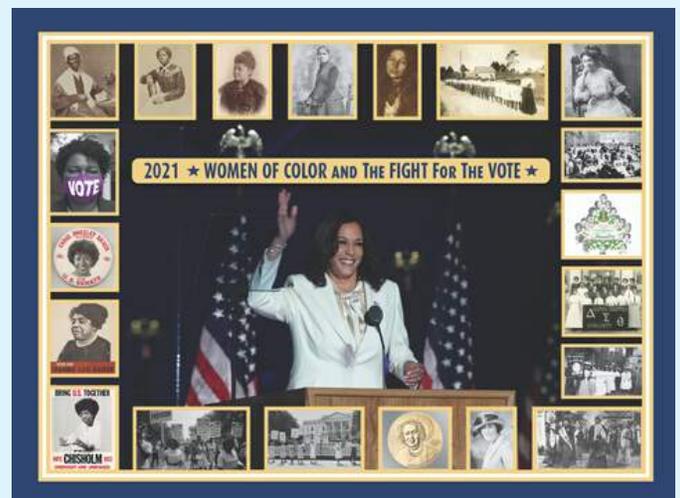




# WNDC

NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2021



FROM THE RIGHT TO VOTE... THE POWER TO LEAD

[www.democraticwoman.org](http://www.democraticwoman.org)

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## 2020—a Retrospective



The year started on a high note—with two major events on the horizon. A celebration of the women's suffrage centennial was one. What a milestone! After almost a century of protest, women gained the right to cast their own vote, to pick their leaders, and to run for leadership positions themselves. And now another century later they entered 2020 with renewed vigor to tackle persistent issues such as sexual harassment and sexual violence, reproductive rights, domestic violence, maternity leave, equal pay, hoping to finally achieve equal participation in national affairs.

And then there was the presidential election. We celebrated the six women on the Democratic ticket for president of the United States. And we hailed the 643 women who ran for Congress: 393 (61%) were Democrats and 267 (42%) were women of color. The culmination was an election that gave Democrats the White House and the first female Vice President, she too a woman of color! And the most racially, ethnically, and gender diverse Congress in our 244-year history.

Just as this year marked the end of a 4-year governance nightmare, it also saw an awakening in America on a scale not seen before. Racial justice and police brutality took center-stage. Cries of Black Lives Matter were heard across the nation as protestors demanded action. Existential issues like climate change and assault weapons ban became a rallying cry and Republican voter suppression tactics spurred a revolt leading to the largest voter turnout in the history of our nation. The tragic loss of a feminist icon like Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the ensuing national outpouring of grief further strengthened our resolve to continue fighting for gender parity and progressive values. The incoming Biden administration is setting a record in diversity in its cabinet picks. The promised roll-back of the regressive policies of the Trump era is adding to a celebratory mood. And the crowning glory is the creation and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine within one year, another record-setting example of scientific success.

Amidst the calamities of death, disease, and economic deprivation **shone** the kinder, gentler face of humanity. Food distribution networks proliferated. A larger awareness grew of the yawning income gap in our populations, the deficits in our educational system, and the disparity in access to better healthcare options. Just as dependence on electronic media grew, loneliness melted into self-reliance, books became our new best friends, and people suddenly learnt the value of exercise and the great outdoors. The kitchen once again became the focal point of existence in our rediscovered homes, as we Zoomed in and out of our new virtual school or workplace. As people skidded further apart from each other, the larger world slid ever closer, on electronic skates.

We enter the new year with anticipation and hope. Change is in the air. We will bring into this rebirth of ours, as we slowly emerge from our cocoons, a gentler sensibility, a greater sense of the value of community and an appreciation of the physical world around us. We will perhaps wonder why we hadn't stepped off the spinning merry-go-round earlier, to hear the birds chirp and to feel more keenly the gentle evening breeze. And then the thought might stray into our minds that 2020 wasn't such a bad year after all.

*The nearer the dawn, the darker the night. —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

—Nuchhi Currier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nuchhi Currier'.

# MEMBERSHIP

## News

### VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR, JANUARY 7

Please join the Membership Committee for our monthly Zoom Happy Hour on January 7 from 5:30–6:30. In addition to socializing with our friends and looking forward to the inauguration of our next President and Vice President, we will play a round of 20 Questions. We will go into break-out rooms at 5:45 if we have too many participants for one large group.



