

WNDC

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2018



From The Right To Vote... The Power To Lead

www.democraticwoman.org



WNDC President Nuchhi Currier at the beginning of the Women's March DC 2018, speaking at the March, and with Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

[Editor's Note: This President's Letter is excerpted from the speech WNDC President Nuchhi Currier gave at the Women's March 2018 on January 20 in Washington, DC.]

My name is Nuchhi Currier and I am **INSPIRED**. I am **MARCHING** today and **RUNNING** for office tomorrow. And I am not alone. I am joining hundreds of women across the country who are doing the same thing.

Let me start by quoting Eleanor Roosevelt, an inspiration to us all: "You should say to yourself, "I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along. You **MUST** do the thing you **THINK** you **CANNOT** do." These words resonate today because we have lived through the horror of the November 2016 elections. And we are still suffering the consequences of electing an anti-woman, anti-minority, anti-immigrant president.

The Women's March was inspirational to say the least, making history. It was the **THING** that women **DARED** to do and it succeeded beyond the organizers' wildest expectations. What was the march about? It was for **PEACE, JUSTICE, and EQUALITY**. It heralded the creation of a **SOCIAL MOVEMENT** for **SOCIAL PROGRESS**. And this tidal wave has woken up a sleeping giant. Thousands and thousands of women activists and hundreds of grassroots groups have erected a wall of resistance to the regressive policies of this administration.

We honor the legacy of the movements before us. The suffragists, the abolitionists, the Civil Rights movement, the feminist movement, the American Indian movement, Occupy Wall Street, Marriage Equality, Black Lives Matter and more. And we stand in solidarity with the 800,000 Dreamers who are threatened in their homes today, the only home they have ever known. We support Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America. And we stand behind the Equal Rights Amendment.

We are witnessing a huge surge in activism. What is the source of this phenomenon a year out after the Women's March in 2017? It is **WOMEN**.

Women are just fed up.

Women are fed up that we make up only 20% of Congress.

Women are fed up with sexual harassment.

Women are fed up with Donald Trump.

And women are fighting back.

The last time the US saw a surge in women running for office was 1992, in the wake of Anita Hill's testimony. It was called the "Year of the Woman" because women were elected to the US House and Senate in record numbers.

The Women's March's "POWER TO THE POLLS" Anniversary event that we are celebrating today has generated a renewed resolve among women and supportive men to propel women to positions of power. It is only when the **power dynamic** changes and women have a greater **SAY** and **SWAY** in politics, and in the workplace, that the exploitation of women will stop. The mantra of **#MeToo** has to now move to **#IRan** and **#IWon**.

The increase in women candidates **TODAY** is in the US House and governors races and driven primarily by Democrats. The results of the 2017 Virginia election have galvanized Women and Democrats across the nation. We are seeing **MORE** women running, **MORE** women voting for women, **MORE** women turning out to vote. It makes women **change agents** and a powerful part of the formula for 2018 races.

The organization "She Should Run" announced in July that it was launching a national campaign to achieve gender parity among America's elected officials by the year 2030. That involves galvanizing women to fill 250,000 of the nation's almost 500,000 elected positions. **LET US RESOLVE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN**. 1992 was the "Year of the Woman." Let us make 2018 the beginning of the "**DECADE OF WOMEN**."

-- Nuchhi Currier

FEBRUARY 2018 EVENTS



Thursday, Feb. 1

Of Orson Welles, Alec Guinness, and Sir John Gielgud: Shakespearean Actor Keith Baxter in conversation with John Andrews

We hope you'll join us for a special gathering in which Shakespeare Guild president John Andrews will converse with Keith Baxter, a distinguished dramatic artist who'll be portraying the Gravedigger in a production of Hamlet at the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Best known for his role as Prince Hal in *Chimes at Midnight*, a 1966 Orson Welles classic that is now regarded as one of the finest of all Shakespearean films, Baxter will talk about what it was like to act with Welles, who played Falstaff, and with Sir John Gielgud, who played King Henry IV. He'll also recall his associations with many of the other legends with whom he has worked, among them Alec Guinness and Paul Scofield, with whom he shared a stage in the Broadway version of *A Man for All Seasons*. Baxter has appeared frequently in Washington and has also directed eight classics for Michael Kahn and the company he has guided to international prominence.

This is an Educational Foundation fundraiser event; co-sponsored by The Shakespeare Guild.

