From the Right to Vote... The Power to Lead

www.democraticwoman.org
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

IS THE TIDE TURNING?

The ship of state has been rocking on turbulent waters for three years as the unlikely presidency of Donald J. Trump has lurched along. Emboldened by a pliant Republican Party, this immoral president has blatantly broken norms of decency and rules of governance—committing crimes in plain sight, thereby lowering the bar and shredding the moral fabric of the political system. The hope is that this earthquake will swallow shoddy political practices, throwing up a new, more moral, just, and transparent political process in its wake.

Trump became the third president in US history to be impeached, after an exhaustive legal process of hearings organized by the House Intelligence and Judiciary committees. More representatives voted to impeach Trump than in the previous two impeachments, i.e., Bill Clinton in 1998 and Andrew Jackson in 1868. The highest ever, Mr. President! Are you proud?

A quick glance at the gallery of rogues surrounding our sitting president who have been convicted, illustrates “the remarkable universe of criminality” (The Washington Post) that surrounds him: Roger Stone, Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, Michael Flynn, George Pappadopoulos, Alex Van Der Zwaan.... and the list goes on

As more and more facts are unearthed, voices of dissent are becoming bolder, even though it has been a slow buildup. The list of news outlets asking for impeachment and conviction of this wayward president includes The Los Angeles Times, The Salt Lake Tribune, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, The Tampa Bay Times, The Orlando Sentinel, The Boston Globe, The New York Daily News, The Chicago Sun-Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and The San Francisco Chronicle. “There may be no single smoking gun, but there’s ample acrid black stuff rising from the White House,” The New York Daily News wrote.

The crumbling of the Republican Party defense wall continues with an evangelical Christian magazine calling for President Donald Trump’s removal citing what it called his “immoral” dealings with Ukraine. Christianity Today’s editor-in-chief said Trump violated the Constitution and questioned the high level of support among evangelicals in light of his “blackened moral record”—suggesting that their support damages the community’s reputation. Evangelical Christians formed one of Trump’s most solid voting blocs in 2016 and have largely stuck by him. This is the first crack in that wall of support.

The question is whether lawmakers who have remained unhappily silent till now will find the courage to join this turning tide. Will you add your voices to this rising cacophony of dissent? Your constituents are counting on your courage, Senators. We hope you will echo the sentiments of the majority who support retribution for this president’s misdeeds. Do not disappoint us.

—Nuchhi Currier
Thursday, January 2

Members' Happy Hour

TIME: 5:30–7:00 pm

Free but registration is required

Kick off the new year with your WNDC community! All members are invited for drinks (or post-holiday detox potions!) at our monthly Happy Hour. Catch up with friends, make new ones, and share all your 2020 resolutions!

Tuesday, January 14

Reflections on Reporting from Afghanistan and South Asia

TIME: 12:15 pm—Lunch served; 1:00–2:00—Presentation

$25 members $30 non-members $10 lecture only

Recently returned from Afghanistan, Pamela Constable is a former Kabul and Islamabad bureau chief for The Washington Post and a long-time foreign correspondent who has reported from more than 35 countries since 1982. At the Post, she has also served as South Asia Bureau Chief in India. Ms. Constable will share her experiences and give us perspectives on recent events in the region, including the shocking revelations of the Afghanistan Papers.

Tuesday, January 21

The Democracy Rebellion: A Reporter’s Notebook with Hedrick Smith

TIME: 6:00–8:00 pm

6:00 pm Bar Opens; 6:30–7:30 pm Film screening; 7:30–8:00 pm Q&A

The Democracy Rebellion is the missing story of American politics: not Washington, but grassroots America; not stale gridlock, but fresh reforms; not negative ads and billionaire donors, but positive change and citizen activists pressing for action. Their demands include gerrymander reform, voting rights for former felons, exposing dark money, and winning surprising victories to give voters more voice and make elections fairer. Hedrick Smith, a Pulitzer Prize–winning former New York Times reporter, editor, and Emmy Award–winning producer/correspondent, has established himself as one of America’s premier journalists. In this latest documentary, he takes viewers into half a dozen states with citizen activist leaders to show how grassroots citizen movements are winning victories for political reform, state by state. “The message,” says Florida grassroots leader Ellen Freidin, “is our political system can be fixed. Get out there and fix it.”