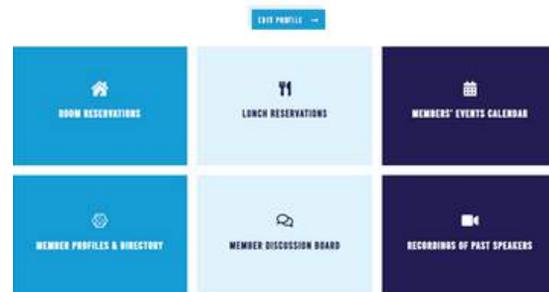
### WNDC MEMBER PORTAL IS LIVE!

We are excited to officially launch the Member Portal!

The most exciting aspects of the new portal are the interactive elements, which are designed to increase networking and involvement in the Club.

- When **Member Profiles** are filled in, we will all be able find others with common interests.
- An active **Discussion Board** will stimulate conversation, ideas, and friendships—locally and across the nation.
- **Recordings of Past Programs** are available, including some of the most popular ones over the past few years and recent recordings as well.
- Members can easily make **Lunch Reservations** and **Room Reservations** as well as peruse upcoming programs and members-only meetings in the **Members' Event Calendar**.

#### Member Portal



#### HOW TO USE THE WNDC MEMBER PORTAL

Enjoy these terrific new opportunities to take advantage of your membership!  
Connect and engage with the WNDC community!

1. Type this website address (URL) into your browser: <http://democraticwoman.org/member-portal>
2. Click "Forgot your password?" underneath the blue Login button.
3. Enter the email address you have on file with the WNDC and then click "Reset Password."
4. Check your email for a link to "reset" (really to create) your password.
5. Create and confirm your password. Allow your computer or phone to save the password for easy login next time.
6. Click on the blue "Edit Profile" box to get started creating your member profile!
7. On the next page, click on the gray wheel to the right underneath the background image.
8. The gray wheel will turn blue and bring up a dropdown menu. Choose "Edit Profile."
9. On the profile page, upload a photo of yourself and, if desired, a new background photo.
10. Fill in the "Tell us a bit about yourself" field (up to 180 characters) and then the remaining fields.

Once logged in, you will be able to click on Membership and see the dropdown menu for the Portal to go to the main Portal page.  
Now connect and engage!  
Share information in the discussion board. Make reservations for lunch or rooms.  
Visit the complete Club calendar and view recordings of recent speakers.  
Check out Member Profiles of other members and look through the Member Directory.  
The Member Profiles section is under development and requires users to fill in their information. New interest fields to come by January 2023.



#### PARTICIPATING IN THE MEMBER DISCUSSION BOARD

- Use clear subject headings. Begin with key words like "Event," "Job posting" or "Arts opportunity" before including pertinent details.
- Note that your posts and comments will be visible when other members view your profile.
- WNDC thrives on robust discussion that explores current events and political developments. Please remember we are all in this together and we agree to treat each other with kindness and respect. That means no ad hominem attacks, name calling, or personal accusations.

Need additional help? Have questions or feedback?  
Email Membership Committee chairs Linda Wiessler-Hughes and Michael Hughes at [michaelinda88@gmail.com](mailto:michaelinda88@gmail.com).

You should have received a PDF called "How to Use the Member Portal" ahead of December's Semi-Annual Meeting where a live demonstration was offered.

Thank you to all who provided feedback to improve the user experience!

Those who haven't yet logged on can begin by typing [democraticwoman.org/member-portal](http://democraticwoman.org/member-portal) into your browser. Click the "Forgot your password?" link, using the email address on file with the WNDC.

Further details can be found in the "How To" PDF linked at left.

If you need support, please reach out to Membership Committee chairs Linda Wiessler-Hughes and Michael Hughes at [michaelinda88@gmail.com](mailto:michaelinda88@gmail.com).

Membership Services Coordinator Pat Fitzgerald is in charge of member information and can be reached at [PFitzgerald@democraticwoman.org](mailto:PFitzgerald@democraticwoman.org).

Communications Director Kathryn Casello is in charge of the website and can be reached at [KCasello@democraticwoman.org](mailto:KCasello@democraticwoman.org).

## MEMBER PROFILE: PATRICIA L. WALLER



Patricia Waller is a retired diplomat, having spent a 31-year career in the Foreign Service as Administrative or Executive Officer at various American Embassies. She has had postings in Pakistan, Jordan, Turkey, Iran, the Philippines, Syria, Tunisia, and Egypt and two in Washington. Instead of returning to her roots in San Francisco at retirement, she relocated to San Diego in June 2003. Patricia is a San Francisco State University graduate where she received a BS in Business Administration with a minor in World History focusing on the Middle East and Asia. Since retiring, she has been an active teacher of English in the READ San Diego Curriculum. She most recently served, for 3 years, as a member of the International Affairs Board for the City of San Diego where she set up the first ever, and very successful, Internship Program.

