



# WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

*From The Right To Vote...The Power To Lead*  
[www.democraticwoman.org](http://www.democraticwoman.org)

January 2016

## A Letter from the WNDC President

Dear Members:

I'd like to offer a warm note of thanks to all who attended our December semi-annual business meeting, and if you stayed to enjoy our special holiday lunch, you now know the kind of food and drink that our kitchen can offer. Starting with **Robert Kuttner** on January 11th, and concluding with **Nan Aron** on the 28th, plan to attend events that will help beat back the gloom of January.

As the 2016 campaign year unfolds, the Club must host a variety of electioneering events that support various candidates. For a little perspective last week, I read a recent Washington Post column by Carlos Lozada who reflected on the baffling work of being a newly-minted American. For guidance, he drew from Alexis de Tocqueville's 19th century observations on uniquely American proclivities.

"A presidential election in the United States may be looked upon as a time of national crisis," Tocqueville writes. "Long before the date arrives, the election becomes everyone's major, not to say sole, preoccupation. The ardor of the various factions intensifies, and whatever artificial passions the imagination can create in a happy and tranquil country make their presence felt....The citizens divide into several camps, each behind its candidate...The election becomes the daily grist of the public papers, ..." Now the "daily grist" is ripped from Huffington Post but what is notable is how little we have really changed. Then as now, journalists were fond of the term "blowhard" to describe politicians. Unfortunately, they would feel themselves on familiar grounds these days.

Here at the WNDC, we shall continue to promote programs this year that feed our passions as Democrats and Progressives. I was reminded recently by the Public Policy Chair, Karen Pataky, that the 75th anniversary of FDR's Four Freedoms speech--part of his State of the Union address--is almost upon us. America has indeed made strides toward securing those freedoms, but everywhere we look, there is ample evidence of what remains to be achieved. I am grateful that we continue to gather as a Club and a community to learn about, and to support Democratic ideals. See you soon, and enjoy a safe and happy New Year!

—Anna Fierst

## WNDC Launches New Website



WNDC's new website, launched on December 14, provides a host of new features we hope you will enjoy:

- New homepage design with spotlight sections on events, public policy, and the Educational Foundation.
- Rotating homepage slide show featuring beautiful photos of the interior and exterior of the Whittemore House.
- Streamlined navigation bar.
- Upgraded search features.
- Comment feature on *PPC News* articles.
- Redesigned arts/museum section with beautiful photos of our exhibits and permanent collection.
- Members-only video gallery.

(See more details on page 4)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 11, 2016 (Evening)

## Panel Discussion Featuring Robert Kuttner

Income Inequality and Higher Education: What It means for Society, Oberlin, and You

Time: 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Price: \$5/Cash Bar

(This event is open only to WNDC and Oberlin Alumni Club members)



### Panelists:

—**Robert Kuttner '65**, economist, columnist, cofounder and coeditor of *The American Prospect* magazine, and professor of social policy at Brandeis University. He was awarded an honorary degree from Oberlin in 2015.

—**Amy Chen '79**, Chief investment officer at the Smithsonian Institution, Oberlin trustee and member of the Board's Investment Committee.

—**Hayden Arp**, a third-year double degree student studying TIMARA (Technology in Music and Related Arts) and Comparative Literature. He has been a member of the College's strategic planning project.

Over the past decades, the income gap between the small proportion who are America's richest and everyone else has been growing. What are the key socioeconomic consequences that are unfolding and how in turn will they impact institutions of higher education? What does income inequality portend for the opportunities families and their students will have in selecting schools? **The book will be available for purchase and signing.**

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 (Luncheon)

## Eileen Davis and Candy Graham Ratifying Equal Rights Amendment

The Equal Rights Amendment is still not in the United States Constitution. Join us on Tuesday, January 12, to hear how ERA activists today are advocating for its ratification. Learn, for starters, about the 3--State Strategy and the bills in Congress to lift the 1982 ratification deadline. Come hear **Eileen Davis** and **Candace Graham** of Women Matter and Use Your Power—as well as Cathy Kaelin and Tammy Simkins of ERA Action—all national leaders in this vital political movement that holds that women are equal under the law.



