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

www.democraticwoman.org
We approach the fall of 2019 with rising hope and anticipation. Change is in the air. It should begin this November with a blue Virginia. And then we hope to ride on the crest of that wave into our celebrations for the Suffrage Centennial and the Presidential Elections in 2020. The WNDC will swing into full gear mid-September, strengthening the scope of our Winning Wednesdays and accommodating activist groups at the nation’s progressive hub. If the 2018 midterms are any indicator, we have a winning season ahead!

Why are the Virginia state elections so important? These are the last elections before the state government redraws congressional and state legislative districts after the 2020 Census. If Democrats win the House and the state Senate they will have a trifecta and full control of Virginia’s government during redistricting. That would decisively halt the racial gerrymandering Republicans have been engineering so effectively. Despite winning the statewide popular vote by more than 9 percentage points in 2017, Democrats lost the statehouse by a narrow margin.

A Virginia win in 2019 should also result in sending powerful reverberations across the entire national election grid—energizing swing states for the battles ahead. There is a strong likelihood that Democrats will win the Senate in 2020. They just need a gain of 3 to 4 seats to take control. Once the Democratic presidential candidate is selected, the push to wrest the White House from the grubby hands of the current occupant will gather full steam as well. We anticipate an exciting, if nerve-racking, 2020 political season.

A Virginia Democratic win impacts another major initiative—the Equal Rights Amendment. The proposed amendment to the US Constitution would outlaw discrimination based on sex, providing Congress with firmer grounding to pass anti-discrimination laws, while giving lawsuits more strength in the courts. With reproductive rights under fresh assault, women need the protection of the ERA as never before. Congress approved the ERA for ratification by the states in 1972. But for years, bills to ratify the ERA have never passed Virginia’s (Republican) House even though the Senate has approved it four times before. If Virginia ratifies the ERA it will be the 38th state to do so. Having 38 states on board would meet the US Constitution’s threshold for approval, but it would also likely spark battles in the courts and Congress over a long-passed 1982 deadline and various other legal issues.

None of these triumphs will be easy. There is a lot to be done. But we feel that the electorate is energized as never before. Young Democrats are passionate about preventing gun violence and preserving the environment. Women are ready to fight harder for their rights, and immigrants and minorities realize what is at stake. Groups across the country are mobilizing to get out the vote. We are ready for all the challenges ahead. The centennial of women’s suffrage reminds us that we can overcome obstacles and achieve success, however long the road and tough the journey.

—Nuchhi Currier
Winning Wednesdays are back! After a brief (and much enjoyed) summer hiatus, we rev into the Fall ready to rally. Every week, starting now until Nov 5, 2020, we focus on getting out the vote for the crucial state elections in Virginia, and other state elections around the country.

We need to win **two** State Senate seats and **two** House of Delegate seats to regain a Democratic majority in the Virginia General Assembly.

The WNDC will directly support **six** races:
- **Two** Democratic candidates for State Senate in districts currently held by Republicans
- **Two** State House races in districts that are vulnerable Democratic seats
- **Two** Republican State House seats we believe the Democrats can win

Stay tuned for our candidate announcement after Labor Day!

We will support campaigns in state elections across the country, with particular emphasis on rallying the Democratic vote in the Kentucky gubernatorial race and in preparation for 2020. Be scared, Mitch McConnell, be very scared.

**EVERY Wednesday**
Starting September 4, 6-8pm

- Phonebanking
- Letter & Postcard Writing
- Fundraising

We will collaborate with a range of partners and work together to make a difference.

If you know a group who would like to participate in Winning Wednesdays, please contact mkirtane@democraticwoman.org

We know that some of you can’t always make it to Winning Wednesdays.

Here are other ways you can help:

- Make a donation to support Winning Wednesdays! Each Wednesday evening costs the WNDC approximately $1000
- Bring rolls of stamps for voter registration letters and postcards
- Donate an old laptop, headsets or tablet for phone- and text-banking
Summer Update & Actions

Relentless incidents of gun violence continued through the summer. From Virginia Beach (VA) to Gilroy (CA) to El Paso (TX) to Dayton (OH), lives were, yet again, meaninglessly lost.

More than 150 days have gone by since the House passed H.R. 8, legislation for background checks. The nation has been waiting, tirelessly, on the Senate to send the bill to the floor. Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader, has consistently refused to take any action or pay heed to the will of the majority of the American people.