# 2020 IN REVIEW: WNDG SPEAKER PROGRAMS

A WNDG program is so much more than a one-off online lecture or a passive viewing of a cable news appearance—speakers interact with audience members, themes connect topical and urgent issues, and discussions build our community.

Meet some of the **leaders, authors, experts, activists, commentators, and creators** who brought us together in 2020—a year of unprecedented complexity.

## UP CLOSE WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS



Rep. **Katie Porter**  
(D-CA)



Rep. **Jamie Raskin**  
(D-MD)

- Colorado Sec. State **Jena Griswold**
- Rep. **Jahana Hayes** (D-CT)
- Rep. **Ro Khanna** (D-CA)
- Rep. **Elissa Slotkin** (D-MI)

## *Pivoting to engage with a critical 2020 issue: Racial Justice*

WNGC convened discussions to examine our blind spots. Speakers led us to confront systemic racism through many lenses, including:

- Justice—**Eliza Orlins**, NYC public defender
- Governing—**Ed Lazere**, DC Council candidate
- Storytelling—**Tope Folarin**, Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Theater—leaders from **four Washington DC institutions (GALA, Arena Stage, Theater Alliance, Mosaic Theater)** addressed the issue via WNGC’s Social Role of the Arts series

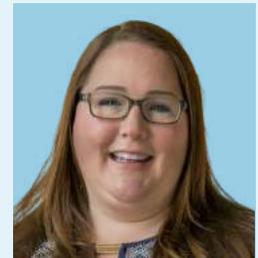
## *Answering questions that affect the US and the world*

- Can the Democratic Party reconnect with rural voters?—**Former Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)**
- What’s at the root of financial malfeasance in the administration?—author **Sarah Chayes**
- How valuable is American military dominance?—**Stephen Wertheim**, Quincy Institute
- What does a pandemic imply for national security?—**Joseph Cirincione**, Ploughshares Fund
- Are global anti-democratic trends accelerating?—**Mike Abramowitz**, Freedom House

## FROM MSNBC TO YOUR ZOOM



**Eddie Glaude Jr.**,  
Princeton Univ.: racial  
justice and the election



**Rachel Bitecofer**, the  
“Election Whisperer”:  
pre- and post-election  
voter model analysis

- **Jill Wine-Banks**, Watergate prosecution team: a career fighting corruption
- **Evelyn Farkas**, former Pentagon official: defense & security policy in a Biden administration

## PROGRAMS ENHANCING YOUR LIFE IN DC... AND BEYOND!

- A pre-opening peek at Planet Word, a brand-new DC museum
- Members-Only early access to documentaries plus discussions with the filmmakers
- Discussions with visual artists exhibiting in WNGC’s Whittemore House
- Advice on identifying and combating online disinformation
- Demystifying how to vote—and conduct our daily lives—safely in the time of COVID-19
- Honoring women’s organizations whose history intertwines with the Suffrage and Civil Rights movements

*Many of these programs are available to view in the Member Portal.  
Go to [democraticwoman.org/member-portal](https://democraticwoman.org/member-portal) to log in.*

# JANUARY 2021 EVENTS

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Find event registration links in your weekly event emails or on our Facebook page or by going to [democraticwoman.org/events](https://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!

## HOW CAN WNDC EVENTS HAVE A PLACE ON YOUR 2021 CALENDAR?

What kinds of engaging, informative, and uplifting programs are attractive to you? Please make your voice heard by answering our five minute survey today.

[tinyurl.com/WNDCPCsurvey2020](https://tinyurl.com/WNDCPCsurvey2020)  
Survey closes January 15th.

The WNDC wants to bring you events—both social and political—that will carry us through this momentous new year!

**Thursday, January 7**  
**Virtual Member Happy Hour**  
5:30–6:30 pm



Please join the Membership Committee for our monthly Zoom Happy Hour on January 7 from 5:30–6:30. In addition to socializing with our friends and looking forward to the inauguration of our next President and Vice President, we will play a round of 20 Questions. We will go into break-out rooms at 5:45 if we have too many participants for one large group.

**Tuesday, January 12**  
**Fascism's Challenge to Democracy**  
**Ruth Ben-Ghiat**  
10:30–11:30 am



**Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat** will speak with us regarding the topic of her recently published book, *Strongmen: From Mussolini to the Present*. Her book chronicles the rise and tactics of authoritarian leaders in modern history highlighting themes of populism, toxic masculinity, corruption, and violence. Dr. Ben-Ghiat will provide an exclusive author's perspective on the post-election maneuvers of Trump and the GOP and how they are indicative of an authoritarian political culture. Join us on January 12th to examine how America might reckon with Trump and his legacy, long after he has departed the White House.