Thursday, January 14, 2016 (Luncheon)

## Molly Sinclair McCartney America's War Machine: Vested Interests, Endless Conflicts



Journalist James McCartney, a national security expert with 30 years' experience, documented key problems with the American military in his book *America's War Machine, Vested Interests, Endless Conflicts*, nearly completed before his death in 2011. The time has come, he believed, to remove our nation from "permanent war footing" and to insist on accountability from the institutions that feed our war machine. In 2012, his wife **Molly Sinclair McCartney** was appointed a Woodrow Wilson Public Scholar in Washington, DC, to do the research and interviews to finish her husband's book. Ms. McCartney worked as a newspaper reporter for more than 30 years, including nearly 15 years at the *Washington Post*. Her presentation will explore her husband's findings and his prescriptions for change. **The book will be available for purchase and signing.**

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 (Luncheon)

## Sarah Chayes Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security



After a decade on the ground in Afghanistan and service to two military commanders and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, **Sarah Chayes** landed at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where she now works on the security implications of severe corruption. She arrived in Afghanistan as a reporter, to cover the fall of the Taliban for NPR, and then left journalism to remain there, to contribute to the country's reconstruction. She launched a manufacturing cooperative that produces skin-care products for export as an example of alternatives to the opium economy. She has now expanded her research to other crisis zones, including Arab Spring countries and Nigeria. Chayes is the author of a new book, *Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security*, which she will discuss, and of *Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan after the Taliban*. She is a contributing writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and numerous other publications. **The book will be available for signing and purchase.**

## Thursday, January 28, 2016 (Luncheon)

### Nan Aron

Panel Discussion Led by Nan Aron,  
President of Alliance for Justice  
Critical Issues at the Supreme Court



From workers' rights to organize effective unions, to reproductive rights, to the death penalty and criminal justice, the Supreme Court is now considering cases that could threaten our critical rights. Join Alliance for Justice President **Nan Aron** and additional panelists speaking from the labor, reproductive rights, and criminal justice perspectives for a discussion of key cases in the Court's 2015-2016 term. The discussion will start with clips from AFJ's just-released film "The Right to Unite" and highlight the importance of *Freidrichs v. California Teachers Association*, which could undermine the rights of all working Americans. Additional cases threaten criminal justice and could impact use of the death penalty. The Supreme Court recently announced it will take up at least one crucial case weighing regulations of abortion clinics. Speakers will explore these cases, the issues at stake, and why the Court matters to us all.

## On the Radar for February

### February

**Ann Hornaday**, film critic for the  
*Washington Post*

Thursday, February 25, 2016 (Lunch)

### March

**"The City of Conversation" at Arena Stage  
for a matinee performance**

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 (Matinee)

## Educational Foundation News



*From left to right: Michael Beidler, Valencia Locust  
Florence Navarro and Dianne Lorenz*

WNDC Educational Foundation President, Michael Beidler and WNDC Accountant Valencia Locust present a scholarship check to Empowered Women International Executive Director Florence Navarro and Board Chair Dianne Lorenz for \$1,850.

This EF scholarship covers the tuition for one low-income, immigrant or refugee woman to attend 60 hours of business training that will enable her to establish a micro-business leading to enhanced economic security. EWI is just one of several community outreach programs supported by your generous donation to the Educational Foundation.

Thank you from the entire Educational Foundation Board.

## WNDC Launches New Website

*(continued from page 1)*

To use the members-only section, members need to **re-register** (for website security). From the toolbar at the top of the website, click on [member login](#) and complete the registration form, choosing a username and password. The information will go to Patricia Fitzgerald, who will validate your membership, and you will receive an e-mail that you have access to the members-only section.

Please regularly check out the [On the Radar](#) section on the lower left of the homepage. Every week, you will find local events and news articles of interest, plus presidential statements and other useful WNDC news.

