WNDC
NEWSLETTER|JULY 2020

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

www.democraticwoman.org
On May 25, 2020, George Floyd's murder by a white policeman, with a history of violence against African Americans, was filmed by a 17-year-old on her phone. And that video sparked a movement across the United States and much of the world. The cry of "Black Lives Matter" against systemic racism and police brutality started with peaceful protests, but heavy-handed measures by the Trump administration resulted in confrontations, arrests, and injuries. These protests were mounted at a time of another global crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic was raging in the US while demonstrations against racism were exploding. And, these twin hazards were eclipsing the approaching general elections. It was a perfect storm!

On June 1, Donald Trump emerged from his bunker, strode to the Rose Garden, and threatened to unleash the military, vowing to "dominate the streets." Soon after, Attorney General Barr ordered police to fire tear gas and rubber bullets into a crowd of peaceful demonstrators, to clear the way for Trump's planned post-speech photo-op at St. John's Church, across the street from Lafayette Square. And then the park was sealed off. The White House and Lafayette Square went from being a public square to a sequestered fortress with a tall black fence.

The following weekend, I joined hundreds of protestors around the Lafayette Square area. There was a sea of masked faces on two narrow blocks of H Street and another block on 16th Street, jammed together, chanting "Black Lives Matter" and holding protest signs. No one was allowed to access the 7-acre fenced-off public park, which was lined by armed, uniformed goons, guns cocked, staring humorlessly into the eyes of protestors. In the COVID-19 era of social distancing, demonstrators lost access to open space, dangerously jostling and being jostled.

Used for recreation, political protests, and celebrations this picturesque park has been the gathering place of, not just tourists, but those exercising their 1st Amendment rights. The National Women's Party made Lafayette Square the home of the women's rights and suffrage movement. They maintained their vigil every day for 2 months, through the rain and snow of January and February 1917.

Lafayette Square has also been used as a racetrack, a graveyard, a zoo, a slave market, and an encampment for soldiers during the War of 1812. Given the history of this square, particularly the fact that it was once a slave market, there is poetic justice in DC Mayor Muriel Bowser naming it "Black Lives Matter Plaza."

—Nuchhi Currier
We continue to offer programs online on the Zoom platform every Tuesday morning. Enjoy listening to great speakers address important topics, all from the comfort of your own home!

We are also continuing our twice-monthly Winning Wednesdays.

Find event registration links in your weekly event emails or on our Facebook page or by going to democraticwoman.org/events. Register 24 hours ahead of each event to receive the Zoom link.

Your contributions of $10 or more support our Employee Benefit Fund. Thank you!

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**Thursday, July 2**

**Welcome Back Happy Hour**

5:30–7:00 pm

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**Tuesday, July 7**

**The Secrets to Nancy Pelosi’s Success**

Molly Ball

10:30–11:30 am

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**Wednesday, July 8**

**Winning Wednesday on the Web**

6:00–8:00 pm

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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi shattered the “marble ceiling” to become the first woman Speaker—twice. She’s been a crucial part of liberal legislative victories from the Affordable Care Act to allowing gay people to serve openly in the military to speaking out against police brutality. She’s repeatedly confronted President Trump, from calling him a liar to his face to leading the impeachment process, and she seems to get under his skin in a way few other political opponents have managed to do. This look at her life and career, by Molly Ball, the author of the New York Times best-selling biography, PELOSI, will shed light on her methods and motivations.

Social distancing does not keep us from turning our outrage into action! Winning Wednesday is your chance to virtually connect with other fired-up Democratic volunteers and voters in key states: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, and Texas.

Each virtual meeting includes time to catch up with friends and learn about important races or voter issues before embarking on your volunteer opportunity. You can participate in phone banking, letter writing, or text banking from the comfort of your own home. We end each session by picking the winners of that week’s raffle (tickets are $5 each and proceeds fund our GOTV efforts) and celebrating each other and what we accomplished!
Tuesday, July 14
Creating Art in the Era of Black Lives Matter
Tope Folarin
10:30–12:00 pm

How can art help us protest, change, heal, and learn? Novelist Tope Folarin, a Nigerian-American writer, Board Chair of the Institute for Policy Studies, and Vice President of Content and Storytelling at Local Initiatives Support Corp (LISC), will share his insights on this powerful question. His debut novel, A Particular Kind of Black Man, was published last year to wide acclaim, and his short story, "Miracle," won the Caine Prize for African Writing in 2013.

