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

www.democraticwoman.org
Will our fiscal year 2020–2021 be defined by COVID-19? Will we look back on it as a year of hibernation or the year ingenuity was unleashed? For the WNDC it was certainly the latter. We devised creative ways of staying afloat and keeping the jobs of our staff intact. One of those was to feed families in distress. We successfully garnered awards and loans and moved our stellar programming online. We got spectacular support from our members and continued to gain an average of ten new members every month.

The year was slated to be a remarkable year for many reasons. The year of the centennial of women’s suffrage; the year of a decisive battle between Trumpian forces and the Democratic vanguard; and the year preceding our own centennial. It, however, became a year of agitation for racial justice which was a great motivator for the electorate. Record numbers of voters turned out in the presidential election, despite the pandemic and helped turn the nation’s tide.

For me personally it has been a seminal year. The awareness that this was my final year as president of WNDC after 8 years (with a 3-year hiatus in between) permeated everything. Even as we shut down operations in March only to re-open for the FOOD*4*DC*KIDS program, resulting in endless COVID tests for me and the staff and then bringing more and more staff members onsite, we were aware of the fragility of the moment. We remained steadfast, however, and the results speak for themselves.

I depart with mixed emotions: joy, sadness, and some nostalgia. It has been a hell of ride! But one thing is certain. It is time to move on. I am confident that the incoming team will take us to greater heights and our best days are ahead of us. The WNDC has been a nurturing, if sometimes challenging, perch for me for over a decade. I was welcomed with open arms upon my move to DC and I found my spiritual niche among the caring members of this remarkable community.

I will be working shoulder-to-shoulder with you in 2022 as we mark our 100th anniversary. What a milestone! We should each be proud of the role we have played in achieving this distinction. A big thank you to the members and staff of an organization I have thought of as home for over a decade.

—Nuchhi Currier
NEW OFFICER SLATE VOTING DEADLINE JUNE 8 & ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 15

Ballots are due on Tuesday, June 8. The new Board Members will take office at the June 15 Annual Meeting, which will take place over Zoom, 6:00–7:30 pm. Details on the following pages.

WELCOME BACK EVENTS JUNE 17 & 24!

The Club welcomes back vaccinated members for unmasked social events! Add these to your calendar!
- Meet-and-greet luncheon on Thursday, June 17, 12:00–1:30 pm. This is your earliest chance to share your ideas for the Club's success with the new Board! See details and menu on the next page.
- The first in-person happy hour of 2021 will take place on Thursday, June 24, 6:00–7:00 pm. Come mix, mingle, and connect with some of our newly elected committee chairs.

LUNCH & BRUNCH

There will be a Sunday Brunch offered on June 20. Details in the following pages. And Birthday Lunches are back! WNDC members celebrating birthdays can come on their special day or anytime in their birthday month to enjoy a special three-course lunch on the house. Bring your friends and make it a celebration (NOTE: everyone but the person celebrating will have pay for their meal). Lunches take place Tuesday to Friday, from noon to 2:00. Make reservations online and note “member birthday” in the comments. Meals for guests are $25.

CALLING LITERARY LOVERS!

Our next book club meetings will be on July 21 at 1:30 pm in the Club and 7:00 pm via Zoom. Our summer selection is *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead. A poignant novel about boys in a reform school in the 1960s, it is loosely based upon reports of a brutal reform school in the 1960s where dozens of unmarked graves were discovered of boys who were likely murdered before the school was shut down in 2011.

Main character Elwood is hoping to attend college when police arrest the driver of a stolen car in which Elwood is riding. He is sent to the reform school in chains. As they endure a series of brutalities, he and his new friend, Turner, try to make it through the experience without losing hope.


MEMBER PROFILE: REMPEE KALIA

An active member since 2019, Rempee Kalia has graduated from American University with a Masters in Science in Computer Science (concentration in Data Science). Rempee has participated in PPC, done Zoom and Twitter training for members, and worked with the Educational Foundation. She created a flexible, interactive and content-rich design for the EF website as well as yourvoicematters.org—a website supporting youth voting. Check out her handiwork! wndceducationalfoundation.org and yourvoicematters.org.