If you have questions, please e-mail Patricia Fitzgerald ([pfitzgerald@democraticwoman.org](mailto:pfitzgerald@democraticwoman.org)) or Communications VP Liz Joyce ([communicationsvp@democraticwoman.org](mailto:communicationsvp@democraticwoman.org)). Your questions will be answered promptly.

## Nominations: Call for Suggestions

The Nominating Committee of the Woman's National Democratic Club seeks recommendations to fill the following positions beginning in June 2016:

- Officers of the Board of Governors (one-year term)
- Members of the Board of Governors (three-year term)
- Members of the Nominating Committee (one-year term)

Please place your recommendations in the suggestion box starting on February 15. Member names submitted on the [WNDC 2016 Call for Suggestions](#) form (see below) will be taken through close of business, Tuesday, March 15.

- Nominee's name
- Nominee's phone and e-mail
- Your name
- Position (s) for which you are recommending this member

## POLITICAL DISPATCH

### FROM THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE



*The articles below are commentary on current events--intended to encourage further reflection and debate. Except for official Board statements, the viewpoints expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Woman's National Democratic Club.*

### WNDC Committee for Public Policy and Political Action

#### Paris Climate Accord Offers Hope for the World

The historic climate agreement approved on December 12, 2015, by 196 countries from all over the world has ambitious goals for reducing manmade emissions of greenhouse gases and heading off catastrophic climate change. Rich, poor, and developing countries have signed on to the agreement—showing agreement by most nations that climate change is real, dangerous, and in need of immediate action.

Impoverished and developing countries signed on because the developed world has committed to the goals of the agreement and to providing needed financial and technical assistance to countries with few resources of their own. U.S. leadership under President Obama and Secretary Kerry was crucial in achieving this landmark agreement.

The agreement has five key goals: (1) keep the global average temperature increase at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.5 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels; (2) reduce the effects of deforestation and forest degradation, with stricter limits adopted every five years; (3) provide a variety of ways of financing these efforts; (4) address how to deal with damage from adverse weather events and other negative effects of climate change; and (5) track progress and detect shortcomings.

*(continued on page 5)*

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### **WNDC Committee for Public Policy and Political Action (continued from page 4)**

The Paris accord offers great hope but is only the first step on a very long path, with possibilities for slips and reversals at each juncture. The agreement lacks enforcement mechanisms and includes key language changes (e.g., from “will” to “should”) that leave plenty of room for failure to meet goals.

WNDC urges its members and friends to take strong action to support the Paris agreement: to press our elected leaders, especially to back the Clean Power Plan; participate in pro-climate organizations, rallies, and demonstrations; sign petitions; write letters; and continue to educate ourselves on steps we can each take to reduce our carbon footprint. We can—we must—do our utmost to use the significant achievement of the Paris agreement as a springboard to action for saving our planet, ourselves, and our descendants.

*Jean Stewart*

*Public Policy Committee Environment and Energy Task Force*

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### **The Heartland Institute: It's Not Just the Koch Brothers**

Just when it seems safe to be cautiously optimistic about positive action on climate change, here come not only the Koch brothers and ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council) but an organization called the Heartland Institute, which describes itself as a nonprofit “think tank” promoting libertarian-based policies. One of its key issues is denial of the reality of climate change. The Institute is in reality a fossil fuel-funded front group receiving heavy contributions from these interests and using unscientific arguments and climate misinformation to push back on any and all attempts to reduce greenhouse gas production.

As the world looked forward to the climate conference in Paris with real hope for action to slow human impact on the earth's climate, the Institute held a counter-conference on December 7 “to expose the agendas and true costs of the agreement being negotiated there” (from the Institute's website). The Institute's delegation in Paris consisted of so-called “scientists and policy experts.” However, the respected scientific journal *Nature* pointed out in a July 2011 editorial that the Institute's “experts” lack credibility in climate science; they review scientific research as attorneys not scientists, and their primary purpose is “muddying the waters.” The Institute's President and CEO Joseph Bast is a high school graduate with no higher education degrees or diplomas. The Institute's chief spokesman on the environment, James Taylor, is an attorney with no climate science background.

