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

www démocraticwoman.org
Elections are the operative theme this month. The WNDC held its annual election under its new by-laws, ushering in a new crop of highly qualified officers. They will be replacing an equally impressive and committed group that has agreed to stay engaged and active. We are indeed fortunate to have visionary leaders who will take us into our next century. We plan to hold a day-long retreat with all these leaders, past and present, to discuss the WNDC strategic plan.

And then there is the U.S. Presidential election. Democratic campaign activities are already at fever pitch, even though the election is still 16 months away. The 24 Democratic contestants have been honing their policy positions and waging vigorous campaigns in early primary states. The first Democratic debate of 20 candidates in June will be followed by monthly contests until the field is winnowed down to the final contestants leading up to the Democratic convention in July. Excitement is in the air. The Republican race, however, looks like a sprint to war. Governor William Weld, the only candidate challenging President Trump, is running a quiet race. Not so the brash incumbent. Misrepresentation of polling results, bravado, name-calling, administration and campaign personnel shake-ups, stoking fear of international pacts and immigrants, trade wars, and the specter of war with Iran—the politics of disruption and destruction continues to play a central role this season.

We are already engaged in nine wars, never declared or directed by Congress. Provoking one with Iran, in order to win an election, would be disastrous for the nation. In times of war, the law is silent. Dissent is crushed. Freedom of speech, privacy, and due process are abandoned. People are killed, maimed, and traumatized. The financial cost is high. Best estimates place the collective financial costs of the ongoing unconstitutional presidential wars at $5 to $6 trillion. Approximately 50% of the national debt, which exceeds $22 trillion, can be attributed to these wars. Even costlier is the diversion of national genius from production to proficiency in killing. The money fueling the war machine comes at the expense of unbuilt schools, un repaired roads and bridges, unconstructed hospitals, and underfunding of Social Security.

Our nation needs to return to civility, compassion, reflection, and the pursuit of the common good. Let the upcoming elections pave the way for that. Getting the vote out, registering new voters, and motivating those sitting on the fence should be our goals this crucial year. We have much at stake. Let us join hands with other democratic institutions to defeat the forces of discord, disruption, and venal self-interest.

--Nuchhi Currier
Tuesday, July 9

Confirmation Bias: Inside Washington's War Over the Supreme Court


Antonin Scalia’s unexpected death in February 2016 created a vacancy that precipitated a pitched political fight. That battle would not only change the tilt of the court, but the course of American history. In an unprecedented move, the Republican-controlled Senate, led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, refused to give Obama’s nominee, Merrick Garland, a confirmation hearing. Scalia’s seat would be held open until Donald Trump’s nominee, Neil M. Gorsuch, was confirmed in April 2017. In Confirmation Bias, Hulse uses exclusive interviews with McConnell, Harry Reid, Chuck Schumer, Trump campaign operatives, court activists, and legal scholars.

Richly textured and deeply informative, Confirmation Bias provides much-needed context. Hulse revisits the judicial wars of the past two decades to show how those conflicts have led to our current polarization. He takes us behind the scenes to show us how our long-held democratic norms and entrenched bipartisan procedures have disappeared across all three branches of government.

At the Times, Hulse writes “On Washington,” his regular and widely-read column chronicling developments in the capital from the perspective of a 30-year veteran of reporting on the federal government. Hulse was born in Ottawa, Illinois, and, after his graduation from Illinois State University, began his career at newspapers in Illinois and Florida. He is also the drummer in a Capitol Hill garage band, The Native Makers.

The book will be available for purchase and signing.

TICKETS: $45 WNDC Members, $65 GWAIC Members, $70 Non-members of either organization. Includes dinner. Business attire suggested.

Tuesday, July 2

WNDC Tours: National Portrait Gallery
Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence

TIME: 10-11:00am
Meet at 9:45am in front of F Street Entrance.
Address: 800 F St NW, Washington, DC 20036

“Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence” reveals the women and organizations often overlooked in the complex narrative of women’s suffrage in the United States. Curator Kate Clarke Lemay will lead WNDC members through a tour of the exhibition, which outlines the more than 80-year movement to obtain the right to vote as part of the larger struggle for equality that continued through the 1965 Civil Rights Act and arguably lingers today.

“Votes for Women” also sheds light on the racial struggles of the suffrage movement and how African American women, often excluded by white women from the main suffrage organizations, organized for citizenship rights (including the right to vote).

PRICE: $10 Members | $15 Non-members. Tour limited to 20 participants. Optional Lunch at the NPG Cafe after the tour.

Wednesday, July 10

Wednesday, July 24

Winning Wednesday

Join us on July 12 and 24 for all-out support of our great Democratic candidates in the special elections for North Carolina’s 3rd and 9th Congressional districts. Here are our chances to pick up more House seats! Come phonebank and write postcards - and keep the Blue Wave going!

Please bring a charged phone and your laptop/tablet for phone or text-banking, as we cannot provide them.