TIME: 11:30am – Bar opens; 12:15pm – Lunch served; 1-2pm – Presentation and Q&A

PRICE: \$30 Members and Non-members (includes lunch). Tickets and additional contributions are tax-deductible. (Checks should be made out to: WNDC Educational Foundation.)

Tuesday, Feb. 6

DC Council At-Large Candidate Forum

Join us at the WNDC for a candidate forum for At-Large candidates in the Democratic Primary. Candidates Jeremiah Lowery, Marcus Goodwin, and Aaron Holmes are confirmed. Councilmember Anita Bonds and candidates Justin A. Green, Sr. and Sharece Crawford have been invited but have not confirmed at press time. The forum is co-sponsored by the WNDC, 350 DC, DC for Democracy, DC Working Families, Empower DC, UNITE HERE Local 25, DC Women's Democratic Club, DC Sierra Club, Jews United for Justice Campaign Fund, Stop Police Terror Project DC, Ward 3 Democrats, and Ward 5 Democrats..



TIME: Bar opens at 6:00pm. Program begins at 6:30pm

PRICE: This event is free but registration is required. Cash Bar and snacks.

Thursday, Feb. 8

Social Role of the Arts Series: In Celebration of Black History Month -- Great Arts Organizations in Anacostia

Join us for an exploration of the thriving arts scene in Anacostia, featuring Colin Hovde, producing artistic director of Theater Alliance, Resident Theater of the Anacostia Playhouse, and Lori Yarrish, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Community Museum. The discussion will be moderated by Camille Kashaka, director of the Anacostia Arts Center.

Hovde, who has run the Award-winning Theater Alliance since 2012, will talk about its focus on developing, producing, and presenting "socially conscious, thought-provoking work that fully engages our community in active dialogue." Yarrish will talk about how the Community Museum brings together diverse people and perspectives to create a more tolerant, unified metropolitan museum.



PRICE: \$25 Members; \$30 Non-members (includes lunch); \$10 Lecture only.

TIME: 11:30am – Bar opens; 12:15pm – Lunch served; 1-2pm – Presentation and Q&A

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Lanny Davis, former special counsel to President Bill Clinton: *The Unmaking of the President 2016*

Lanny Davis states unequivocally that former FBI Director James Comey caused Hillary Clinton to lose the 2016 election. In his new book, *The Unmaking of the President 2016: How FBI Director James Comey Cost Hillary Clinton the Presidency*, Davis backs up that claim with data. Davis says Comey's effect on the outcome is indisputable and that the election was over for Hillary Clinton October 28, the day of FBI Director Comey's ill-fated and lethal letter. Davis agrees Comey should have been fired but not by President Trump. He thinks President Obama should have fired Comey for violating rules of the Justice Department, interfering in a presidential election, and throwing the election to Donald Trump.

"Davis's book is at once disturbing, fascinating and informative. It is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of democracy."

—Kurt Eichenwald, Contributing Editor, *Vanity Fair*, and bestselling author

TIME: Bar opens at 6:30pm. Program begins at 7:00pm, followed by book signing

The book will be available for purchase and signing.

PRICE: \$20 Members; \$25 Non-members. Includes hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar.





Wednesday, Feb. 14

**Valentine's Day
Murder Mystery --**

**Celebrate
Valentine's Day
with the Whittemore
House!**

TIME: 6:30pm-9:30pm

DC's history comes alive at this haunted dinner party. Grab your Valentine, your palentine or your gal-entine and join us as we try to solve the Mystery of the Masquerade Ball.

Valentine's Day is a day of flowers and chocolates -- unless you're a scorned ex or quarreling lover out for blood. Literally. When the Whittemore House opened its doors for a Masquerade Ball no one expected a murder on the dancefloor. This Valentine's Day Cupid is not the only one with someone in his crosshairs.

You've watched the TV shows, you've listened to the podcasts, and now it's time to put your murder mystery skills to the test.

Your ticket includes: Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and dessert; Wine and Beer open bar with signature cocktails. Possible sightings of the ghost of Lady Whittemore; the chance to explore the Whittemore House to find clues and work with your friends to solve a very mysterious murder.

PRICE: Single guest \$70, Couple (two guests) \$125, Full Team (6-10 guests) \$650 (Your entire team will be seated together with no additional team members added to group.)



Thursday, Feb. 15

New Members Reception

TIME: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Please join WNDC officers, Board members, and other members to enjoy refreshments and a complimentary soft drink, wine, or cocktail. Learn about opportunities to take part in the work and fun of WNDC. All new members who joined since November 2017 are especially invited to get to know other WNDC members and to learn more about the Club. Guests are also welcome.