Unsurprisingly, the Koch brothers and ALEC **are** involved in the doings of the Heartland Institute, through donations from the Koch Family Foundation, and membership in several of ALEC's task forces. Some of the Institute's leaders have promoted model legislation to roll back renewable energy sources, which fortunately has failed in every state legislature where it was introduced.

Another project being undertaken by the Institute is paying approximately \$300,000 a year (funding anonymous) to produce climate-change denial curricula for elementary schools.

With *Forbes* magazine featuring a weekly column by James Taylor, where he spreads climate misinformation, and Fox News and other media outlets providing a platform for Institute fellows, responsible citizens must not be complacent, overlooking threats posed by organizations such as the Heartland Institute. We need to call their phony arguments to account in every way possible. And we need to work hard in the coming year to elect representatives to state legislatures and to Congress who support rapid development of alternative fuels and strongly support all other efforts to reduce our carbon footprint on this fragile planet.

*Jean Stewart*

*Public Policy Committee Environment and Energy Task Force*

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
				1
4	5 <b>NO PROGRAM SCHEDULED</b>	6 Luncheon Available with reservation	7 <b>NO PROGRAM SCHEDULED</b>	8 Luncheon Available with reservation
11 EF Board Meeting 10:00a  Robert Kuttner'65 (Panel) 5:30p - 8:00p	12 <b>SPEAKER LUNCHEON</b> <b>Eileen Davis and Candy Graham</b>  PPC Meeting 10:30a	13 Luncheon Available with reservation  Executive Committee Meeting 12:45p	14 <b>SPEAKER LUNCHEON</b> <b>Molly Sinclair McCartney</b>  Arts Committee Meeting 10:30a	15 Luncheon Available with reservation
18   Club Closed	19 Program Committee Meeting 10:30a  Global Women's TF Meeting 11:30a	20 Luncheon Available with reservation  Board of Governors Meeting 12:45p	21 <b>NO PROGRAM SCHEDULED</b>	22 Luncheon Available with reservation
25	26 Social and Economic Justice TF Meeting 2:30p	27 <b>SPEAKER LUNCHEON</b> <b>Sarah Chayes</b>  Luncheon Available with reservation	28 <b>SPEAKER LUNCHEON</b> <b>Nan Aron</b>	29 Luncheon Available with reservation

Luncheons available Wednesday and Friday Cost: \$20.00. Reserve 24 hours ahead at (202)232-7363 ext. 3003  
 Cancellation policy: Credit will be given if cancellations are made by 12:00 noon at least two business days in advance.  
 Visit [www.democraticwoman.org](http://www.democraticwoman.org) for more information

# WNDC Officers, Committees, Meetings

## WNDC Officers 2015-2016

<b>President</b>	Anna Fierst
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	(Position Vacant)
<b>Communications</b>	Elizabeth Joyce
<b>Public Policy</b>	Karen Pataky
<b>Programs</b>	Mimi Hassanein Linda Kandel
<b>Membership</b>	Suzanne Forsyth
<b>Public Liaison</b>	Joy Holland
<b>Treasurer</b>	Miae Song
<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Zelenko
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Patricia Leslie
<b>Visual Arts &amp; Museum Affairs</b>	Nuzhat Sultan

## Educational Foundation Board 2015-2016

Michael Beidler, President	<a href="mailto:Michael@troutdesign.com">Michael@troutdesign.com</a>
Noreen Buchanan, Vice President	<a href="mailto:noreensbuchanan@gmail.com">noreensbuchanan@gmail.com</a>
Dianne Lorenz, Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:dianne.lorenz@verizon.net">dianne.lorenz@verizon.net</a>
Pat Bitondo, Secretary	<a href="mailto:PBitondo@aol.com">PBitondo@aol.com</a>
Jean Rogers, <a href="mailto:rogersm@cox.net">rogersm@cox.net</a>	
Nuzhat Sultan, <a href="mailto:nuzhatsultan@gmail.com">nuzhatsultan@gmail.com</a>	
Patricia Leslie, <a href="mailto:patricialeighleslie@yahoo.com">patricialeighleslie@yahoo.com</a>	
Farhana Shah, <a href="mailto:farhanasha@yahoo.com">farhanasha@yahoo.com</a>	
Robert Haldeman, <a href="mailto:rmhaldeman@msn.com">rmhaldeman@msn.com</a>	