During the recess, WNDC joined the "recess rallies" with D.C.'s Moms Demand Action to ask Americans to urge their Senators to push forward H.R. 8 and the Red Flag bill to help prevent future gun violence tragedies.

Legal News

Everytown for Gun Safety won a major Federal court ruling requiring the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms & Explosives (AFT) to provide data on gun violence. This ruling overturned the 2003 Tiahrt Rider Amendment which allowed ATF to withhold its firearms tracing data under the Freedom of Information Act. This ruling breaks new ground.

Legislative Update

200 Democrats and Republican Rep. Peter King, have co-sponsored H.R. 1296, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2019. With 201 votes, the bipartisan bill needs only 17 votes to pass the House. The Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jerry Nadler, announced he will be holding a hearing on assault weapons on September 25, 2019. Sen. Diane Feinstein's companion bill, S. 506, has 30 co-sponsors.

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), H.R. 1236, also known as the Red Flag bill, will be marked up on Sept. 4. Reps. Nadler, D-NY and Collins, R-OH, are co-sponsors. Reps. Feinstein (D-CA) and Sen. Graham's (R-SC) companion bill in the Senate is S. 506 which would put forth extreme risk laws, establish civil protection orders, temporarily prohibit the purchase or possession of a firearm, and require the removal of firearms from persons deemed to be risks to themselves or others.

The Virginia Republican leadership adjourned their special legislative session on gun violence prevention this June in less than 90 minutes. Bills were never brought to the floor for a vote. Looking ahead, all 140 state legislators are up for re-election. These elections are critical as they give us the opportunity to elect a General Assembly that will finally pass laws to keep Virginians safe.

We invite you to join our task force efforts. Contact Ellen McGovern at ellen.mcgovern@gmail.com, if interested. Together we can make a difference!
SEPTEMBER 2019 EVENTS

Wednesday, September 11

What the Constitution Means To Me

TIME: 8:00 pm
ADDRESS: Kennedy Center
2700 F St NW, Washington, DC 20566

Join WNDC members for a theater outing at the Kennedy Center and Eisenhower Theater to see, What the Constitution Means to Me! This boundary-breaking play breathes new life into our Constitution and imagines how it will shape the next generation of American women.

The winner of an Obie Award, Heidi Schreck reflects on her family's multi-generations of women and how our country's founding document shaped their rights and citizenship.

There are just a few tickets left. Reserve yours now!

PRICE: $63

Thursday, September 12 & Friday, September 13

Debate Watch Party

TIME: 6:30-10:00pm

They say third time's the charm—maybe that applies to finding a debate format that works well?

We are back with another don't-miss Debate Watch Party. A smaller number of candidates will bring more in-depth opportunities to see the front runners engage. Over drinks, dessert, and games—did someone say bingo?—let's share our views and take-aways. Maybe we'll even erupt into our own mini debate over the merits of each candidate (podiums not included).

PRICE: Free, but registration is appreciated.

Tuesday, September 17

Celinda Lake

Navigating the 2019 & 2020 election cycles: What to Look For, Who to Listen To

TIME: 11:30—Bar opens; 12:15 pm—Lunch served; 1:00pm - 2:00 pm—Presentation

We have two critical election cycles coming up. With all the theories, campaign promises, and tweets out there, it's hard to know what we should be paying attention to as the unexpected unfolds this year and next. What are the lessons learned from the 2016 and 2018 elections, what demographic and political trends should we track, how will explosive issues (abortion, immigration, gun reform) play out in this election? How can the Democratic Party frame issues so they resonate with voters? When and how much should we listen to the polls?

Celinda Lake, one of the nation's foremost political strategists, will answer our questions, and walk us through what she sees as the critical markers of the 2019 and 2020 elections. Ms. Lake has served as tactician and senior advisor to the national party committees, dozens of Democratic incumbents, and challengers at all levels of the electoral process. American Politics calls her a "super-strategist or, better yet, the Godmother," and Working Woman says she is "arguably the most influential woman in her field." Her firm, Lake Research Partners, is one of the most respected Democratic polling firms in the country.

PRICE: $25 members | $30 non-members | $10 lecture only
Thursday, September 19

New Members’ Reception

TIME: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

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 have joined in 2019 are especially invited to get to know other members and to learn more about the superb line-up of activities and opportunities the Club offers. We invite you to attend the Art Exhibition Opening immediately following the reception.

TICKET: Free, but registration is required.

