

WNDC

NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2019



APRIL 2

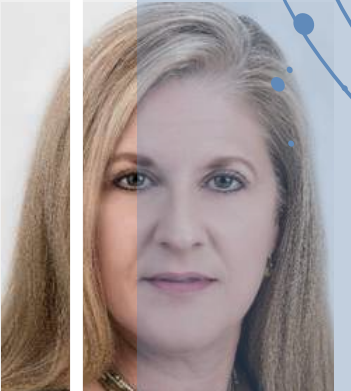
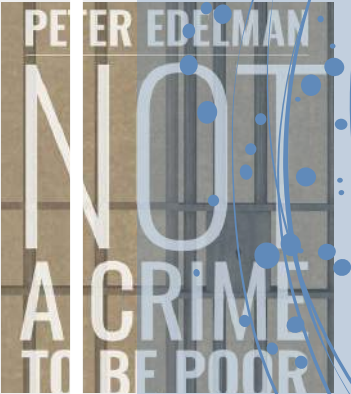
WNDC AWARDS

DEMOCRATIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR

THE HONORABLE MAXINE WATERS

TRAILBLAZER OF THE YEAR

PARKLAND STUDENTS



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

www.democraticwoman.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

H.R. 1 - For the People Act of 2019 A Roadmap For The Future



The importance of the first legislative act of a new Congress cannot be stressed enough.

By making anti-corruption their main priority, House Democrats, under the leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, are throwing down the gauntlet for Republicans. Most Americans want to rid politics of the influence of money. New polling⁽¹⁾ from “End Citizens United” found 82 percent of all voters and 84 percent of independents supported a bill of reforms to tackle corruption. Given the popularity of this issue, and Trump’s multitudinous scandals, Republicans’ opposition to this bill will look bad — especially going into 2020.

A compendium of 571 pages, H.R. 1⁽²⁾ passed the House 234-193⁽³⁾ on March 8, with every Democrat voting in favor and every Republican voting against. While it is unlikely to receive any consideration in the Senate, this sets an important precedent.

“You could stamp on this thing, ‘McConnell rejected it,’ and it would immediately give it more credibility,” Rep. John Sarbanes, the architect of the bill, told reporters recently. “We built this not for McConnell... this was built for the public. He’s going to get knocked over by where the sentiment of the country is right now.”

The issues tackled in the bill can be categorized broadly as follows:

Voter Rights

Expands voter registration and access, enhances election integrity and security, makes Election Day a federal holiday, and limits removing voters from voter rolls.

Money in Politics

This bill addresses campaign spending, including by expanding the ban on foreign nationals contributing to or spending on elections; expanding disclosure rules pertaining to organizations spending money during elections, campaign advertisements, and online platforms; and revising disclaimer requirements for political advertising. It also establishes an alternative campaign funding system for certain federal offices. The system involves federal matching of small contributions for qualified candidates.

Ethics and Corruption

Specifically, the bill requires a code of ethics for federal judges and justices, prohibits Members of the House from serving on the board of a for-profit entity, expands enforcement of regulations governing foreign agents, and establishes additional conflict-of-interest and ethics provisions for federal employees and the White House. The bill also requires candidates for President and Vice President to submit 10 years of tax returns.

This bill represents a major victory in our fight to protect and strengthen our democracy! The battle for people’s rights has begun.

--Nuchi Curry

(1) <https://endcitizensunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ECU-Post-Elect-Public-Memo-FINAL-112018.pdf>

(2) <https://www.congress.gov/bills/116th-congress/house-bill/1/text>

(3) <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes/116-2019/h118>

APRIL 2019 EVENTS



Democratic Woman of the Year:
Congresswoman Maxine Waters

Students from Parkland, Florida will receive the Trailblazer Award to recognize their classmates' ability to turn tragedy into action to end gun violence. They have succeeded on several fronts. On March 9, 2018, Florida passed the first gun restrictions in 30 years, and also last March, Parkland students worked with groups across the country to organize "March for our Lives," the largest youth demonstration since the Vietnam era. In February of this year, the House passed the first two bills to increase gun safety in 20 years.