PRICE: This event is free, but registration is required.



Thursday, Feb. 15

**Art Exhibition
Reception:
Debebe Tesfaye:
The Journey Home**

TIME: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

We hope you will join us for the opening reception for "The Journey Home," the newly installed art exhibition by Ethiopian-born artist Debebe Tesfaye. The exhibition, inspired by the colorful cityscapes of Ethiopia and its people, remind one of jazz. People with their varied and colorful dresses ride Tesfaye's canvases and look out at the old houses and their doors and windows. The roofs, walls, and telephone poles tell a story. Happy or sad, young or old, his people share the same journey and meet on his canvases. Tesfaye improvises with different mediums and uses some alphabets, creating collages that have a visual harmony. His focus is more on the composition and the overall form than the details.

Tesfaye graduated from the Addis Ababa University Ale School of Fine Arts and Design in 1999.

The exhibition opens on February 8, 2018, and will be on display until April 24, 2018.

PRICE: This event is free, but registration is required.



**Andrea Hailey: Harnessing the Millennial
Disruption of Activism and Civic Engagement**

TIME: Bar opens at 6:30pm.
Program begins at 7:00pm

Thursday, Feb. 22

By 2020, millennials will be the largest voting block in America. At 45% diverse, this is the most multicultural generation in American history. Millennial swing voters will decide future elections as they swing between non-voting, third party voting, and voting for Democrats. Come hear how Civic Engagement Fund co-founder Andrea Hailey is supporting millennial engagement and empowering emerging millennial leaders.

PRICE: \$20 Members; \$25 Non-members. Includes hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar.



**US Role in a Changing World Series:
Turkey and the US: Strategic
Partners or Transactional Allies?
Gonul Tol, Middle East Institute**

TIME: 11:30am – Bar opens; 12:15pm – Lunch served; 1-2pm – Presentation and Q&A

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Turkey's pro-government circles welcomed President Trump's election, believing he would reverse what they considered adverse policies of the Obama administration: failure to extradite the Pennsylvania-based cleric it accused of fomenting the 2016 failed coup attempt, refusal to stop working with the Syrian Kurdish militia, and failure to drop charges against a Turkish-Iranian gold trader on trial for evading sanctions on Iran. Those hopes were soon dashed, and US-Turkish relations under President Trump went through one of its worst crises ever. Tol will discuss whether or not 2018 will bring more tension to a relationship once hailed as a "strategic partnership."

PRICE: \$25 Members; \$30 Non-members (includes lunch); \$10 Lecture only.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

**Arena Stage:
The Great Society**

TIME: 6:00pm optional dinner at Arena; 7:30 pm performance and post-show conversation

Join WNDC again at Arena Stage for specially priced tickets to *The Great Society* by Robert Schenkkan. His Tony Award-winning play *All the Way* (which many WNDC Members and guests attended in May 2016) set the stage for President Lyndon Baines Johnson's sudden ascent to the White House. *The Great Society* brings the second half of Schenkkan's epic story to its harrowing conclusion. As America is divided by Civil Rights protests and the anguish of the Vietnam War, LBJ struggles to maintain his relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., keep his political opponents in check, and complete a raft of impossibly ambitious social policy projects. Kyle Donnelly again directs and Jack Willis reprises his "stunning performance" (*Broadway World*) as LBJ, exploding the America of our past to better understand the America of today.

PRICE: Prix Fixe 3-course dinner (buffet), \$22; Performance Tickets, \$50 Members and \$55 Non-members

Thursday, March 1

**Ann Hornaday:
Hollywood Comes to the WNDC**

TIME: 11:30am – Bar opens; 12:15pm – Lunch served; 1-2pm – Presentation and Q&A

The Washington Post's chief film critic, Ann Hornaday, comes to the WNDC just three days before Oscar night to discuss the upcoming Academy Awards, issues related to the motion picture industry, and her book, *Talking Pictures: How to Watch Movies*. Hornaday, who has been with the *Post* since 2002, previously worked for *The Austin American-Statesman* and *The Baltimore Sun*. She also has worked for *The New York Times* and for *Ms. Magazine*. She is a 1982 cum laude graduate of Smith College. In 2008, she was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in criticism.

Members of the Smith College Club of Washington, DC, will join WNDC members for this event.

The book will be available for purchase and signing.

