Who would oppose granting women equal rights under the law in all aspects? One imagines it would be men who stand to lose control over women. After all, the criminalization of women’s bodies is all about conservative male power. The massive efforts to criminalize women’s bodies through enactment of anti-abortion laws is designed to put female sexuality under strict state control. And, indeed, it is a move initiated by men with some women backing what they view as religious tradition.

These anti-abortion efforts are against women’s equality under the law. Although they dub themselves pro-life, make no mistake; they are anything but. A group that is pro-life should want to improve the quality of life of those they insist must be born—the child’s right to housing, education, healthcare, and a means of livelihood. Instead they abdicate all responsibility once a baby is born. Their only goal is to perpetuate the exercise of male control over female bodies. The desire for this control forms the basis for much of the opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Almost 80% of Americans hold the mistaken belief that men and women are guaranteed equal rights in their country, even though neither the Constitution nor the Bill of Rights grants those rights. The only way to guarantee this equality would be to create an amendment that would provide language supporting this need. That is what the ERA would do if it were to pass all of the legal steps necessary to turn it into law. Currently, the only legal right the US Constitution grants to women is the right to vote.

The ERA would become the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution, guaranteeing equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. It seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in matters of divorce, property, employment, and other matters. The first version of an ERA written by suffragists Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman, was introduced in Congress in December 1923. There is poetic justice in the fact that, in the centennial year of women’s suffrage, there is a real possibility of the ERA becoming law. However, many obstacles remain. A motion filed by Democratic Attorneys General (AG) of Virginia, Nevada, and Illinois to ratify the ERA has been challenged by AGs in five red states—Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Enforcing that motion fell to the archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, who announced that he would “take no action to certify the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.” The three Democratic AGs sued Ferriero, arguing that the deadline, first set for 1979 and later extended to 1982, is not binding.

THE BATTLE IS ON. Just as the 19th Amendment was a result of a century of struggle, we will prevail in our efforts to enact the 28th Amendment, which is also approaching the 100-year mark. We just need to elect more women in government to counteract centuries of male hegemony. That is what our political activities, like “Winning Wednesdays,” is attempting to realize. Join us as we continue to bring in much-needed change. Women have been making history and they will continue to do so in their race to the top—with your help and the involvement of a few good men.

—Nuchhi Currier
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ambassadors' Tea
March 10 | 2:00–4:00 pm | $75 (tax deductible)

International Women's Day (IWD), fixed by the United Nations in 1975 for March 8, celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. This year's International Women's Day tea features a discussion of women's suffrage in other countries. Panelists include Ambassador Rosemary Banks of New Zealand, Ambassador Hunaina Sultan Ahmed Al Mughairy of Oman (Invited), and Political Officer Tania Lizette Rión Peña of Mexico, with Adrienne S. O'Neal, most recently US Ambassador to Cape Verde, as moderator. At this event, we also welcome as our guests young women from the EF's Young Women's Leadership Program.

During the tea, we will present six Vietnamese models, wearing long green and purple tunics representing the official colors of International Women's Day: white, representing purity; purple, representing justice; and green, symbolizing hope.

Sup(per) Tuesday
Tuesday, March 3
TIME: 6:30 pm
Dinner served 7:00–9:00 pm
$35 members | $45 non-members

We’ve been through the highs and lows of this Presidential Primary together. On March 3, the race will have one of its pivotal moments. One-third of all delegates will be awarded to the candidates on Super Tuesday. Join us at the WNDC to discuss and debate the race over dinner and watch the results come in. We’re on the edge of our seats for these results that will shed light on where a large part of the Democratic electorate actually stands.

Members' Happy Hour
Thursday, March 5
TIME: 5:30 pm

The Membership Committee invites all members to join us for our monthly meet and greet. Meet old friends, make new ones, build connections, and celebrate the wonderful community we are all a part of.

Movie Night: Green Book
Thursday, March 12
TIME: 6:30 pm

When Tony Lip (Viggo Mortensen), a bouncer from an Italian American neighborhood in the Bronx is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali), a world-class black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on the Green Book to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African Americans. Winner of 2019's Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Picture, and Best Supporting Actor for Mahershala Ali. Discussion of the film will follow. Come early for soup and salad!