Friday, January 17

Back To The 20s: Prohibition in DC

TIME: 6:30–9:00 pm

$100 per ticket

$75 for young professionals

On January 17, 1920, the 18th Amendment, mandating the prohibition of the manufacture, transport, or sale of intoxicating liquors, went into effect. Join the Educational Foundation, exactly 100 years later, for an evening re-creating the decade that followed with jazz, period drinks, and glimpses of history. We will revisit Prohibition-era Washington, from Capitol Hill to DuPont Circle and enjoy live music featuring DC’s own Steve Washington recreating the sounds of U Street where Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, and others created the “DC renaissance.” Invented-in-DC drinks like “The Rickey” and other period cocktails (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be served along with tastes of the era. A portion of the proceeds will go for the restoration of the Pub. Reserve now and get your password to give to The Man in the Green Hat at the door of our speakeasy!

Debate Watch: Poster Art Edition! It’s the first debate of 2020. We don’t yet know who the candidates will be, we don’t know exactly what time it will be, but we know this—it’s just before the 2020 Women’s March and MLK Day Parade! January’s Debate Watch Party will have the standards (dessert, bingo, drinks) but also arts & crafts tables so you can make your posters for the March and Parade.
JANUARY 2020 EVENTS

MARCH WITH US

POSTER-MAKING HAPPY HOUR
There’s no better way to be happy than to be creative! Enjoy an extended happy hour at the WNDC so everyone can create their posters for the Women’s March (Saturday, January 18) and the MLK Day Parade (Monday, January 20).

WOMEN’S MARCH
Saturday, January 18
8:00–10:00 AM
Breakfast: $20
Members and non-members

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk and Parade returns for its 39th edition! The parade symbolizes the need to continue Dr. King’s work and reinforces the idea reflected in his words, “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” The parade will begin staging at 11:00 am at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE and Good Hope Rd SE. If you want to march with the group from the WNDC, sign up at democraticwoman.org/march-with-us.

MLK DAY PARADE
Monday, January 20
11:00 AM

The Washington Post's chief film critic, Ann Hornaday, returns to the WNDC days before the 92nd Academy Awards presentation to discuss the Oscars, her analysis of her favorite movies, and other issues that roiled the motion picture industry this year.

Tuesday, January 28
The Global Rise of the Right: The Role of Russia
TIME: 12:15 pm—Lunch served; 1:00–2:00—Presentation
$25 members $30 non-members $10 lecture only

A new right-wing populism has not only become an influential political force around the world, it is also increasingly international in its scope and organizing. Does Russian President Vladimir Putin aspire to lead this new Nationalist International? In this provocative presentation, John Feffer will describe the new global organizing of the ascendant right and Russia’s place in it. John Feffer is Director of Foreign Policy in Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies. A WNDC favorite, he has previously presented programs for us on North Korea, Russia, and Eastern Europe. He is also a novelist, playwright, and performer. In the latter role he gave us a performance on “The Political Role of Storytelling.”

Tuesday, February 4
TIME: 12:15 pm—Lunch served; 1:00–2:00—Presentation

Wednesday February 5
TIME: 6:00–8:30 pm
Leadership from the DNC, DCCC, and DSCC join us at the Club to discuss their strategy and outlook for the 2020 election cycle.
JOIN THE WNDC NOW: NO APPLICATION FEE!

As a new incentive during our membership drive, we are pleased to announce that members who join the WNDC now and pay a year’s dues up-front will not have to pay the application fee. So now is a terrific time to join. As a member you can fully participate in the exciting and crucial year ahead, when the Club will work intensively to restore our democracy.

CURRENT MEMBERS GET FREE ADMISSION TO EVENTS!

Current WNDC members will still receive free admission to any of our regular programs for each new member they recruit. If you recruit three new members you get three free events, which is worth $90.00!

IN THE COMMUNITY

Essay Contest

Jonetta Rose Barras (via the organization she founded in 2004, Esther Productions, whose mission is to “help heal, inspire and empower girls and women, particularly those affected by the devastating trauma of father abandonment”) organized an essay contest for DC public high school girls. This year’s topic was “Discovering Me without You.” After reading and evaluating 26 essays, seven judges (including Pat Bitondo and Winfield Swanson), met at WNDC to identify the winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes and three Honorable Mentions). It was a difficult, 2-hour task because the 26 essays were all very good. Cash prizes were given at the awards ceremony, December 14 at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Pat gave certificates to the girls as part of the ceremony.
NEWS FROM THE
Educational Foundation

REFLECTIONS ON 2019

Following the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, suffragist Crystal Eastman reminded her sisters, “Now we can begin.” This simple acknowledgement of what had been accomplished as well as the ongoing challenge of democracy resonates today as we look to a new year and pause to celebrate, reflect on the past, and commit to the future.