PRICE: \$25 Members; \$30 Non-members (includes lunch); \$10 Lecture only.



WNDC's Grassroots Coordinating Committee (GCC) Focuses on Messaging & Issues in Jan. Programming



A winning strategy for Democrats in 2018 and beyond will depend on crafting messages around values, Karen Finney told the audience of grassroots activists and others at the National Messaging and Policy Summit on January 23. Finney, former communications director for the DNC and Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, said that we need to connect our issues to values, always focusing our narrative on voters and why it matters to them. Among these values are opportunity, equality, respect, responsibility, basic human rights, dignity, freedom, and due process.



Reinforcing these points and providing guidance on how grassroots activists can have their voices heard at the DNC was Virginia DNC Committeewoman Yasmine Taeb. She encouraged the audience to use the DNC resolutions process to bring attention to issues important to them. She urged activists to attend the DNC meeting in Washington, DC, March 8-10, 2018, which is open to the public.



Following the presentations and questions from the audience, the group broke into 10 issue teams (five economic and five social) to begin the process of drafting "Policy Action Memos" that will be consolidated into a strategic plan for grassroots groups to use in the campaigns of progressive candidates and the next Democratic Party Platform.

More than 100 people attended the Summit, which was sponsored by the WNDC-GCC, Jobs-First.org, and Rise Stronger. The organizer was Ricardo Coleman, president and founder of Jobs-First.org, who began the Summit with an overview of the goals and mission of the National Messaging & Policy Task Force. Also on the program was Ivan Edwards, communications expert and co-host of "36 Nation," who provided an introduction and moderated the discussion with Finney and Taeb.



The evening before the Summit, the GCC general meeting featured three panel discussions: evaluation and analysis of the last elections, particularly in Virginia and Alabama; the message of the Democratic Party and whether there is a message for minorities/people of color; and sexual harassment.

Future issues of the WNDC newsletter and the WNDC-GCC Facebook page will carry additional information from these January events.

The next GCC general meeting is February 20, 2018, at the WNDC.

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Committee CHAIRPERSONS

Arts & Museum: Winfield Swanson
 (artswndc@gmail.com)
By-Laws: Susan Rao
 (susanraorealtor@gmail.com)
Communications: Carol L. Rogers
 (clrogers2009@gmail.com)
Program Planning: Naomi Naierman
 (nnaierman22@gmail.com)
Membership: Maria R. Ross
 (mrosaross@aol.com)

Public Policy & Political Action

Chair

Elizabeth Clark
 (epsclark@gmail.com)

Vice Chair

Shelly Livingston
 (sliving7@yahoo.com)

DC Statehood

MaryEva Candon
 (candon@candonlaw.com)

Earth and Environment

Jean Stewart
 (jean.stewart@rcn.com)

Economy

Warren Clark
 (warren7870@gmail.com)

Education and

Children's Issues
 Dianna Washington
 (diannaw331@aol.com)

Election Reform/

Voting Rights
 Melinda Burrell
 (mcburrell@hotmail.com)

Foreign Policy

Elizabeth Clark
 (epsclark@gmail.com)

Global Women

Veena Trehan
 (veena0323@yahoo.com)

Gun Policy

Gail Gottlieb
 (mgailgottlieb@gmail.com)

Health Policy

Karen Pataky
 (kjpataky@comcast.net)

Legal and Constitutional Issues

Evelina Norwinski
 (evelina.norwinski@apks.com)

Populism

Joe Howell
 (joehowell@starpower.net)

Social and Economic Justice

Veena Trehan
 (veena0323@yahoo.com)

2017-2018

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 Rosalyn Overstreet Gonzalez (rovergonz@gmail.com)
 Winfield Swanson, VAMA Liaison (winfieldswanson@gmail.com)



March Newsletter Deadline:
Wednesday, February 14

We gladly post late submissions on the website, but we cannot print any items submitted after the deadline. Please request a template if interested in submitting an event or article via idescartes@democraticwoman.org.

DNC Update

Our regular DNC Update column by DC Democratic National Committeewoman MaryEva Candon will resume next month.