## January Meetings:

<b>Monday</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>January 11</b> Educational Foundation
<b>Tuesday</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>January 12</b> Public Policy Committee
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:45 p.m.	<b>January 13</b> Executive Committee
<b>Thursday</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>January 14</b> Arts Committee
<b>Tuesday</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>January 19</b> Program Committee
<b>Tuesday</b> 11:30 a.m.	<b>January 19</b> Global Women's Task Force
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:45 p.m.	<b>January 20</b> Board of Governors
<b>Tuesday</b> 2:30 p.m.	<b>January 26</b> Social and Economic Justice Task Force

## WNDC Committees

Arts & Museum
By-Laws
Membership
Program Planning

## Chairperson

Nuzhat Sultan <a href="mailto:artswndc@gmail.com">artswndc@gmail.com</a>
Susan Rao <a href="mailto:susanraorealtor@gmail.com">susanraorealtor@gmail.com</a>
Suzanne Forsyth <a href="mailto:suzanneforsyth@aol.com">suzanneforsyth@aol.com</a>
Mimi Hassanein <a href="mailto:mimicatzo@yahoo.com">mimicatzo@yahoo.com</a>
Linda Kandel <a href="mailto:ldkand@gmail.com">ldkand@gmail.com</a>

## Public Policy and Political Action

<b>Vice President</b>	Karen Pataky <a href="mailto:kjpataky@comcast.net">kjpataky@comcast.net</a>
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The Committee for Public Policy and Political Action is composed of task force chairpersons and at-large members. All WNDC members are welcome at PPC meetings. If you wish to join a task force, please contact Karen Pataky or the Task Force Chair.

<i>Public Policy Task Forces</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>
DC Metro	MaryEva Candon <a href="mailto:candon@candonlaw.com">candon@candonlaw.com</a>
Economic/Budget Policy	Stuart Brown <a href="mailto:sbrown@warcap.com">sbrown@warcap.com</a>
Education/Children's Issues	Maria Ross <a href="mailto:mrosaross@aol.com">mrosaross@aol.com</a>
Election Reform	MaryEva Candon <a href="mailto:candon@candonlaw.com">candon@candonlaw.com</a>
Environment & Energy	MaryJane King <a href="mailto:mj@atelier-mjk.com">mj@atelier-mjk.com</a>
Faith & Values	Kristin Cabral <a href="mailto:Cabral@KristinCabral.com">Cabral@KristinCabral.com</a>
Global Women	Veena Trehan <a href="mailto:veena0323@yahoo.com">veena0323@yahoo.com</a>
Health Care	Karen Pataky <a href="mailto:kjpataky@comcast.net">kjpataky@comcast.net</a>
International Affairs	Elizabeth Spiro Clark <a href="mailto:epsclark@rcn.com">epsclark@rcn.com</a>
Judicial/Constitutional	Marcia Bachman <a href="mailto:mbach6@aol.com">mbach6@aol.com</a>
Social and Economic Justice	Veena Trehan <a href="mailto:veena0323@yahoo.com">veena0323@yahoo.com</a>
Social Security	Marion Mudd <a href="mailto:Marion9507@starpower.net">Marion9507@starpower.net</a>

## Luncheon Schedule

11:30 A.M. Bar Opens  
12:15 P.M. Lunch Served  
1:00 P.M. Presentation  
1:45 P.M. Q+A

### Pricing:

Members \$25/Non-Members \$30/ \$10 Lecture Only

*Please note: Early reservations (minimum two business days) are encouraged and appreciated.*

## February Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, January 20

To allow time for production of the newsletter (editing, layout, and proofreading), all submissions to the newsletter are due on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

### February newsletter deadline is January 20.

We will gladly post any late submissions on the website, but we aren't able to print any items submitted after the deadline. **Please, no exceptions.**



**Woman's National Democratic Club**  
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Washington, DC 20036