TICKETS: This event is free and open to anyone, but advance registration is appreciated. Please bring a friend!
**Tuesday, July 16**

**Catherine Lutz**  
**The Costs of War Project: Changing the Narrative, Ending the Wars**

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

Punchline-packed speeches reveal the feisty and unadulterated life of legendary Texas Governor Ann Richards. Written by Emmy Award-winning actress and writer Holland Taylor (“The Practice,” “Two and a Half Men”), “Ann” is a comical and inspiring production based on the colorful and complex woman whose sense of humor was bigger than the state she represented. Jayne Atkinson (“House of Cards,” “Criminal Minds”) reprises her well-received performance in this intimate, no-holds-barred comedy chronicling Richards’ legacy and how she was determined to make her mark on the world. “Frank, funny and warm” (New York Times), “Ann” is a captivating tribute to Richards’ life as an activist, politician, and feminist.

**PRICE:** $45 per ticket. Only 25 tickets available.

**Thursday, July 18**

**“Ann” at the Arena Stage**

**TIME:** 8:00pm

Join WNDC members and fellow Democrats and progressives for our annual End-of-Season BBQ. At press time, we are arranging for a bluegrass band.

Over the last year we helped elect the most diverse Congress in history and more women to serve in public office than ever before. We have celebrated Democratic leaders, held four beautiful art exhibitions, opened our in-house cafe four days a week, marched, encouraged voter registration, involved young Democrats, maintained and improved the Whittemore House (e.g., the Baby Democrats’ Comfort Lounge, the new copper bay over the front door, landscaping, new doors to the garden), and we continue all these activities.

Now, let’s take a moment to celebrate what we’ve achieved and revel in the community we have. Join us for the annual barbeque before we all take a month off to recharge for the year ahead.

**PRICE:** $35 Members, $40 Non-Members, $25 Young Dems, $15 guests under 16 years old. Cash Bar. Ticket includes one complimentary festive cocktail.

**Tuesday, July 25**

**Summer BBQ**

**TIME:** 5:30pm Bar opens, 6:00pm Buffet opens, 7:00pm Music Performance starts

Join the WNDC and our Democratic field of candidates as we continue the 2020 Democratic Primary Debates! The second debate, hosted by CNN, will take place in Detroit and will bring this crowded field to a battleground state which Trump won. These evening debates mark our second opportunity to compare our future Democratic leaders. Over drinks, dessert and party games, let’s share our views and take-aways and debate the merits of each candidate. A straw vote will take place immediately following the debate. Other activist groups are joining us for this history-making evening!

**PRICE:** This event is free, but registration is recommended.

**Thursday, July 31**

**Democratic Presidential Primary Candidates Debate Watch Party**

**TIME:** 7:30pm Bar opens; 9:00 -11:00pm Debate

The US war on terrorism, launched by the Bush administration in Afghanistan in 2001, is ongoing and has been extremely costly. Brown University began the Costs of War Project in 2010 to provide the American public and government officials with a comprehensive overview of the human health, sociopolitical, environmental, and budgetary consequences of the wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and now dozens of other sites of the “war on terror.”

Dr. Lutz describes the Project’s main findings, which include many hidden or unacknowledged costs of the U.S. decision to respond to the 9/11 attacks with military force. It describes the outreach strategy intended to facilitate public and congressional debate about those costs of the post–9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our speaker is a professor at Brown University and co-founded and directs the Costs of War Project at Brown’s Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. She has also consulted with the UN’s Department of Peacekeeping Operations on sexual exploitation and abuse among peacekeepers and with the government of Guam on the U.S. military’s contamination of the island.

**PRICE:** $25 Members; $30 Non-members; $15 Young Dems (Includes lunch); $10 Lecture only.
Meet our 2019 Summer Interns

Sara Goldberg is a rising junior at Viewpoint School in Los Angeles CA. Her interest in politics emerged after the 2016 presidential election. Sara is most passionate about criminal justice reform, women’s healthcare, and the elimination of gun violence.

Rebecca Keteltas is a rising Junior at Tulane University, majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Psychology and Vocal Performance. Rebecca is most passionate about environmental justice issues and she is largely focused on these subjects in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast area. In her career, Rebecca hopes to use her education to find new ways to engage people on these complex issues and fight for the environment and people of New Orleans.

Macquarie “Q” Simon is a rising junior at Lafayette College, pursuing an Environmental Studies and Social Justice double major. Q has dedicated her education to studying the interdisciplinary nature of equity that centers around gender, the environment, race, class, and representation inequalities in the United States. In addition to her coursework, Q is a member of Lafayette’s D1 tennis team, directs all philanthropic and foundation endeavors for her sorority, and is an active member in Lafayette’s environmental, investment, and policy clubs on campus. Following her undergraduate years, Q hopes to attend law school, business school, or earn a master’s degree and pursue corporate social responsibility.

Louise “Loulou” Sloss is currently a rising sophomore at Phillips Academy, a boarding school in Massachusetts. She is from New York City and utilizes the opportunities her city provides by engaging in political and cultural events. At Andover, she is on the board of the Intersectional Feminist Club and is an avid participant in political conversations on campus.

