Additionally, there could be as much as \$1 billion in other Great Lakes restoration and economic recovery funding provided to the Great Lakes states through increased funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. Thirty-five million people rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, and millions more benefit from the commerce and business that depends on the waters of the Great Lakes.

The League, working as part of the 110 member Healing Our Waters® - Great Lakes Coalition, applauded the announcement. This investment is a major victory for the Great Lakes, and represents the largest, most serious commitment to Great Lakes restoration in a president's budget in history. Along with the participation in Great Lakes Day in Washington, D.C. this February by the White House Council of Environmental Quality Director Nancy Sutley and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, the president's budget demonstrates he is serious about his \$5 billion campaign commitment to the Great Lakes. It is clear he understands that unless America invests in the Great Lakes these problems will get worse and the price we pay will be higher.

Today, the health of our Great Lakes is seriously threatened by problems such as untreated sewage and invasive species. The plan for Great Lakes restoration and economic recovery is a multi-year strategy for tackling the problems, and calls for action to: modernize sewage treatment, clean-up polluted harbors, restore wetlands, and prevent unwanted, new species from invading the lakes. Each of these steps is essential if we are to restore the lakes and revive our economy.

Members of Congress ultimately hold the purse strings for the federal government through the annual appropriations process, so it is critical they match the President's initiative in their own budget resolution and appropriations to restore this treasured resource. The League and the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition will be working in the coming weeks to ensure the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation does what is necessary to provide the funding the President has called for to create jobs, revive our economy, and restore the Great Lakes. You can learn more and contact your Members of Congress by visiting www.healthylakes.org.

Ann Ingleman, Regional Water Issues

Celebrate Earth Day

Join hundreds of Leaguers, Western New York companies, schools, universities, non-profits and government entities in "Going Green" on Earth Day! Celebrate Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2009, by reducing the negative environmental impact of our travel activities by walking, biking, carpooling, and taking Metro Bus and Rail as we commute to work, school and activities that day! Make your individual commitment by going to buffaloeearthday.com and taking the Earth Day Pledge.

Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resources Chair

Are you thinking of buying a green auto in 2009? The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) has a web database, www.greenercars.org, that ranks vehicles by class and environmental friendliness. The greenest vehicles by class are listed at www.greenercars.org/highlights_byclass.htm. and there may still be some government rebates on hybrids. Source Co-opAmerica.org.

Lunch & Issues

**Friday, April 17, 2009,
at 11:30 a.m.**

Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant
Corner of Bailey and Maple Road,
Amherst, NY

Amy Witryol, Lewiston activist, will share her experiences as a private citizen who educated herself on landfill operations, coalition building and "making a difference". Amy joined LWVBN recently. She has a background in banking and has become interested in challenging the "status quo" We can all learn from her dedication.

Everyone is welcome.

Cost: \$14.00 payable to LWVBN

Please reserve by April 14 with
Sally Metzger, 636-0957
Semetz@roadrunner.com or
Arlene Miles 833-1737

Voter Services

Naturalization ceremonies have resumed. Joyce Bol and Judy Cassasa represented the League on February 19 and Joyce Bol and Kathleen

McCarthy on March 5th. Thank you, JoAnn Mecca, for arranging :WVBN representatives for January, February and March. Jean Flowers already has her League representatives in place: April 2: Laura McDade and Beverly Nenno; April 16: Sandra O'Hara and Donna McNally; May 7: Richard Hemann and Jean Flowers; June 18: Judy Weidemann and Ellen Moomaw; June 25: JoAnn Mecca and Jean Flowers.

Joyce H. Bol, Voter Services
Chair



Waterfront Committee Report

Jim Metzger attended these meetings this winter relating to Waterfront Issues:

Embanked Route 5: Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper has an ongoing lawsuit to stop construction, but construction still continues.

The Peace Bridge remains a contentious and complex issue. The federal administration may provide a possibility that shared border control would be a solution. Some members of the Peace Bridge committee feel that there should be a complete re-working of Canada, USA transportation modalities to take the region into the Twenty-first century with an efficient and comprehensive inter-nation transportation system that would eliminate the Peace Bridge as a truck route.

Gasification Plant: A proposal to build a petroleum coke gasification plant on the shores of Lake Erie on the Bethlehem Steel site in Lackawanna has been studied by experts brought here by the WNY Climate Coalition. The Coalition opposes the construction of the plant based on health, water impact, waterfront development that would not be people-friendly, and especially because a huge volume of greenhouse gases will be emitted from the plant.

Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino: The casino is considered a waterfront issue because it is sited two blocks from the Buffalo River and directly impacts future development plans for the Inner waterfront. The casino issues remains in the courts, but legal efforts to close the temporary casino have failed for the present.

Union Ship Canal: Public hearings have begun regarding the development of parkland on the 22-acre site surrounding the eastern end of the Union Ship Canal.

Jim Metzger, Waterfront Committee Chair

Tug on anything at all and you'll find it connected to everything else in the universe.

John Muir, conservationist & naturalist

Dear Leaguers,

Membership

Because we are nearing the end of our fiscal year, there is a bargain rate for memberships. People who join now will be paid members until July 1, 2010. Could that be an incentive for you to get a friend to join the League? **Once again remember that you are all membership recruiters.**

Judy Weidemann, Membership Chair



In Memoriam

We're saddened to report the passing of two outstanding women and long-time LWVBN members.

Gretchen Stringer, honored volunteer for many local organizations and author of several books on the subjects of Non-Profit management and administration, died in January. She was president of Volunteer Consultants for the past 30 years. Her dedication and exemplary service to local organizations will be long remembered.

Alison Des Forges, whose fearless work and expertise in exposing the genocide and other human rights abuses as a Senior Researcher for Human Rights Watch in Rwanda and Burundi earned her world acclaim, was a victim of the February 12th crash of Flight 3407. When she first came to Buffalo, Alison was an advocate for children and parents in the Buffalo Schools and helped found the Bennett Park Montessori School.

Thank You, LWVBN Donors

Judy Huber

Marge Vesley

Bob and Catherine Williams

Ellen Gibson

Welcome, New LWVBN Members

Donna Sundell

Eden

Cristina Truell

Tonawanda

Robert Walker

Amherst

If you don't currently and would like to receive LWVBN urgent calls to lobby legislators and officers about important legislation and notices and reminders of meetings, and other information concerning the LWVBN, please send your name and email address to: **Elsa Bondar**: events@lwvbn.org Many email messages are being returned to me, undelivered, because of firewalls or email security that keep LWVB/N email from being recognized by your computer.

Elsa Bondar, LWVB/N Grassroots Lobby
Coordinator