PRICE: \$150 Members, \$200 Non-Members, \$100 Young Dems, \$2,000 for Host Tables close to the front.

For Sponsorships and VIP Tables, contact:
mkirtane@democraticwoman.org.

Tuesday, April 2

WNDC Awards: Democratic Woman of the Year Award and Trailblazer Award

HOST COMMITTEE (in formation)

Michael Lee Beidler | Elizabeth Spiro Clark | Nuchhi Currier | Jim Epstein | Anna Fierst | Suzanne Finney | Shirley Henderson | Pamela Johnson | Shelly Livingston | Ellen McGovern | Ruthanne Miller | Robert Miller | Naomi Naierman | Carol L. Rogers | Kelly Williams

Celebrate with the WNDC as we bestow two distinct awards: The first honor goes to Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who will receive the Democratic Woman of the Year Award. In January, she became Chair of the House Financial Services Committee, the first woman and the first African-American to lead one of the most powerful Committees in Congress. During her almost four decades of public service, she has been a tireless advocate for women, children, people of color, and the poor. Rep. Waters has been instrumental in shaping public policy on issues ranging from housing and infrastructure to jobs and youth training to international peace and justice. An integral member of Congressional Democratic leadership, Rep. Waters has chaired the Congressional Black Caucus, and served in countless other leadership roles.



Trailblazer Award: Parkland Students

Thursday, April 4

Happy Hour for Young and Young-at-Heart Dems

TIME: 5:30-7:00pm

The Membership Committee invites all members to join us for a Happy Hour in the pub. We especially want to encourage new members to mingle with more experienced members and to get to know each other while sharing wonderful hors d'oeuvres and a glass of wine or a beer (included in the admission). We also will have a drawing for door prizes for the lucky winners.

PRICE: \$10 per person. Includes one glass of wine or beer.



Tuesday, April 9

Remembering Virginia: Tribute Luncheon for Virginia Lawton

TIME: 12:00pm

Virginia Lawton had many friends here at the WNDC. She worked with us for over 30 years, serving several terms on our Board of Governors, chairing the Nominating Committee and adding her considerable expertise to numerous committees. She brought "difficult to reach" speakers to our lectern. She traveled the world on our trips. Her talents and enthusiasm made our club more vibrant and intellectually oriented. We especially remember her zany sense of humor. Virginia died on January 6, 2019, after a long illness.

We will gather to tell her stories, share photographs and enjoy a luncheon in her honor on April 9. We look forward to meeting her family members who have promised to come.

PRICE: \$20 Members, \$25 Non-members for Lunch.



Tuesday, April 16

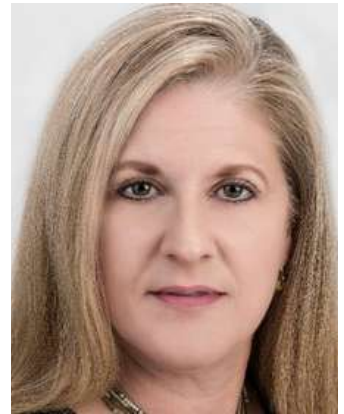
**Julie Burkhart:
Fighting for Reproductive
Justice with Perseverance -
"Come Hell or High Water"**

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

Ten years have passed since the assassination of Julie Burkhart's former boss and mentor, Dr. George Tiller, medical director of Women's Health Care Services.

Ms. Burkhart will reflect on the journey since her mentor's assassination and the rise of Trust Women, an organization that opens clinics that provide reproductive health care in underserved communities. She also will address the current political climate and how Trust Women, in the face of adversity, is continuing to push the movement so that all women in underserved communities will have access to reproductive health care.

PRICE: \$25 Members; \$30 Non-members; \$15 Young Dems (Includes lunch). \$10 Lecture Only



Thursday, April 18

Social Role of the Arts Series

**How Theater is dealing
with Gender Issues**

**Serge Seiden,
Managing Director
and Producer at
the Mosaic Theater**

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

How does the portrayal of women's and LGBTQ issues on the current stage reflect or illuminate the way these issues are being played out in our social and political arenas?

How does theater deal with these issues within its own ranks, notably the traditional dominance of white males in positions of power, of which the Me Too movement is just one manifestation?