Tuesday, July 21
Patriotic Millionaires: Renegotiating Money & Power
Erica Payne
10:30–12:00 pm

Erica Payne is the Founder and President of Patriotic Millionaires, a group of high net-worth Americans that speaks out against income inequality and unfair tax cuts for the rich. She is also the founder of The Agenda Project, a Washington-based hub of public policy discussion and strategy debate for progressive activists from business, media, philanthropy, government, and non-profit.

Wednesday, July 22
Winning Wednesday on the Web
6:00–8:00 pm

Social distancing does not keep us from turning our outrage into action! Winning Wednesday is your chance to virtually connect with other fired-up Democratic volunteers and voters in key states: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, and Texas. Turn up, work to turn out the vote, and help turn our country in a new direction!

Tuesday, July 28
Follow the Money
Rep. Katie Porter
10:30–11:30 am

Congresswoman Rep. Katie Porter (CA-45) has been pushing hard for oversight of the bail-out even as she juggles three school-aged children during the COVID pandemic. Rep. Porter is a rock star whose questions—and use of props—during congressional hearings have led to television appearances and interviews with hosts such as Stephen Colbert, Samantha Bee, Bill Maher, and Seth Meyers. And, now she will speak on what Congress should do about the big issues that confront the country as we get closer to the November election.

Thursday, July 30
Making the DC Budget a Tool for Racial Justice
Ed Lazere
10:30–12:00 pm

Our budget is a moral document. The right budget choices in housing, education, health, and more can create a more equitable DC. And the path to racial justice must go through the budget. Ed Lazere, candidate for DC Council At-Large and former director of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute (DCFI), will lead a discussion on how to better use the DC budget to achieve this important goal.
CONNECT ONLINE & JOIN THE MEMBERS-ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP!
The Club posts publicly on Facebook at facebook.com/WNDCLUB, on Instagram @democraticwoman, and on Twitter @WNDC_1922, but there’s also a members-only Facebook group!

Community is so important, now more than ever! Stay connected with other Club members in the Facebook group. Once the Club resumes in-person programming, the group will likely be the place we will share livestream programming. Join the Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/wndc.community.

QUESTIONS & HOW TO VOLUNTEER
Questions about membership? Wishing you could get plugged into a volunteer role? Please contact our Membership Committee Co-Directors, Linda Wiessler-Hughes and Michael Hughes: michaelinda88@gmail.com.

WELCOME BACK TO THE WHITTEMORE HOUSE GARDEN!

The Membership Committee invites all members and guests back to our beloved garden for a Welcome Back Happy Hour on Thursday, July 2 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

$10 per person

Hors d’oeuvres
One complimentary drink
Door prizes
+ Wear your favorite summer hat or ball cap!

Note: This event will be held indoors with proper social distancing in the event of inclement weather or excessive heat. Please bring a mask and prepare to wear it when you’re not sipping or snacking.
JOIN OUR WINNING WEDNESDAY TEAM!

Social distancing does not keep us from turning our outrage into action! Winning Wednesday is your chance to virtually connect with other fired-up Democratic volunteers and voters in key states: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, and Texas.

Each virtual meeting includes time to catch up with friends and learn about important races or voter issues before embarking on your volunteer opportunity. You can participate in phone banking, letter writing, or text banking from the comfort of your own home. We end each session by picking the winners of that week’s raffle (tickets are $5 each and proceeds fund our GOTV efforts) and celebrating each other and what we accomplished.

Please join us on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month—you give us 2 hours and we’ll give you the activist tools and resources that you need to change the world!

Turn up, work to turn out the vote, and help turn our country in a new direction! We may have moved online, but we’ve still got plenty to do!

July's Winning Wednesdays on the Web: July 8 and July 22, 6:00–8:00 pm.