**Tuesday**  
**January 19**

5:30–7:00 pm  
\$55 Zoom  
\$100 Zoom + meal  
\$125 Zoom + meal + bubbly

## Welcome to the New Class of the 117th Congress!

We are excited to celebrate the most diverse incoming class of Congress in our nation's history. In keeping with our tradition, we will welcome members of the 117th House and Senate at a special virtual event. Stay tuned for more to come about this exciting event on the eve of Inauguration Day. The evening will include guest speakers from the Hill, and a special celebratory meal (with or without champagne) available for curbside pick-up.

**Wednesday**  
**January 20**

6:00–7:00 pm  
Pricing details and sponsorship levels to come



## Inauguration Day Champagne Celebration

Pop open a bottle of bubbly and celebrate with us from the comfort of your home on the evening of Inauguration Day, when we will raise our glasses and toast the new Administration, including our first female Vice President, Kamala Harris! Be with fellow WNDC members to cheer the historic moment, which you helped make happen. Curbside pick-up of a delightful package of bubbly and chocolate will be available on the 19th. Interested sponsors for this event please email [PL@democraticwoman.org](mailto:PL@democraticwoman.org).

*Note: Additional Inauguration Day events depend on COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings. Stay tuned and check your email for details!*

# Visual Arts and Museum Affairs

## FIRST LADIES PORTRAIT COMPETITION

The Visual Arts and Museum Affairs committee is working with the Visual Arts Department of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Public High School to hold a student competition for a portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama. The portrait will be added to the collection's nine other amazing portraits of First Ladies and will be exhibited in the First Ladies' Lounge in the Whittemore House. The project, which is part of VAMA's public outreach, along with rotating artist exhibitions, needs \$4000.00 for the prize and framing.



The WNDC Educational Foundation would appreciate your donation so that we can support this worthy project!

To donate, please visit [wndceducationalfoundation.org/first-ladies-portrait](http://wndceducationalfoundation.org/first-ladies-portrait) and follow the donation link. Please send checks to WNDC Educational Foundation, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

EF is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization and contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Any additional funds raised will be used to support the Foundation's Food\*4\*DC\*Kids program.

## WOMEN OF COLOR AND THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE

The WNDC Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the release of its 2021 calendar—*Women of Color and the Fight for the Vote!*

The new calendar for 2021 builds on last year's Centennial calendar and is dedicated to celebrating the history and achievements of women of color in the fight for the vote. It was made in collaboration with other women's organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs Inc. The calendar was inspired by the recent election of Sen. Kamala Harris as Vice President-elect of the United States and the women who led the way for this historic achievement. Vice President-elect Harris is not only the first woman to hold this position, but also the first Black woman and the first Asian-American woman to serve in this role!



This 12-month calendar illustrates the story of the heroes of color who paved the way for record breaking poll turnout and the election of a woman of color for Vice President! Complete with many images of these remarkable women and their accomplishments, the calendar includes a piece of history on every page. Start 2021 off right with an inspiring reminder of the vital role women of color played and continue to play in the shaping of our democracy!

The calendars can be purchased for \$20 each at the Club/The Whittemore House or on the WNDC EF website at [wndceducationalfoundation.org](http://wndceducationalfoundation.org). Bulk rate available. Please email [wndcef@gmail.com](mailto:wndcef@gmail.com) to inquire.

The Get Out the Vote task force wrapped up the year still working hard, focused on Georgia's special election for two Senate seats. For that election alone, from November 18 through December 16 we held special Winning Wednesdays. At these, we generated a further 1,600 letters and made hundreds of phone calls, particularly to low propensity voters. Join us on December 30! We also raised hundreds of dollars to support Georgia-based organizations as part of a strategy not only to get out the vote for this election, but to build community-level infrastructure for future elections. Stay tuned for information about how we'll celebrate the inauguration with the rest of WNDC. We'll get back to work after those celebrations with a virtual GOTV meeting on Wednesday, January 27 at 5:30 pm, starting to plan our 2021 strategy. Join us and contact Mindy Burrell with questions [mcburrell@hotmail.com](mailto:mcburrell@hotmail.com).