Serge Seiden, award-winning Managing Director and Producer at Mosaic Theater, will cast light on these issues based on his long and varied experience in both DC and national theaters.

PRICE: \$25 Members; \$30 Non-members; \$15 Young Dems (Includes lunch). \$10 Lecture Only



Thursday, April 25

Peter Edelman

**Not a Crime to Be Poor:
The Criminalization of
Poverty in America**

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

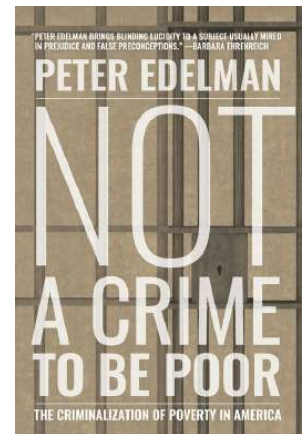
Mr. Edelman has spoken at the Club before and has had an outstanding career, while working with many administrations and organizations. During the Clinton years, he gained recognition for resigning to protest the Administration's welfare reform legislation. He has specialized in the fields of poverty, welfare, juvenile justice, and constitutional law. Edelman worked for RFK and was also the winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award for the book being presented.

In his introduction, he quotes the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Bryan Stevenson, "The opposite of poverty is not wealth. It is justice." That thought goes to the heart of Mr. Edelman's life work.

Our speaker is the Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law and Public Policy and the Faculty Director of the Center on Poverty and Inequality at Georgetown Law Center.

The book will be available for purchase and signing.

PRICE: \$25 Members; \$30 Non-members; \$15 Young Dems (Includes lunch). \$10 Lecture Only



Spring into Action!

**WNDC is reviving its
Winning Wednesdays!**

The Democrats won back the House. Now we've got our eyes set on special elections in Wisconsin, North Carolina, and elsewhere. Join us anytime from 5-8 pm every other Wednesday, beginning March 27, as we phone- and text-bank. On March 27, our candidate is Judge Lisa Neubauer, who is running for a position on the Wisconsin state supreme court. **For more, see Page 4 in this month's Political Dispatch.**

WNDC – Educational Foundation

International Women’s Day Celebration with an International Panel of Senior Women Diplomats | Thursday, March 7, 2019

International Women's Day is marked every year as a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The theme for IWD 2019 was #BalanceforBetter, a call for action to build a gender-balanced world. To mark the occasion, the WNDC Educational Foundation held a panel luncheon featuring senior female diplomats from the U.S., Malaysia, Spain, and Yemen. They took WNDC's motto, "From the Right to Vote ... the Power to Lead" and applied those words to conditions in their own countries.



IWD Panelists with students, teachers and program arrangers.

The four diplomats shared their thoughts with an audience of WNDC members, guests, high school students and their teachers from the Columbia Heights Educational Campus, the Francis Cardozo Educational Campus, and the Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts (image above).



Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley (Ret.), USA

Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley, the panel moderator, most recently served in Malta under the Obama Administration. As an American woman of color, she had many lessons to share with the students in the audience. She began by asking each panelist to explain what launched her career as a diplomat.



Her Excellency (HE) Amat Alsoswa, Yemen

HE Amat Alsoswa is a trailblazer for peace and women's leadership in Yemen. She was Yemen's first Minister of Human Rights and first female Ambassador to the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. *"Becoming a diplomat is not something that happens because you studied international affairs. I was lucky to be among the first women to represent my country abroad. I brought with me a long career in journalism, working in the public arena, and engaging with issues of gender equality."*



HE Murni Abdul Hamid, Malaysia

Her Excellency currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington. She has served her country at the United Nations and in the Netherlands, as well as in Malaysia's Foreign Ministry. *"It wasn't by chance that I became a diplomat. I was interested in international affairs. Everyone in my family expected me to become a lawyer because they all are lawyers and doctors. They did not understand what a woman diplomat would do. I was not sure if I wanted to teach or practice. I tried teaching for a year but didn't like it. So, I passed the exam and joined the Foreign Service."*



HE Concepcion Figuerola Santos, Spain

Her Excellency is the Spanish representative to the Organization of American States and was Spain's ambassador to Namibia. *"I never thought of myself as a diplomat when I was working for a bank. I didn't like it – I had a good job and a great salary, but my job was not fulfilling. So I quit. My mum was so angry at me. But I loved languages and so I decided to become a diplomat."*

The audience members also asked questions such as what qualities are important for a female diplomat, whether their countries have career-development programs for girls, how to cope with gender and racial profiling, etc. The moderator ended the talk by asking for final words of career advice for student audience members.