DC Politics Hour: Mayor Sharon Pratt
Tuesday, March 17
TIME: 12:15 pm—lunch served; 1:00–2:00—presentation

$20 members | $25 non-members

Former DC Mayor Sharon Pratt serves as Founding Director of the Institute for Politics, Policy, and History (IPPH). Elected Mayor of DC in 1990, Pratt was the first African American female to hold such a position in the US. She also serves as Founding Chairman of Home Preservation Exchange, a nonprofit focused on stabilizing neighborhoods by acquiring troubled mortgages.
**Word Dance Theater**

**AT THE WNDC**

2020 is the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment—women’s right to vote.

Join the dancers, actors, and singers of Word Dance Theater in a riveting and exuberant celebration of the suffragist movement from 1920 to now.

In this fully immersive and intimate experience, audience members will be guided through the beautiful historic Whittemore House as they witness an artful and powerful portrayal of the suffragist journey from Votes for Women to #MeToo. A special champagne reception with light hors d’oeuvres will follow the performance on April 3.

Word Dance Theater is an award-winning modern dance company specializing in preserving the dances of Isadora Duncan, the Mother of Modern Dance, as well as creating new dances in the Duncan style for 21st century audiences. For over 20 years, Word Dance Theater has artfully blended music, theater, and visual arts with free and natural dance movements to explore and celebrate the resilient human spirit.

**Tickets:**

**March 20 | 7:30 pm–9:00 pm**
General Admission: $35/person

**March 27 | 7:30 pm–9:00 pm**
General Admission: $35/person

**April 3 | 7:30 pm–9:00 pm**
Performance plus Champagne Reception: $60/person

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**Thursday, March 19**

**The Unimpeachable Values of the US Constitution and the Future of American Democracy**

TIME: 6:30–8:00 pm
$20 members | $25 non-members

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**Tuesday, March 24**

**Mark Russell**

TIME: 12:15 pm—lunch served; 1:00–2:00—presentation
$25 members | $30 non-members | $10 lecture only

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**Tuesday, March 31**

**Sex, Race, and Suffrage:**

**A Story of Two Amendments**

TIME: 6:00 pm

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**Rep. Jamie Raskin** will discuss both the essential time-proven values of the Constitution under attack by the present administration and the structural weaknesses in the Constitution, which helped give rise to the Trumpian reign of error and corruption in the first place. He argues for an expansive reconstruction of democratic institutions—by replacing the electoral college with popular-vote presidential elections, by overthrowing the Citizens United decision and instituting small donor-driven public campaign finance, and by passing statehood for Washington DC and Puerto Rico and continuing the trajectory of democratic progress in America.

**Mark Russell**, the piano playing satirist has been with us long before Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert, and continues to joke and sing of absurd politics. He plays off the headlines of the day with stand-up comedy while accompanying himself on the piano. With his impeccable timing, sparkling eyes, and sharp insight into the country’s politics, Mark is coming out of semi-retirement to provide the Woman’s National Democratic Club with humourous luncheon entertainment.

A conversation with Marcia Chatelain, author of *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* and Kimberly A. Hamlin, author of *Free Thinker: Sex, Suffrage, and the Extraordinary Life of Helen Hamilton Gardener*. The year 2020 marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment and the 150th Anniversary of the 15th Amendment. Professors Chatelain and Hamlin will discuss the twinned history of the two amendments, the intersections of sex, race, and racism in the long history of voting rights activism, the importance of higher education for activist women, as well as what this means today as we approach the suffrage centennial and the 2020 election.
CURRENT MEMBERS GET FREE ADMISSION TO EVENTS!

During our membership drive, current WNDC members receive free admission to any of our regular programs for each new member they recruit. Happy recruiting!

CONTINUE TO SEE LIVE-STREAMED EVENTS; JOIN THE MEMBERS-ONLY FACEBOOK PAGE

April 15, we will transfer the livestream of our events from the public page to our private page. We will continue to post our events publicly, but in order to see them you will have to be a member of the Club. If you are not yet a member, you can keep up with our wonderful programs by joining! Register for the Facebook page on https://www.facebook.com/groups/wndc.community/.

WE NEED YOU!

The Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Committee has begun its exciting and productive series of Winning Wednesdays, where they provide activities and resources for activists who come to the Club ready to work to elect Democratic candidates from the president on down the ticket. Please consider becoming a greeter to help recruit these motivated and politically active women and men to multiply their strengths by joining us. If you want to welcome Winning Wednesday participants and tell them how politically and socially smart it is to be a member of the WNDC, please contact our Membership Committee co-Directors, Linda Wiessler-Hughes and Michael Hughes michaelinda88@hotmail.com.

The Steinway Piano, which is over 80 years old and has ivory keys, was in a bad state of repair. Gregory Butler, Registered Piano Technician, did a great job of refurbishing it and putting in new hammers, etc. to bring it up to par. A lock has been installed so that we can be sure it is properly used. Club events will not incur a charge, but all private renters of the premises will pay a fee for the use of the piano. This fee will be used for piano tuning and for further repairs. A new bench had to be purchased since the old one was beyond repair. The funds used for this project were contributed to the WNDC Educational Foundation by a very generous donation from a member of the WNDC. The same member is also contributing to the repair and re-upholstery of chairs that were languishing in the art storage room for more than 2 years. This project is under way and will take some time.

Our next project is to have the beautiful, large mirror in the Hamlin Room restored. Our largest mirror, and an important part of the WNDC antique collection, is literally coming apart. Some pieces have fallen off and we have been told that it is not as secure as it should be on the wall. We have half the funds for this project, which will be expensive, as you can imagine, and request members and non-members to please make a donation—large or small—toward this restoration. To maintain the beauty of our mansion and to continue to make it attractive to outside renters, it is crucial that our members contribute.

VAMA and the Board of Directors of the WNDC would like to strongly request that members and guests not move any furniture. If you need chairs or a table to be moved, for example, please ask a staff member to do so for you. The next VAMA meeting will be April 7 at 2:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend and participate.
March is women’s history month — a movement that started with International Women’s Day honoring working women; which expanded to a week dedicated to expanding the coverage of women’s history in the Sonoma, California high schools in 1978; and which was designated as the month of March in a 1987 Congressional declaration.

This year, unsurprisingly, Women’s History Month celebrates the “Valiant Women of the Vote” to honor women from the original suffrage movement as well as 20th and 21st century women who have continued the struggle (fighting against poll taxes, literacy tests, voter roll purges, and other more contemporary forms of voter suppression) to ensure voting rights for all.

The WNDC Educational Foundation has joined national efforts to make materials about the history of women’s suffrage available to high school teachers and classrooms. The Educational Foundation has:

- Made available the Centennial Calendar *Women and the Vote* to: high school social studies teachers in Washington, DC; the League of Women Voters in Cape Cod, Massachusetts and Lafayette, Indiana; the Missouri State Historical Society and the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs in St. Louis; and Texas Humanities;
- Conducted Gallery Walks for social studies at the National Council of the Social Studies annual meeting; at professional development workshops for DC social studies teachers; and elsewhere;
- Created an online Teachers’ Corner (https://wndceducationalfoundation.org/teachers-corner) with a variety of resources including:
  - A 200-year online interactive Women and the Vote timeline with links to images, quotes, and primary and secondary sources;
  - A downloadable Gallery Walk with images and primary sources from the Centennial Calendar; and
  - Information about Youth Voting.

**JOIN OUR WINNING WEDNESDAYS TEAM!**

The good news is Winning Wednesdays are going really well! The bad news is that they are possibly getting too large for our small team! We need some help!

We are looking for greeters, trainers, people who can help with set up, and activists who are excited about helping other volunteers. Think you can be a part of our Winning Wednesday team? Contact Victoria Velasquez (vvelasq1@alumni.nd.edu) or Pege Gilgannon (pegeketchup@gmail.com).

**Register for March’s Winning Wednesdays**

March 11: https://www.mobilize.us/wndc/event/219608/
March 25: https://www.mobilize.us/wndc/event/220370/
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| Lunch Available with Reservation | Lunch Available with Reservation | Lunch Available with Reservation |
| Sex, Race, and Suffrage Evening Program | Lunch Available with Reservation | Word Dance Theater |

**Wednesday, March 4 | 12:00 pm**
Please join Betsy Clark for the first Democracy Roundtable (members only). This will be held the first Wednesday of the month. Lunch is $20, soup and salad will be served.

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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
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 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

ON THE RADAR
Apr. 2 Members' Wine and Cheese
Apr. 3 Word Dance Theater
Apr. 14 Preview of the new Planet World Museum

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