Register 24 hours ahead of events by following the links in your events emails or on our Facebook page, or go straight to democraticwoman.org/events.

Questions? Contact Victoria Velasquez (vvelasq1@alumni.nd.edu) or Pege Gilgannon (pegeketchup@gmail.com).
NEWS FROM THE
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

It is hard to accept that families are hungry in the nation's capital. When we learned that one of the schools we work with needed support to get food for needy students and families, EF launched Food*4*DC*Kids. Since the end of April, we have prepared and delivered more than 2,450 healthy and delicious meals to DC students and families affected by COVID-19!

Many people have made this program possible. Many generous donors—members and non-members alike—have donated funds to cover costs of staff, packaging, and staple foods.

Two Rotary Clubs—DuPont Circle and Washington—made their first contributions to EF to support this program and the GWU Rotaract raised funds from fellow undergraduates to support it. WNDC has pledged a generous contribution to keep the program going and dedicated the proceeds of our newly opened lunch service. Wollam Gardens is selling daisies to benefit Food*4*DC*Kids.

Francis in the Schools has been routinely providing produce, cheese, and other products. Route 11 donated cases of packaged potato chips. And many farmers at the DuPont Circle FreshFarm market have been generously providing wonderful fresh produce and other products: Anchor Nursery, Atwater Breads, Chicano Sol, Deep Roots Farm, DuPont Circle FreshFarm Market, Fresh Farm FoodHub, Gardeners' Gourmet, Garners' Produce, Giant Foods, New Morning Farm, Smith Meadows, Spring Valley Farm & Orchard, Toigo Orchards.

And of course, our wonderful WNDC staff have kept our safety-certified kitchen open and have prepared and packed creative, delicious, nutritious meals.

Most important, the Columbia Heights Educational Campus has delivered these prepared meals to the neediest students and families. CHEC is an extraordinary school. In the past, CHEC students have been regulars at our International Women's Day and other programs; we have provided computers to graduating seniors and calendars to their classrooms, and supported them in other ways.

On June 23, our very own Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez hosted a deeply moving online gala honoring CHEC principal Maria Tukeva and seniors who graduated in the middle of the pandemic and are heading to some of the finest colleges in the country. Many are the first in their family to attend college. If you are looking for a bit of hope in the midst of everything else that is going on, we encourage you to look at the video of their stories (https://app.mobilecause.com/e/awz7qw?vid=8wnpo).

—Pamela Johnson, President, EF Board
**Restoration Work Begins in Preparation for the 2022 WNDC Centennial**

The Visual Arts and Museum Affairs committee is sending off late 19th century carved, gold-leaf mirrors in the WNDC collection to be restored. We are extremely grateful to the anonymous donors who have made this work possible.

Our three historic and beautiful mirrors—one from the Hamlin Room and two from the First Ladies Pub—left on Monday, June 15 to be restored and gilded. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who gave the major amount, and some other contributing members, we will restore them to their original 19th century condition. Come and see the spectacular results by the end of June.

Contributions, large or small, are welcome to help restore the 19th century Pier tables for the First Ladies Pub. Donations to the WNDC–Educational Foundation can be restricted to that specific project and will restore our collection in time for our centennial celebration.

—Nuzhat Sultan, Chair, Visual Arts & Museum Affairs Committee

**Lunch is being served!**

The WNDC–Educational Foundation has been sponsoring Food*4*DC*Kids, a free meals program providing delicious meals to needy students and families from DC schools.

We’re now able to share this goodness with our members and the general public. From Tuesday to Friday, 12:00 to 2:00 pm, we’re offering the same high quality lunch on our outdoor patio (weather permitting) and socially-distanced indoors with DC now opened for Phase 2. The 3-course prix fixe menu is $25. Proceeds support Food*4*DC*Kids.

Reservations are required and seating is limited to accommodate social distancing. To reserve your spot, please call (202) 232-7363, email Pat Fitzgerald at pfitzgerald@democraticwoman.org or register online https://tinyurl.com/y74zemjc.
Register 24 hours ahead to receive the Zoom links to these events.
Find event registration links in your weekly event emails or on our Facebook page or at democraticwoman.org/events.
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