WNDC-EF

GOTV

# JANUARY 2021

Lunch Service 12:00–2:00 pm Tuesday–Friday  
 Reservations Required  
 All proceeds from lunch go to Food\*4\*DC\*Kids.  
 To donate directly, go to  
[wndceducationalfoundation.org](http://wndceducationalfoundation.org)



MONDAY	28	TUESDAY	29	WEDNESDAY	30	THURSDAY	31	FRIDAY	1
<p><i>Food*4*DC*Kids expects to deliver its 10,000th meal on December 24. Please help us continue Food*4*DC*Kids in 2021. Donate at <a href="http://wndceducationalfoundation.org/food4dckids">wndceducationalfoundation.org/food4dckids</a>.</i></p>									
<p><i>Club Closed</i></p>									
				<p><b>Winning Wednesday</b> 6:00–8:00 pm</p>					
MONDAY	4	TUESDAY	5	WEDNESDAY	6	THURSDAY	7	FRIDAY	8
		<p><i>Georgia Runoff Elections</i></p>					<p><b>Member Happy Hour</b> 5:30–6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Program Committee Meeting</b> 12:00–1:30 pm</p>	
<p><b>Public Policy and Political Action Committee Meeting</b> 5:00 pm</p>									
MONDAY	11	TUESDAY	12	WEDNESDAY	13	THURSDAY	14	FRIDAY	15
		<p>Fascism’s Challenge to Democracy <b>Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat</b> 10:30–11:30 am</p>		<p><b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> 10:30–12:00 pm</p> <p><b>Membership Committee Meeting</b> 5:30 pm</p>		<p><b>EF Board Meeting</b> 2:30–4:00 pm</p>		<p><i>February Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p><i>Program Survey Deadline</i> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/WNDPCsurvey2020">tinyurl.com/WNDPCsurvey2020</a></p>	
MONDAY	18	TUESDAY	19	WEDNESDAY	20	THURSDAY	21	FRIDAY	22
 <p><i>Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i></p>		<p><b>Welcome to the New Class of the 117th Congress!</b> 5:30–7:00 pm</p>		<p><b>Inauguration Day Champagne Celebration</b> 6:00–7:00 pm</p>		<p><b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> 10:30–12:00 pm</p>			
MONDAY	25	TUESDAY	26	WEDNESDAY	27	THURSDAY	28	FRIDAY	29
				<p><b>GVP Task Force Meeting</b> 5:30 pm</p>		<p><b>VAMA Meeting</b> 10:00 am</p>			



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 at [facebook.com/WNDCLUB](https://facebook.com/WNDCLUB) or on the Club website at [democraticwoman.org/events](http://democraticwoman.org/events).

## WNDC OFFICERS

**President:** Nuchhi Currier  
**Vice President:** Bonnie Heather McCabe  
**Treasurer:** Cynthia Chase  
**Secretary:** Judy Hubbard  
**Directors:**  
**Public Policy:** Karen Pataky  
**Programs:** Laura Whitaker  
**Membership:** Linda Wiessler-Hughes & Michael Hughes  
**Visual Arts & Museum Affairs:** Nuzhat Sultan  
**Communications:** Winfield Swanson  
**Development:** Cliftine Jones  
**Building and Grounds:** Michael Lee Beidler  
**Human Resources:** Winfield Swanson  
**Public Liaison:** Mary Bruce

## February Newsletter Deadline: Friday, January 15

Send your event write-up or article to [winfieldswanson@gmail.com](mailto:winfieldswanson@gmail.com). We cannot guarantee printing items submitted after the deadline.

### Publisher Information:

Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor  
Winfield Swanson, Director of Communications

## PUBLIC POLICY & POLITICAL ACTION

<b>Chair</b> Karen Pataky	<b>DC Metro</b> Patricia Bitondo	<b>Education &amp; Children's Issues</b> Dianna Washington	<b>GOTV</b> Melinda Burrell	<b>Health Policy</b> Karen Pataky
<b>Secretary</b> Jean Stewart	<b>Earth &amp; Environment</b> Jean Stewart	<b>Foreign Policy</b> Jane Elkin	<b>Gun Violence Prevention</b> Ellen McGovern	<b>Human Rights &amp; Democracy</b> Elizabeth Clark
<b>Communications</b> Elizabeth Vasquez				

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD

<b>President:</b> Pamela R. Johnson	Michael Lee Beidler	Bonnie Heather McCabe
<b>Vice President:</b> Nuzhat Sultan	Elizabeth Clark	Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez
<b>Secretary:</b> Winfield Swanson	Marilyn Nevy Cruz	Laura Whitaker
<b>Financial Secretary:</b> Patricia Bitondo	Suzanne Finney	WNDC President: Nuchhi Currier (ex officio)
	Sandra Kay	WNDC Treasurer: Cynthia Chase (ex officio)

### Woman's National Democratic Club

1526 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036

202.232.7363

[democraticwoman.org](http://democraticwoman.org)