This year, the Educational Foundation will honor and celebrate women activists who labored to establish women’s right to vote—from the Seneca Indians who inspired Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Frances Harper and Lucy Stone, to Ida B. Wells and Alice Paul. We started our celebration last June 4th with “Songs of Suffrage.” This marked the 100th anniversary of the Senate’s passage of the 19th Amendment extending the right to vote to women and began the process of ratification by 3/4 of the states. On August 18, 1920, after Tennessee passed the amendment by a single vote the 19th Amendment became law. According to Carrie Chapman Catt, it had taken “pauseless campaigning with 480 campaigns to legislatures, 47 campaigns to state constitutional conventions for women’s suffrage, 277 campaigns...in state party platforms, and 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses.”

We must also acknowledge the conflicts and racism that set some suffragists against each other and the fact that the leaders in the final push for the amendment relegated women of color to the back of the parade—literally and figuratively. Through our Centennial calendar and work with schools, we will work to communicate an inclusive history that celebrates the leaders, organizations, and contributions of all of the women who fought and continue to fight for the vote.

We must also recognize that the 19th Amendment did not extend the vote to all women in the United States. There was and is still much work to be done. Although the 15th Amendment was passed on February 3, 1870—150 years ago next month—permitting citizens to vote irrespective of race, it took both the 15th and the 19th amendments as well as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to make voting rights a reality for many African American women. Voting rights for Native Americans and Chinese Americans required further legislation. And finally, voter restrictions and suppression were a reality in 1920 and are a reality today.

In November 1920, eight million women voted for the first time in federal elections—creating an electorate of women that would grow to 73 million by 2016. Let’s recommit to building on the labors of all of our sisters as we continue the struggle for the right and privilege of the vote in 2020.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD

President: Pamela R. Johnson
Vice President: Nuzhat Sultan
Treasurer: Michael Lee Beidler
Secretary: Winfield Swanson
Patricia Bitondo
Elizabeth Black
Elizabeth Clark

Marcie Cohen
Marilyn Cruz
Suzanne Finney
Sandy Kay
Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez
WNDC President: Nuchhi Currier (ex officio)
WNDC Treasurer: Karen O’Connor (ex officio)
### Lunch Service

Lunch service available with reservation Tuesdays through Fridays, 11:30 – 2:00.

**Speaker Luncheon Schedules:**
- 11:30 am bar opens
- 12:15 pm lunch served
- 1:00 pm 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.

### January 2020 Calendar

#### Monday, January 6
- Lunch Available with Reservation
- Public Policy Committee 5:00 pm

#### Tuesday, January 7
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Wednesday, January 8
- Lunch Available with Reservation
- Executive Committee 10:30 am
- Program Committee 12:30 pm
- EF Board 3:00 pm

#### Thursday, January 9
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Friday, January 10
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Monday, January 13
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Tuesday, January 14
- Lunch Available with Reservation
- Pamela Constable Luncheon
- VAMA Committee 2:30 pm
- Debate Watch Party

#### Wednesday, January 15
- December and January Birthday Lunch
- Board of Directors 10:30 am
- Newsletter Deadline

#### Thursday, January 16
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Friday, January 17
- Lunch Available with Reservation
- EF Prohibition Party

#### Monday, January 20
- Lunch Available with Reservation
- MLK Day Parade

#### Tuesday, January 21
- Lunch Available with Reservation
- Hedrick Smith Evening Program

#### Wednesday, January 22
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Thursday, January 23
- Lunch Available with Reservation
- GVP Task Force 6:00 pm

#### Friday, January 24
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Monday, January 27
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Tuesday, January 28
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Wednesday, January 29
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Thursday, January 30
- Lunch Available with Reservation

#### Friday, January 31
- Lunch Available with Reservation
We gladly post late entries on the website, but we cannot print any items submitted after the deadline. You may send your event write-up or article to lollison@democraticwoman.org.

Publisher Information:
Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor
Winfield Swanson, Director of Communications

February Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, Jan. 15

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