HE Murni Abdul Hamid – *"Follow your passion: you'll find a way if you do. Try, do your best, give it your all. Then, if you don't like it, you can always change. Don't let fear restrain you from trying something new."*

HE Concepcion Figuerola Santos – *"Insist on knowing who you are. Never be afraid, we all make mistakes, and life is trial and error. Fall and learn to stand up again and again. There is no one path. There is just you."*

HE Amat Alsoswa – *"Continue to prepare yourself. When you are there, you don't know when you will need certain information. The world is not predictable but this is where you can chart your own way. We all need to look for a state of peace in the world so if you are going to be a diplomat, this will be your focus."*

Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley – *"Be prepared to advocate for yourself and to speak up about what you bring to the table. Get comfortable with saying it because the guys do it very well."*



--Gretchen Bloom and Patricia Bitondo, Co-chairs of IWD event, and Melinda Burrell, GOTV Task Force Chair



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Sunday, May 12

Mother's Day Brunch

An Educational Foundation Event

TIME: 11:30am - 2:00pm

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. 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.



save the date

APRIL

2019

MONDAY	01	TUESDAY	02	WEDNESDAY	03	THURSDAY	04	FRIDAY	05
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Health Policy Task Force Mtg 5:00pm		Luncheon Available with Reservation WNDC Awards 7:00pm		Luncheon Available with Reservation		Luncheon Available with Reservation Happy Hour 5:30pm		Luncheon Available with Reservation	
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MONDAY	08	TUESDAY	09	WEDNESDAY	10	THURSDAY	11	FRIDAY	12
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Communications Committee Mtg 6:15pm		Luncheon Available with Reservation Virginia Lawton Memorial Luncheon GOTV Task Force Mtg. 6:30am		Luncheon Available with Reservation Executive Committee Mtg 10:30am Newsletter Deadline		Luncheon Available with Reservation Program Committee Mtg 12:30pm		Educational Foundation Board Mtg 10:00am Luncheon Available with Reservation	
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MONDAY	15	TUESDAY	16	WEDNESDAY	17	THURSDAY	18	FRIDAY	19
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		Luncheon Available with Reservation Julie Burkhart Luncheon Building & Grounds/Art & Museum Affairs Committees Mtg 2:00pm		Board of Governors Mtg. 10:30am Luncheon Available with Reservation		Luncheon Available with Reservation Serge Seiden Luncheon Membership Committee Mtg 4:30pm Public Policy Committee Mtg 5:00pm		Luncheon Available with Reservation	
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MONDAY	22	TUESDAY	23	WEDNESDAY	24	THURSDAY	25	FRIDAY	26
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		Luncheon Available with Reservation Social & Economic Justice Task Force Mtg 2:30pm		Luncheon Available with Reservation		Luncheon Available with Reservation Peter Edelman Luncheon		Luncheon Available with Reservation	
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MONDAY	29	TUESDAY	30
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		Luncheon Available with Reservation	
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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 at (202) 232-7363 | Cancellation policy: Credit is given if cancellations are made at least two business days in advance.



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1526 New Hampshire Ave NW

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**MAY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: APRIL 10**

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:

Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor

Carol L. Rogers, Vice President of Communications

Ina Descartes, Design and Production Editor

ON THE RADAR

Tuesday, May 7 (Lunch)

Congressman John Larson

Thursday, May 9 (Evening)

New Members Reception

Thursday, May 9 (Evening)

Art Exhibition Reception: Regina Miele

Sunday, May 12 (Morning)

Educational Foundation Mother's Day Brunch

Tuesday, May 14 (Evening)

Nancy MacLean: "Democracy in Chains"

Thursday, May 23 (Lunch)

Dorothy Butler Gilliam

**YOUR MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**



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