Thursday, September 19

Ken Bachman Art Exhibition Opening

TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Please join us for the opening of artist Ken Bachman’s latest exhibition “Echoes of Beauty.” This solo exhibition of oil paintings features landscape scenes from many different locales in this country and abroad whose uncommon beauty and interest inspired him. The scenes that intrigue him are not the standard views, but ones unique to each location where its particular atmosphere dictates his composition and response. He is drawn to landscapes where the contrast of light and shadow and the subtle play of their colors create a special natural beauty. After a 40-year career as a lawyer, he has for the last six years, concentrated fully on his art. Over the past two years, Mr. Bachman has received more than 20 awards for his artwork in juried exhibitions. Several of his paintings have been selected by jurors from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Gallery of Art, the Phillips Collection, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Athenaeum for stringently selective exhibits.

TICKET: Free, but registration is recommended.

Thursday, September 19

DC Statehood Hearing

TIME: 10 am

On September 19th, the House of Representatives Oversight and Reform Committee is holding a historic hearing on the Washington DC Admission Act H.R. 51. This is a huge opportunity to show Congress the people of DC want full equality, full representation, and full self-government. All supporters of democracy, including allies from the states, are urged to attend the hearing to show it is time to end taxation without representation.

Attend the hearing, drive turnout, volunteer to help raise awareness, become a part of the welcome team at the Rayburn Building! Find ways to get involved at showup4dc.com/get-involved. The WNDC will also be screening the hearing, and all those who cannot go up to Capitol Hill are welcome to watch at the Club.

Tuesday, September 17

Young Dems Kickoff Meeting & Happy Hour

TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

The Young Dems Committee is relaunching this Fall and we want you to join the team. With the 2020 election cycle already in full swing, this is a critical time to join together, with young Democrats, to mobilize around policies and candidates that reflect our values. With your help, we will do just that.

Join us as we kick off a year of coalition-building and action.

PRICE: Free, but committee signup is required.

Gondola View, 14” x 18”, oil on canvas, Ken Bachman
Potomac Autumn, 18” x 24,”oil on linen board, Ken Bachman


**Tuesday, September 24**

Helen Zughaib

**Painting the Syrian Migration and Anti-Immigrant Sentiment**

**TIME:** 11:30—Bar opens; 12:15 pm—Lunch served; 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm—Presentation

In late 2010, “Arab Spring” ushered in high hopes for change in the Middle East. Optimism abounded. But, as the months and years have passed, this Arab Spring has devolved into a hideous war in Syria and there is no end in sight.

Over the past three years, acclaimed Washington-based artist Helen Zughaib has created a series of 25 paintings that tell the stories of Syrian refugees fleeing war, starvation, chemical attacks, and imprisonment. The inspiration for her series was the narrative painting of Jacob Lawrence’s 1940-41 “Migration Series” depicting the mass movement of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North between World War I and World War II.

Helen Zughaib will walk us through her Syrian migration series and Mr. Lawrence’s companion paintings. The result is a personal and powerful narrative that “show(s) the dignity, beauty, and perseverance of people fleeing in hopes of a better life.”

**TICKETS:** $25 members | $30 non-members | $10 lecture only


day, 6:30-8:30 pm

Join the Woman’s National Democratic Club and co-hosts, DC for Democracy, Jews United for Justice, Greater Greater Washington, and other organizations to ask candidates for DC’s Ward 2 Council seat about their vision and priorities for the Ward and the District.

Candidates Kishan Putta, Patrick Kennedy, Jordan Grossman, John Fanning, and Daniel Hernandez are confirmed to attend. Councilmember Jack Evans has not filed for re-election but has been invited.
WNDC OFFICERS
President: Nuchhi Currier
Vice President: Heather Bonnie McCabe
Treasurer: Karen O’Connor
Co-Secretaries: Cheryl Gannon, Pege Gilgannon
Assistant Secretary: Adele Dodson

Directors:
Building and Grounds: Michael Lee Beidler
Communications: Winfield Swanson
Human Resources: Winfield Swanson
Public Policy: Karen Pataky
Programs: Molly McCartney, Kalindi Winfield
Membership:
Linda Wiessler-Hughes & Michael Hughes
Visual Arts & Museum Affairs: Nuzhat Sultan
Public Liaison: Patricia Bitondo, Gretchen Bloom

