



*your*  
★ **VOTER** ★

**Volume 27 Number 4**

**December 2021**

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**LWVBN website**

[www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org)

**LWVNYS website**

[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

**LWVUS website**

[www.lwv.org](http://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](mailto:lwvoter@verizon.net).



*Please join us for the  
League's Holiday Luncheon*

**Saturday, December 4, 2021**

**Classics V Restaurant, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst  
Cash bar available at 11:30 a.m.; luncheon served at noon**

Our guest speakers will be Dr. Raul Vazquez, President and CEO of G-Health Enterprises, who started the Urban Family Practice as its primary care physician on Buffalo's West Side in 1996, and his wife, Toni Vazquez, Chief Systems Officer for G-Health. Together with a staff of 250 employees they provide essential services to an underserved population at several locations. We're certain you will appreciate their gifts to the community.

If you would like to donate to their nonprofit called Greater Buffalo United Community Based Organization, you may give a contribution to GBUCBO at the event by cash or check, or you can go directly to the website to donate: <https://gbucbo.org/donate/>.

The foundation was created in 2019 with "the sole purpose to protect and enhance the abilities of nonprofit health care organizations to serve society and their individual communities." Checks to the foundation should be written payable to GBUA, Inc.

Entree choices: (Cut and return the form on page 5 if you are sending payment in the mail.)

1. Crusted Garlic Tilapia: mild white fish topped with garlic and Romano cheese seasoned panko breadcrumbs
2. Grilled Portobello Mushroom and seasoned vegetables
3. Chicken Valentino: boneless, skinless chicken breast stuffed with red roasted pepper and creamy mozzarella with a white wine sauce
4. Sliced sirloin of beef: thin sliced sirloin seasoned and roasted to perfection, topped with brown gravy

**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,

Election season is over, but our work continues in educating ourselves and the public. Please watch your email for coming events and committee meetings. Your participation, ideas, and thoughts are much needed and greatly appreciated! Our hardworking, dedicated board meets monthly; the minutes of all past meetings can be found on our website at <http://lwvbn.org/members/index.html>. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on items the board has discussed. At our last meeting we confirmed the appointment of Barbara Gunderson and Liz Zausmer as the two board members needed for the Nominating Committee. We also appointed Amy Moritz to replace Al Dozoretz who was elected at the annual meeting and has since moved out of town. If you are interested in serving on our League board, please contact the office and we will put you in touch with Ramona Gallagher, the Nominating Committee chair.

Exciting news! We have a YouTube channel. All of our recent programs that have been videotaped are now available to watch on YouTube in case you missed them or would like to see them again. These include the November 9, 2021, program co-sponsored by AAUW, titled Critical Race Theory: What It Is and What It Is Not. I can tell you it was an enlightening discussion.

The link to our YouTube channel is [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaTBwQ2-6vg\\_HQLa4S8M8tw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaTBwQ2-6vg_HQLa4S8M8tw).

Thank you for your continued support of the League. I hope to see you at the Holiday Party on December 4.

*Lori Robinson*

## Membership

The Membership Committee is pleased to report our roster now includes the following new members: Sharon Murphy, Deborah Cohen and JoEllen Pennella, all of Buffalo, Barbara Snyder of Grand Island, 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 is \$110 and student membership is \$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](#). Click on the words "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*

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are three principles that we, the League of Women Voters, strive to keep in mind in all our work. The DEI Committee:

1. Works to help the League maintain a presence and relevance in a wide variety of communities.
2. Equips League members with information and experiences around DEI
3. Actively seeks out and partners with other civic organizations to utilize their experiences and expertise while collaborating to provide services in Erie and Niagara County communities.

The DEI Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month to plan activities and develop LWVBN's understanding and implementation of DEI principles. We welcome anyone who is interested in working to help the League be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive in its membership and work.

*Liz Zausmer, Chair*

## Great Decisions

LWVBN sponsors a Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions discussion group from 10:00 a.m. to noon on the first Thursday of each month from March through November. During the Covid period we have met via Zoom. Members purchase the annual book published by the Foreign Policy Association. Topics change each year and members of the group take turns moderating the discussions. The topics for 2022 will be:

**Changing Demographics:** The world experienced remarkable demographic changes in the 20th century that continue today and have resulted in far-reaching social, economic, political, and environmental consequences all over the globe. These consequences are creating mounting challenges to development efforts, security, climate, and the environment, as well as the sustainability of human populations.

**Outer Space:** The launch of Sputnik I in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space?

**Climate Change:** The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the United States play in future negotiations on climate?

**Russia:** Russia and the United States have many areas of conflict and some possible areas of mutual interest. Arms control, Russian interference in U.S. elections and support of cyberattacks, the status of Ukraine, the fate of opposition politicians in Russia, all continue to be concerning. How will the new administration in Washington approach these issues?

**Myanmar and ASEAN:** The situation in Myanmar, including the coup by the military in February 2021 and the ongoing human rights crises, coupled with civil resistance by those opposed to the regime, has led to chaos in the Southeast Asian country. How are neighboring countries reacting, and what role will ASEAN play?

**The Quad Alliance:** As part of the U.S. pivot to Asia, the United States has been in dialogue with Japan, Australia, and India in an effort to contain China. Recently, the Quad countries held joint naval exercises in the South Pacific. How effective will the actions of this alliance be?