JOIN THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

All are invited to our first committee meeting of our new fiscal year (5:30 pm, July 12 via Zoom) where we’ll explore new ideas to enhance our membership! Email lstrieder@wellesley.edu to be added to the invite!
The Zoom-only era is drawing to a close! Keep up with the offerings from the Club’s Program calendar to see when WNDC will step boldly into the Hybrid Age—enabling Members to enjoy and participate in speaker events from Whittemore House … or anywhere in the world!

Have suggestions for speakers or programs? Program Committee welcomes your participation or ideas! Contact us at programs@democraticwoman.org.

Dr. Jane Nicholson has been practicing and teaching restorative justice for nearly two decades. Initially emerging across the world as an alternative to national institutions of criminal justice, restorative justice represents a holistic approach to justice across society. Dr. Nicholson, a member of the WNDC GVP Task Force, will explore the roots of restorative justice, trace its spread throughout the US, and identify its presence in American communities, schools, and courts.

Join Dr. Robin Broad and John Cavanagh for a discussion of the political and policy issues raised by their book, The Water Defenders: How Ordinary People Saved a Country from Corporate Greed, which tells the story of community groups in El Salvador who joined forces with international allies to defeat a corporate lawsuit in a tribunal. The authors will share the lessons of this story, replete with corporate greed, unlikely allies, violent threats, murders and victory. A US Role in the World series program.

Each June, the Club’s volunteer Board members report their milestones and updates to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. Please Zoom in for this important event to look back on the Club’s first-ever pandemic year, and then raise a virtual glass to the newly-elected officers!

Two days after the installation of the new Board members, come to the Club—and bring a guest!—for a luncheon to celebrate the beginning of the “Club Year.” Newly elected officers will be on hand to greet you and make sure we’re connecting you to the Club’s activities. Book a table now!
On June 1, the TRIGGER Project will lead a Citywide End Gun Violence Conference; details at endgunviolencedc.eventbrite.com. On June 4, WNDC’s Gun Violence Prevention Task Force is joining hands with DC Moms Demand Action to support events for National Gun Violence Awareness Day and week, both virtually and in-person (June 5 and 12, respectively). Also, mark your calendars for WNDC’s GVP Task Force Programs: June 8, Jane Nicholson’s “Restorative Justice and Violence Intervention” and June 17, Linda Harllee Harper’s discussion of her new role as GVP Director for DC. Contacts for WNDC GVP Programs: Marcie Cohen, Beth Merricks, Shelly Livingston, and Ellen McGovern.

**Thursday, June 17**

**A Conversation with DC’s New GVP Director**

**Linda Harllee Harper**

6:00–7:00 pm

Join PPC GVP Task Force for an exclusive discussion with DC Gun Violence Prevention Director **Linda Harllee Harper** on her new role, the first office of this kind created in any major US city. Ms. Harper will share with us how she plans to combat the gun violence pandemic, how to leverage resources to the people and communities impacted, and how all citizens in all wards have a role to play in supporting the city’s efforts to reduce gun violence.

**Sunday, June 20**

**Sunday Brunch**

12:30 pm

We invite Club members and their guests to book a table for brunch at the Club. Enjoy a multi-plate prix fixe menu with optional add-on bottomless bubbly beverage! Member rate includes tax and gratuity and can be charged to the Member account on file. Seating may be indoors or outdoors. Meal & coffee/tea: $39.50. Bottomless mimosas: $19. Reservations available for 12:30 pm.

**Tuesday, June 22**

**Unexpected Art: Museum of the Interior**

**Tracy Baetz**

10:30–12:00 pm

**Tracy Baetz**, Chief Curator of the US Department of the Interior Museum, will provide an overview of the museum’s 83-year history, its unique role in a Cabinet-level agency, and its context as home to the most New Deal-era murals of any federal building. In sharing highlights from the museum’s collection, she will draw upon the more than 1,200 works of art of the Department and will preview the museum’s newest exhibition, Thomas Moran & the “Big Picture.”

**Thursday, June 24**

**Member Happy Hour**

6:00–7:00 pm

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome members back to the Whittemore House and garden for our first in-person Happy Hour of 2021! Come mix, mingle, and get to know some of of our newly elected leadership and committee chairs. The cost is $10 per person and includes one drink ticket. Snacks will be provided.