Committee Chairpersons
Arts & Museum: Nuzhat Sultan
By-Laws: Susan Rao
Communications: Winfield Swanson
Get-Out-the-Vote: Melinda Burrell
Program Planning: Molly McCartney, Kalindi Winfield
Membership: Linda Wiessler-Hughes & Michael Hughes

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Vice President: Nuzhat Sultan
Financial Secretary: Michael Lee Beidler
Secretary: Christine Clemons
Patricia Bitondo
Elizabeth Clark

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Gretaclon Bloom
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Economic Policy: Romina Kazandjian

Global Women:
Veena Trehan
Gun Violence:
Prevention: Ellen McGovern
Health Policy:
Karen Pataky

Human Rights & Democracy:
Elizabeth Clark
Legal and Constitutional Issues:
Kristina Groennings
Social Justice:
Veena Trehan

Women’s Voices:
An Oral History of DC Women
Training sessions for interviewers, Sept. 26 & Oct. 3

In May, Humanities DC awarded the EF a grant, Women’s Voices: An Oral History of DC Women. We will interview thirty women working with American University’s Department of Public History. The target population is the first generation of DC women born after the passage of the 19th Amendment (although we have a few women who are over 100!).

Interested Club members are welcome to participate. We are holding two training sessions for interviewers on Thursday, September 26 and Thursday, Oct. 3 from 10am - 2pm.

As part of the grant we will also train five students at the Richard Wright School of Journalism and Media Arts who will prepare a video to share with other high school students on conducting oral histories.

To learn more and to sign up for one of the training sessions, please contact Judy Hubbard, Project Manager, hubbard.judy@gmail.com, (202) 277-5089

News from the Educational Foundation
On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment became law. This year we marked the day at Women’s Equality Day events in Washington with Mayor Bowser and in Boston with the Massachusetts Suffrage Centennial Coalition. We kicked off a year when we will honor the many women who fought so long to gain the right to vote and a year when we recommit to finish the agenda that they began.

Women and the Vote:
Centennial Calendars

We are now distributing our Centennial calendars at the Club, the Lincoln Memorial bookshop, the Belmont Paul Museum, and local shops as well as nationwide in partnership with the National Federation of Democratic Women, the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, the National Women’s History Alliance and via Amazon and Etsy.

Do you have a favorite state or school where you would like to support civic education? Please help us raise funds to put “Calendars in Classrooms” in order to strengthen history and civics teachers’ understanding of women’s suffrage. Thanks to former WNDC President, Sandi Bieri, and Nancy Beckley, we have raised $4,100 for schools in Maryland, Texas, Washington, DC, and elsewhere so far.

https://wndceducationalfoundation.org/donate

Thanks to a generous donation from Patricia Karp, we were able to support critical work to protect art and archival material in the Whittemore House. Completed in August.
# September 2019

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<td>Luncheon Available with Reservation</td>
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<td>Program Committee Mtg. 12:30pm</td>
<td>Educational Foundation Board Mtg. 10:00am</td>
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<td>What the Constitution Means To Me @ Kennedy Center</td>
<td>Membership Committee Mtg. 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Democratic Debate Watch Party*</td>
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<td>Celinda Lake Speaker Luncheon Young Dems Kickoff Meeting &amp; Happy Hour</td>
<td>Board of Directors Mtg. 10:30 am</td>
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<td>New Members’ Reception Ken Bachman Art Exhibition Opening</td>
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<td>Visual Art &amp; Museum Affairs Committee Mtg. 10:30am</td>
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<td>Helen Zughaib Speaker Luncheon GVP Task Force Meeting Mtg. 6:15 pm</td>
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*To Be Determined
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
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.
New Website
We are getting a digital makeover! Visit us on September 15th at democraticwoman.org to see our new website. And while you’re on there, send the link to every Democrat you know!

Museum Docent Project
The Visual Arts & Museum Affairs Committee is launching a new docent project! Join them for their meeting on Tuesday, September 24 from 10:30 - 11:30 am to learn about this exciting initiative.

Strategic Planning
As we think back on nearly 100 years of the WNDC, we are planning for our next 100. We are leading a strategic planning effort to keep our community strong and impact profound. Keep an eye out for opportunities to make your voice heard.

October Newsletter Deadline: September 18
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

On The Radar
Thursday, Oct. 10 (Lunch)
Christine Darden, one of NASA’s “Hidden Figures”

Tuesday, Oct. 15 (Lunch)
Rep. Jan Schakowsky & Mr. Robert Creamer