**Industrial Policy:** The current discussion of industrial policy in the United States is not simply about whether or not to support specific companies or industries, but about trust or mistrust of the government and its ability to manage the economy and deal with a rising China. The upheaval in supply chains during the pandemic exposed weaknesses in the international economy. What policies can the United States implement to deal with trade and the economy?

**Drug Policy in Latin America:** The issue of migration to the United States from Latin America has overshadowed the war on drugs, which has been underway for decades with little signs of progress. What are the roots and the bureaucratic logic behind today's dominant drug policies in Latin America? Is it time to reconsider punitive drug control policies that disrupt supply chains and punish drug possession?

**Biden's Agenda:** The new administration in Washington promised to reverse many of the policies of the past administration, especially in foreign policy. How will issues such as climate, the pandemic, and alliances be treated under the Biden administration?

Fran Holmes is the coordinator of this group. Books can be ordered directly from the Foreign Policy Association ([www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)) or, if there is sufficient interest, Fran may order them in bulk in order to obtain a discount. If you are interested in joining the group beginning in the spring of 2022, please let Fran know prior to ordering the book directly.

*Fran Holmes, Coordinator for Great Decisions*

## **A League Nuclear Waste Pioneer: Susan D. Wiltshire**

Like most of you, I am trying to downsize. To those who comment on the 95 feet of jammed bookshelves on the first floor of my home, I reply, “You should see the second and third floors.”

Even so, last month I acquired two new books related to my effort to understand the West Valley nuclear site. The first was *The Nuclear Waste Primer: A Handbook for Citizens*, 1993 Revised Edition, published by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. It is a 170 page, clearly written guide to the issues of disposing of nuclear defense waste and the waste from civilian nuclear power plants – still the only book of its kind.

But you say, “1993. Isn’t that obsolete?” Alas, no. Our country is pretty much stuck where the book ends, not having decided between underground and monitored above ground storage, let alone having constructed such a thing, while continuing to produce nuclear waste. The 2021 Build Back Better Bill proposed constructing new modular reactors: so-called “clean energy” that would produce still more radioactive waste. It would only begin to explore the consent-based siting suggested by the 2012 President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future.

The Nuclear Waste Primer’s primary author, Susan Davis Wiltshire, died in August at the age of 87. She had served as president of the LWV of Massachusetts, moderating a 1982 gubernatorial debate between Ed King and Michael Dukakis. She majored in mathematics as an undergrad at the University of Florida. She then raised four children and was active in civic and congregational leadership in Hamilton, Massachusetts, but by the 1990s she had seriously focused on nuclear waste policy and risk communication. She served on committees of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the National Research Council, including the board on radioactive waste management.

The second book I acquired (downloading a free PDF – no shelf space needed) was also one that Susan Wiltshire was involved in: *NUCLEAR WASTES: Technologies for Separations and Transmutation*, published by the National Research Council in 1996. What fun she must have had serving on that committee in Washington, D.C.: 18 males, most of them with a Ph.D. in engineering and physics. What a way Susan found to spend her last few decades – women’s careers can be interesting!

*Pat Townsend*

## **Candidate Forums**

We hosted two candidate forums in October. On October 13, in East Aurora, people learned from the candidates for Erie County sheriff and Erie County comptroller as well as candidates for two open positions on the Aurora Town Council. Thank you, Ellen Neumaier, for coordinating the effort with the able help of Ellen Moomaw, Judy Weidemann and Alison Hyde.

The League and its partner, the Amherst Center for Senior Citizens, held the annual Coffee with the Candidates forum on October 22. Candidates for Erie County sheriff, Erie County comptroller, Amherst supervisor and Amherst Town Council responded to questions from the audience. Thank you, Mike Egan, Sally Metzger, Kate Wagner, Lori Robinson, and Barbara Gunderson, for your able assistance.

The League now owns a video camera that recorded both events. Each contest was uploaded to the League’s YouTube channel for viewing.

We also planned a candidate forum for candidates for office in North Tonawanda. There were two candidates for each office, but the candidates from one party refused to participate. League policies state that there must be at least two candidates for each office for the forum to proceed, so the event was canceled. Thank you to BJ Vandewater, Alberta Roman, and Christine Reichmuth for helping to set up the event.

*Terri Parks, Candidate Forum Coordinator*

## Holiday Party Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner choice (please check one):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Garlic Tilapia

Portobello Mushroom (V)

Chicken Valentino

Sirloin of Beef

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Garlic Tilapia

Portobello Mushroom (V)

Chicken Valentino

Sirloin of Beef

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Garlic Tilapia

Portobello Mushroom (V)

Chicken Valentino

Sirloin of Beef

Check Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209 by November 28, 2021.

*Please mail this form along with a check for \$28 for each meal payable to LWVBN by November 28, 2021.  
You may make reservations online at [lwvbn.org](http://lwvbn.org) and pay with PayPal until November 29, 2021.*





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## December 2021

*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, November 30, 7:00 p.m.**

**League Discussion Group**

via Zoom

**Saturday, December 4, 11:30 a.m.**

**Holiday Party**

Classics V Restaurant

**Tuesday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.**

**Program, Issues & Events Committee**

via Zoom

**Wednesday, December 8, 2:00 p.m.**

**Local Government Committee**

via Zoom

**Friday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.**

**Healthcare Committee**

via Zoom

**Friday, December 17, 1:00 p.m.**

**Money in Politics Committee**

League Office

**Monday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.**

**Get the Vote Out Committee**

via Zoom

**Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.**

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee**

via Zoom

**Thursday, December 30, 1:30 p.m.**

**Education Committee**

via Zoom