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

www.democraticwoman.org
The tired trope of the past two years, DEMS IN DISARRAY, needs a reality check. Popular narratives by lazy pundits have dominated the news cycle for too long. Almost a media reflex, this twist, based on randomly selected events, gains currency with each repetition. It is time to dispel this dangerous narrative. Dems, take heart! We are in good shape.

The party that elected its first Black President, that almost elected the first Woman President, is also the party that has ushered in the most diverse Congress in history. Democrats have emerged as the party that dares. Since when have discussion, disagreement and consensus building become pejoratives? “Diversity” includes ideological diversity, a fact many diversity celebrants seem to forget. The Democratic Party needs its Joe Manchins and its Jon Testers, its Dean Philips and its Ilhan Omars. The fact is that the Democrats are just a more ideologically diverse party because they represent the America of all races, religions, sexual orientations, while today’s Republican Party represents a more homogeneous America.

This “…Disarray” narrative seems to have gathered steam as more and more Democratic presidential hopefuls join the fray. As one headline screamed: “Democrats beware: Ever-growing field of 2020 contenders could be too much of a good thing.” The assumption was that a large field is both a sign that there may not be consensus about the best candidate and a source of unpredictability.

Historical data show, however, that having a large field of candidates fighting for the nomination and, in particular, having a lack of consensus about whom to nominate, are more likely to lead to victory in the general election than having a small field and a “next-in-line” candidate who leads the race from start to finish. Additionally, it means scores of candidates and their supporters are not scared of the front-runner.

The good news is that the current Democratic crop is not a group that fears standing up for their principles; they just know that addressing the problems we face will require more than simply yelling louder than the opposition or pleading for bipartisanship.

According to psychologist Bruce Tuckman, of the four stages of development (Forming, Storming, Norming and Performing), the Democrats have entered the second stage. In order for us to grow, face up to challenges, tackle problems, find solutions, work together and deliver results we need this contest of wills. This is not only inevitable but also essential if Democrats are to coalesce into a winning team in 2020.

If flipping the House in a spectacular win in the mid-terms is disarray, we’ll take it! If gaining points in every congressional special election in the Trump era is disarray, we’ll own it! And if having a fantastic array of Presidential candidates to pick from is chaos, we’ll embrace it! BRING IT ON.

--Nuchhi Currier
MAY 2019 EVENTS

Thursday, May 2
Elaine Weiss

The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote

Nashville, August 1920: Thirty-five states have approved the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote; one last state—Tennessee—is needed for women's voting rights to be the law of the land. Suffragists face vicious opposition from politicians, clergy, corporations, and the “Antis”—women who oppose their own enfranchisement, and racists who don't want black women voting. In one hot summer, they all converge for a confrontation, replete with booze and blackmail, betrayal and courage.

Elaine Weiss has written a nail-biting climax of one of the greatest political battles in American history: the ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. Following rave reviews on NPR, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal among others, Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment company has optioned the book for adaptation, with Hillary Rodham Clinton serving as Executive Producer.

The book will be available for purchase and signing.

TIME: 6:30-8:00pm
PRICE: $20 Members; $25 Non-members. $15 Young Dems. Includes hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar.

Tuesday, May 7
Saving Social Security

Congressman John Larson (CT-01)

As we all know, the GOP’s 2017 tax law gave huge tax breaks to the nation's wealthiest. Republicans promptly began calling for “entitlement reform” to pay for the cuts. Social Security isn't an entitlement, however. It is the insurance Americans pay for with every paycheck!

Congressman John Larson (CT-01), Chairman of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, introduced the Social Security 2100 Act earlier this year with over 200 cosponsors. It would be the first major expansion of Social Security since 1972 and the most significant change in the program since 1983. The Social Security 2100 Act provides a benefit bump to all beneficiaries and a tax cut to 12 million seniors. It ensures that no one who has worked for decades will retire into poverty, and makes the program solvent for 75+ years. The Congressman will discuss the need for Social Security reform, outline key tenets of the bill, and address the concerns and challenges that lie ahead for this landmark legislation.