Megan Rodriguez is a rising sophomore at Columbia University where she studies Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies. She also is involved with the school's Mock Trial team and is a contributing writer and editor for the Columbia Undergraduate Law Review. Megan is most passionate about women’s issues and efforts to achieve socioeconomic and legal equality for marginalized communities. She hopes to one day go to law school and later work with non-profits and government organizations to advocate for communities in need.

Adriana M. Teluk majors in International Relations at La Salle University where she is a rising senior. As a native to the greater Washington D.C. area and having lived in Ukraine, she is involved with Ukrainian-American community advocacy. Her deep understanding of Eurasian regions adds a unique perspective to this work. Adriana is also focused on intersectional issues such as advancing the rights and equality of oppressed groups like women, minorities and LGBTQ+ members. She hopes to create a more just and safe world for people of all backgrounds, reflected through her work on the Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign and Nuchhi Currier’s 2018 state delegate campaign.
ON JULY 10th, 2019

The WNDC Educational Foundation launched its year-long tribute honoring the centennial of the 19th Amendment and the ongoing fight for universal suffrage with an immersive evening of song, dance and theater. Songs of Suffrage brought to life the voices of women who struggled to win the right to vote over more than a century. (Women today are challenged as we come together to complete the unfinished agenda of universal suffrage.)

At our evening event, Silent Sentinels held protest signs as they greeted guests to the historic Whittemore House. “Sojourner Truth” held the audience spellbound with her life history and perspective on suffrage. The evening had a memorable finale when the 101-year-old former ballet dancer, Therrell Smith, performed and was presented with an Honorary Membership in WNDC.

To recognize the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, the WNDC Educational Foundation created a commemorative 18-month wall calendar (starts in July 2019) entitled “Women and the Vote: A Centennial Calendar.” Each page is a tribute to the many thousands of women who toiled from the Revolution onward and who continue the fight today to assure that all women have the vote. It is richly illustrated with photos and drawings as well as “factoids” about the suffragists and their critical role in women’s history.

The calendar is available at WNDC and at the EF online shop at WNDCEducationalFoundation.org for $20 (including sales tax). Donations are also welcome so that calendars can be given to teachers for their history, government and other courses.

Left to right: Carol Schwartz, Denise Rodark-Barnes, former DC mayor Sharon Pratt-Kelly, Therrell Smith, Judith Terra, Antoinette Ford, Janice Davis
## July 2019

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<tr>
<td>Health Policy TF Mtg. 5:00pm</td>
<td>Votes for Women, National Portrait Gallery Tour 10:00am</td>
<td>Luncheon Available with Reservation</td>
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<td>Public Policy Committee Mtg. 5:30pm</td>
<td>Program Committee Mtg 10:30am</td>
<td>Luncheon Available with Reservation</td>
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<td>Educational Foundation Board Mtg. 10:00am</td>
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<td>Luncheon Available with Reservation</td>
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<td>Luncheon Available with Reservation</td>
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<td>Building &amp; Grounds/Art &amp; Museum Affairs Committees Mtg. 2:00pm</td>
<td>Catherine Lutz Speaker Luncheon</td>
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<td>&quot;Ann&quot; at Arena Stage 8:00pm</td>
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<td>Social &amp; Economic Justice Task Force Mtg 2:30pm</td>
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<td>Winning Wednesday 6:00pm</td>
<td>Summer BBQ 5:30pm</td>
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<td>Luncheon Available with Reservation</td>
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<td>Reminder: The Club is closed in August for member-related activities.</td>
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<td>Democratic Debate Watch Party 7:30pm</td>
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Lunch Service 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.
BA Women’s Alliance - Meet and Greet

The BA Women’s Alliance is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization which supports the educational, personal, and professional development of women who seek to make a difference in the world.

Our signature program, EmpowHER a BA Women initiative, is an application-based, 8-week intensive summer program in Washington, D.C. designed for progressive women. EmpowHER provides participants, who already have Washington, D.C.-based internships, access to customized professional and leadership development opportunities, field-specific mentors, and invitations to a variety of networking and social events. And (perhaps most importantly), EmpowHER invites our participants into a lifelong network of supportive BA Women—the ultimate feminist girl gang.

We’re excited to partner with the WNDC this summer to host our weekly programming, as well as to forge lifelong connections between our members. Because we see the priceless value of connecting totally awesome generations of progressive women in D.C., we’re pleased to invite you to a networking event prior to our scheduled programming the evening of July 10th. We will be mixing and mingling in the Pub Room upstairs, complete with light refreshments and a cash bar from 5:00 - 6:00pm.

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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: AUGUST 7

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 mkirtane@democraticwoman.org

Publisher Information:
Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor
Winfield Swanson, Director of Communications
Ina Descartes, Design and Production Editor

On The Radar
Tuesday, September 17 (Evening)
New Members Reception
Tuesday, September 17 (Evening)
Art Exhibition Reception: Ken Bachman
Tuesday, September 24
Helen Zughaib on Syrian migration