DC Democratic National Committeewoman MaryEva Candon with DNC Chair Tom Perez



FEBRUARY

2018

		THURSDAY 01		FRIDAY 02	
			Keith Baxter EF Luncheon		Luncheon Available with Reservation

MONDAY 05	TUESDAY 06	WEDNESDAY 07	THURSDAY 08	FRIDAY 09
	Program Committee Mtg 10:30am DC Council At-Large Candidate Forum 6:00pm	Luncheon Available with Reservation Health Policy Task Force Mtg 6:30pm	Social Role of the Arts Series: Colin Hovde & Lori Yarrish Luncheon	Educational Foundation Board Mtg 10:30am Luncheon Available with Reservation

MONDAY 12	TUESDAY 13	WEDNESDAY 14	THURSDAY 15	FRIDAY 16
	VAMA Mtg 11:00am Young Dems Committee Mtg 5:30pm Lanny Davis 6:30pm	Young Dems Networking Breakfast 8:00am Membership Committee Mtg 9:00am Executive Committee Mtg 10:30am Luncheon Available with Reservation March Newsletter Deadline	New Members Reception 5:30pm Art Exhibition Reception 6:30pm Public Policy Committee Mtg 6:30pm	Luncheon Available with Reservation

MONDAY 19	TUESDAY 20	WEDNESDAY 21	THURSDAY 22	FRIDAY 23
	Building & Landscape Committee Mtg 2:00pm GCC Mtg 6:00pm	Board of Governors Mtg 10:30am Luncheon Available with Reservation	Andrea Hailey 6:30pm	Luncheon Available with Reservation

MONDAY 26	TUESDAY 27	WEDNESDAY 28
	US Role in a Changing World: Gonul Tol Luncheon Social & Economic Justice Task Force Mtg 2:30pm Arena Stage: The Great Society 7:30pm	Luncheon Available with Reservation

Luncheons available upon request Wednesdays and Fridays. Cost: \$20 (buffet) or \$25 (plated).

Speaker Luncheons schedules: 11:30am - Bar Opens | 12:15pm - Lunch Served | 1:00pm - Presentation | 1:45pm - Q&A |

PRICE: \$25 Members/ \$30 Non-Members/ \$10 Lecture Only.

Reserve 24 hours ahead at (202) 232-7363 | Cancellation policy: Credit is given if cancellations are made at least two business days in advance.

On the Radar March 2018 Events

Thursday, March 1 (Lunch)

Ann Hornaday: Hollywood Comes to the WNDC

Tuesday, March 6 (Lunch)

US Role in a Changing World Series: Lori Wallach

Wednesday, March 7 (Evening)

Stephanie Schriock, Emily's List

Tuesday, March 8 (Lunch)

International Women's Day Luncheon

Tuesday, March 13 (Lunch)

Social Role of the Arts Series: WPAS's Jenny Bilfield & student performers

Thursday, March 15 (Evening)

Rep. Jackie Speier on Sexual Harrassment

Thursday, March 22 (Lunch)

US Role in a Changing World Series: Melvin Goodman, CIA

Mark Your Calendars for our Upcoming Exciting and Informative Series Programs!

Last year our Program Committee introduced two theme-based monthly programs that are beginning to attract regular followers. The two series now booked through May are *The US Role in a Changing World* and *The Social Role of the Arts*, both of which have been organized by Committee member Dorothy Marschak.

The US Role in a Changing World Series features recognized authorities on important issues in our foreign policy, emphasizing both the background as well as the probable consequences of our current policies and actions.

Upcoming programs in this Series:

Feb. 27: Dr. Gonul Tol, "US-Turkey Relations"

March 6: Lori Wallach, "US Trade Policy under Trump"

March 22: Melvin Goodman, "The Failure of Intelligence: Decline and Fall of the CIA"

April 12: William Hartung, "The Militarization of US Foreign Policy"

May 15: Overview of US-Middle East Relations under Trump: panel TBD

The Social Role of the Arts Series presents local artists and arts organizations whose presentations reveal, interpret, and possibly influence social issues or themselves demonstrate the uniting and healing roles of the arts.

Upcoming programs in this Series:

Feb. 8: "Great Arts Organizations in Anacostia", featuring Colin Hovde, Producing Artistic Director of the Theater Alliance, and Director Lori Yarrish of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum.

March 13: WPAS President Jenny Bilfield introduces demonstrations by students from WPAS's in-school instrumental music programs.

April 26: Documentary "*Free to Rock*" about how rock music helped to bring down the Iron Curtain, with discussion by John Feffer.

May 3: "History of Songs in the Labor Movement", with Larry Rubin and Members of the Labor Alliance Chorus

All these programs are lunch-time except for the April 26 documentary.



Woman's National Democratic Club

1526 New Hampshire Ave NW

Washington, DC 20036

YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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