TIME: 11:30am – Bar opens; 12:15pm – Lunch served; 1-2pm – Presentation and Q&A
PRICE: $25 Members; $30 Non-members; $15 Young Dems (Includes lunch); $10 Lecture only.

Thursday, May 9
New Members Reception

TIME: 5:30-6:30pm
PRICE: This event is free, but registration is required.

Please join us for the opening of artist Regina Miele's latest exhibition, whose new works follow a journey in the company of Rachel Carson's writings, a journey of reverent observation and an ode to nature's resilience. Working closely within cityscapes, she draws out beauty in the often overlooked. For the past decade, Miele's principal subject has been the physicality of our city along with the natural landscapes of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, Rock Creek, and the Chesapeake Bay.

“I have created this current body of work with traditional materials and time-honored tools, which are key to my connection with the natural landscape. Some reflect views from boats, most are from walking and looking and listening. A Talmudic understanding of the world and its creation has God speaking every detail into being and it is my belief that artists and scientists are the adoring listeners, equipped to convey the beauty and fragility of the natural world. Observations remind us to pay attention, to be stewards, and to amplify these gifts' importance to our hearts and minds.”

A Catholic University graduate, Miele was awarded an artist fellowship in 2019 by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Miele has exhibited both nationally and internationally.

PRICE: This event is free, but registration is recommended.
Join us to toast the exceptional women in our lives! Bring your mother, sister, aunt, daughter or friend to enjoy a grand buffet, welcoming mimosa, lots of laughter plus live music. Enjoy a lavish buffet of your brunch favorites and pass some time in our walled garden named after Lady Bird Johnson.

This year we are happy to welcome 10 year-old Sarah Ramson, a multi-talented whiz on the piano and harp. She comes to us via the nonprofit Chess Girls DC.

This annual fete is a popular event so reserve your places early!

**PRICE:** $45 with advance registration (until May 10), $50 pay at the door. Kids (5-18) – $15.

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**Republic Undone**
**A Play by John Henry**

WNDC member John Henry’s play, *Republic Undone*, dramatizes the galaxy of personalities that sashayed across the stage as Woodrow Wilson entered the White House and orchestrated America’s participation in the Great War. In this play, women are the stars with Club President Nuchhi Currier as Lucy Burns, the suffragist partner of the indefatigable Alice Paul. With courage and moxie, the two overcome Wilson’s stubborn opposition to the Nineteenth Amendment. Club member Molly McCartney plays Mary Peck, the charming “enchantress” in Wilson’s self-righteous life.

After Harriet Woodrow rebuffs her first cousin’s marriage proposal, Ellen Axson Wilson becomes the wife who deftly pilots her husband’s meteoric rise from President of Princeton University to the Oval Office. Ellen’s death at the outbreak of the war leads to Wilson’s marriage to Edith Bolling, who is a veritable Rock of Gibraltar against those who challenge the President.

*Republic Undone* is directed by Rick Davis, Dean of George Mason’s College of Visual and Performing Arts. The performance runs a little more than an hour.

To find out more about the play, visit [stonehilltheatricalfoundation.org/republicundone.html](http://stonehilltheatricalfoundation.org/republicundone.html)

**TIME:** 6:30pm Bar opens
7:00 Performance begins

**PRICE:** $30 Members; $40 Non-members (includes light snacks). Cash Bar.

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**Dorothy Butler Gilliam**

**Dorothy Butler Gilliam**

Legendary journalist and activist, Dorothy Butler Gilliam’s career has spanned more than six decades. After years of working in the black press, dating back to high school, she became in 1961 the first African American woman reporter ever hired by the *Washington Post*. She later became an editor and a columnist for the *Post* before retiring in 2003. Throughout her career, she worked tirelessly to nurture other journalists of color and to diversify newsrooms across the United States.


Denise Rolark Barnes is the second-generation owner and publisher of the *Washington Informer*. She is past Chair of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). She is also a member of Leadership Greater Washington, as well as an inductee in the D.C. Hall of Fame.

The book will be available for purchase and signing.