**Coming soon...**

- **The Quanders: Since 1684, an Enduring African American Legacy**
- **EMILY’s List Executive Director Emily Cain**
- **Member Book Club: The Nickel Boys**
Our Democratic activists have already made significant progress in engaging voters ahead of the critical midterm elections. We’ve helped turn out voters for two special congressional elections, as well as the June 8 Virginia Democratic primary election. This summer we will take some time to relax and celebrate our early successes before kicking off our get-out-the-vote efforts for the November gubernatorial and state legislative elections in Virginia and New Jersey. Stay tuned for more information as we look to relaunch in-person Winning Wednesdays in the fall!

**TREASURES FROM WNDC’s ARCHIVES: HONORING THE WISDOM OF DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT**

More than 200 attendees were thrilled to hear civil rights icon, Dr. Dorothy Height, as she spoke from the Club's ballroom on April 27th. This unique program combined video excerpts from a 2004 tape of Dr. Height with current reflections from three panelists: Former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman who knew Dr. Height well and had wonderful personal stories; Dr. Thelma Daly, 16th President of Delta Sigma Theta, who was also a personal friend with insights to share, and Anna Eleanor Fierst, a great granddaughter of Eleanor Roosevelt who mentored a young Dr. Height.

The full program is available on EF’s website: wndceducationalfoundation.org. It has inspired further investigation of the archives for other women leaders who have spoken at the Club. Our new Archivist Claire Sandberg, under the direction of Conceicao Andrade, is compiling a list of past speakers and we are imagining the potential for future programs with Rachel Carson, Barbara Jordan, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and many others who have, down through the years, shared their amazing stories with us.

**ROTOR & THE ARTS CLUB OF WASHINGTON SUPPORT FOOD*4*DC*KIDS**

Rotary Foundation of Washington, DC recently announced that Food*4*DC*Kids was awarded one of its 2021 Community Service Grants. This support builds on other significant Rotary contributions from individuals and from the Washington and Dupont Circle Clubs and GWU Interact. In addition, Rotary members, including President Nancy Riker (left) are volunteering to help pack meals being prepared by the Arts Club’s chef. Thank you, Rotary and the Arts Club!

**FIRST LADIES PORTRAIT WINNER: KAMAI WILLIAMS**

As part of the WNDC’s outreach to local schools, WNDC’s Visual Arts and Museum Affairs Committee commissioned a portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama from the students of the visual arts department of Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Seven 11th and 12th grade students participated in the competition, which we were fortunate to have juried by Ms. Brandon Brame Fortune, Curator Emerita of the National Portrait Gallery. The winning portrait was painted by Kamai Williams, an 11th grade student.

This VAMA program was funded with generous donations from Club members and friends, with the support of the WNDC Educational Foundation. A monetary prize will be awarded to the school. If circumstances allow, we will have an unveiling with Ms. Michelle Obama, after which, the portrait will join other portraits in the First Ladies Lounge. All seven portraits are currently on view in the Upstairs Gallery of the WNDC.
## JUNE 2021

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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 or on the Club website at democraticwoman.org/events.
PUBLIC POLICY & POLITICAL ACTION

Chair
Karen Pataky
Secretary
Jean Stewart

Earth & Environment
Jean Stewart

Education & Children's Issues
Patricia Bitondo

Foreign Policy & National Security
Jane Elkin

GOTV
Victoria Velasquez

Gun Violence Prevention
Ellen McGovern

Health Policy
Karen Pataky

Human Rights & Democracy
Elizabeth Clark

Racial Equity
Rosalyn Coates

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Anna Fierst
Suzanne Finney
Sandra Kay

Shelly Livingston
Bonnie Heather McCabe
Nuzhat Sultan
Laura Whitaker
WNDC President: Nuchhi Currier (ex officio)
WNDC Treasurer: Cynthia Chase (ex officio)

On the Radar
Date TBD: The Quanders
July 8: EMILY's List Executive Director Emily Cain
July 21: Member Book Club: The Nickel Boys

July Newsletter Deadline:
Tuesday, June 15
Send your event write-up or article to winfieldswanson@gmail.com. We cannot guarantee printing items submitted after the deadline.

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Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor
Winfield Swanson, Director of Communications

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