**TIME:** 11:30am – Bar opens;
12:15pm – Lunch served; 1:20pm – Presentation and Q&A

**PRICE:** $25 Members; $30 Non-members; $15 Young Dems (Includes lunch);
$10 Lecture only.
Winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award | Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize | Finalist for the National Book Award | “Most Valuable Book” says The Nation

In her book Democracy in Chains, Professor Nancy MacLean reveals the 60-year, relentless campaign of right-wing academic James McGill Buchanan, who quietly labored away at George Mason University in collaboration with billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch.

Their joint goal is to undermine unions and privatize safety net features such as Social Security, public schools and healthcare, plus stop any action on addressing climate change. In short, the Kochs and their ultra-right affiliates intend to negate and rewrite the current social contract as established by the U.S. Constitution.

Based on ten years of unique research, Democracy in Chains meticulously tells a chilling story of right-wing academics and big money run amok, and reveals how this coalition has been quietly weakening our democratic system. This revelatory work of scholarship is an explosive exposé of the Republican Party’s efforts to carry out their long-term agenda, and deserves a place on the bookshelf of every American who cares about their country and the threats against it.

PRICE: $20 Members; $25 Non-members. $15 Young Dems. Includes hors d’oeuvres. Cash bar.

Originally scheduled for May 14, this event has been rescheduled.
Save the Date: $100 for 100 on June 4!

On June 4, 1919, the Congress passed a joint resolution to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to extend the right of suffrage to women. This initiated ratification by the states, which was completed in August 1920 when Tennessee became the 35th state to ratify what would become the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

The Educational Foundation invites you to celebrate this momentous step with an evening of song and dance from the era -- songs of suffrage and Isadora Duncan dances will take us back 100 years. A supper buffet and period drinks will help us initiate our centennial celebrations.

More details to come soon.

Election of New Officers

WNDC Members! Be on the lookout mid-May for your ballot to elect new officers. You will receive your ballot at the mailing address in your membership file. Please be sure to update your mailing address with us if it has changed recently.

The ballot will need to be returned by the first week of June.

New Facebook Group for Members

The WNDC has recently established a private Facebook group for its members. We are inviting all members to use this platform as a place to connect with fellow members, talk about things that matter, keep each other in the loop and build community around the club! Share your events and opinions, arrange ride shares or plan meetings! Please invite other members on your friends list to join! This is a closed group for WNDC members only. Find the group here: www.facebook.com/groups/wndc.community
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**Prix Fixe Menu** Luncheon available with Reservation Tuesdays through Fridays, 11:30am - 2pm. 
**Speaker Luncheon 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 via (202) 232-7363 or democraticwoman.org | Cancellation Credit is given if cancellations are made at least two business days in advance.
We gladly post late submissions on the website, but we cannot print any items submitted after the deadline. Please send your event writeup or article to idescartes@democraticwoman.org.

Publisher Information:
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Carol L. Rogers, Vice President of Communications
Ina Descartes, Design and Production Editor

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ON THE RADAR

Tuesday, June 4 (Evening)
Educational Foundation Gala: $100 for 100

Thursday, June 6 (Evening)
WNDC Happy Hour

Tuesday, June 11 (Lunch)
Steve Lexenberg

Wednesday, June 12 (Morning)
WNDC Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Thursday, June 13 (Evening)
WNDC Movie Night: Women of Maidan

Tuesday, June 18 (Evening)
Pathways to Positive Climate Action

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OUR HOUSE GLEAMS AND GLISTENS, OUR KITCHEN FIRES ARE ABLAZE. WE ARE CELEBRATING SPRING WITH REGULAR LUNCH SERVICE, TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, WE OFFER HISTORIC, ELEGANT SURROUNDINGS; A REASONABLY PRICED DELICIOUS MENU AND FAST, ATTENTIVE SERVICE. DUPONT CIRCLE LUNCH OPTIONS JUST GOT A LIFT!

Please contact P. Fitzgerald for reservations:
pfitzgerald@democraticwoman.org | (202) 232-7363

Wednesday, June 3

WNDC Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Steve Lexenberg

Tuesday, June 4

Educational Foundation Gala: $100 for 100

Thursday, June 6

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Tuesday, June 18

Pathways to Positive Climate Action

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Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

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YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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