Setting Up a Successful 2022

Dear WNDC Members and friends,

Making resolutions can be loaded, but letting things slip can be harder to recover from down the line. January held three milestones that I invite you to consider as prompts for your personal markers of success.

The universal milestone is the turning of the year—"resolutions" are made to achieve a goal during the year. As you consider your personal aspirations, consider how the Club can help your pursuits. Need to network with someone? Bring them to lunch on a Wednesday or happy hour on a Friday. Determined to pick up a new hobby? Drop in for docent training or learn about the Archives committee. Aiming to shake off the sweatpants vibe of the work-from-home COVID age? Stay tuned for the launch of WNDC's Co-working Collective in February.

The American milestone was January 6th—the anniversary of a riot that showcased a splintered society and exposed a moral bankruptcy on the side of the rioters' defenders. The Woman's National Democratic Club faces an opportunity to direct our energies toward solutions through political activism. Well ahead of the midterm elections, our GOTV committee will refine our priorities and support WNDC's critical infrastructure of education, inspiration, and action—make a commitment to get involved with GOTV. My personal hope is for a robust defense of incumbent Democratic governors in battleground states where Trumpism is taking hold in the legislature. The list includes governors who are huge targets for the GOP: Maine*, Michigan*, Wisconsin, Nevada, Minnesota, and Kansas*. These six Democrats—*half of whom are women—represent the executive bulwarks against the Big Lie becoming reality in the 2024 election.

The WNDC milestone was the 1-year mark of the 2021 storm that led to the balcony leak. I am happy to report that the balcony repair project is FINALLY in its finishing stages. Thanks to donors and experts and staff and collaboration with the Educational Foundation, WNDC will have a watertight balcony that we can enjoy while we take breaks from the important work of preserving democracy. Please come to the Club and see the completed work!

Let's make 2022 productive, active, and fun,

[Signature]

Pamela R. Johnson, President
Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez, Vice President
Bonnie Heather McCabe, Treasurer
Judy Hubbard, Co-Secretary
Michelle Radecki, Co-Secretary
Karen Pataky, Public Policy Director
Karyl Cafiero, Programs Director
Lilly Strieder, Membership Director
Nuzhat Sultan, Visual Arts & Museum Affairs Director
Winfield Swanson, Communications Director
Cliftine Jones, Development Director
Michael Lee Beidler, Building and Grounds Director
Mindy Burrell, Human Resources Director
Laura Whitaker, WNDC President (ex officio)
Cynthia Chase, WNDC Treasurer (ex officio)

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YOUR ACTION FOR FEBRUARY: DIGITAL/MEDIA SELF-CARE

Set up your news & advocacy consumption to make you the strongest, most compassionate, and aware Democrat you can be. Three tips:

- Do an audit of your inbox. Are the newsletters coming in with ALL CAPS SUBJECT LINES, scare quotes from Republican bogeymen, and frantic calls to performative action? Consider culling the daily bombardment with active use of the “unsubscribe” button.
- Diversify your reading; for every story you read that confirms your biases, seek one out that takes a different point of view.
- Prioritize humanity over screen time: Recommit to justice and activism by reconnecting to people and projects, rather than media-driven narratives.

March Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, February 10

Send your event write-up, article, or cover photo to winfieldswanson@gmail.com. We cannot guarantee printing items submitted after the deadline.
Publisher Information: Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor & Winfield Swanson, Director of Communications
**IN MEMORIAM: JUDI LEVIN**

Club members were saddened to hear of the death of Judith (Judi) Levin on January 8th this year. Judi served as president of the WNDC from 1981 to 1983. According to her close friend, Phyllis Alexander, Judi was at first nervous in her new role and given that she was the youngest president to ever be elected, this was understandable. But she quickly made her mark by refurbishing furniture and cleaning up the dowdy appearance of the mansion's public rooms. From revising menus and forming new committees, to welcoming stellar speakers, Judi threw herself into a tough job with utter devotion. Two key achievements during her years at the Club were to persuade a large class of women to become Life Members, as well as to launch a campaign to recruit younger members like herself. Phyllis noted that even under stress, “Judi never had a bad word to say about anyone... she might be disappointed in someone but that was all she'd say.”

She went on to develop a successful career in real estate. Her daughter, Sharon, and son, Joshua, are considering a memorial fund that will honor their mother's steadfast loyalty to the WNDC's mission and its long-term success. The Club extends sympathy as well to Judi’s twin sister, Susan Morgenstein, of Chevy Chase. Those of us who were privileged to work with her will remember her warm and gracious personality, and her unflappable ability to rise to challenging situations. Judi, we shall very much miss you.

**$100 FOR 100 YEARS – FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN**

We’re sweetening the deal for the Young Dem 25+, Individual, and Family categories of membership during WNDC’s Centennial year! Celebrate our lasting legacy as a hub for political action and community engagement.

During the month of February ...
- **PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS** who join the Club in February receive a $100 waiver off quarterly Club fees* through your first year of membership.
- **CONTINUING MEMBERS** who commit with a full year’s dues payment will receive a $100 discount* through the renewed term. Call Membership Services Coordinator Pat Fitzgerald at 202-232-7363 to activate this offer.

*Food & beverage quarterly fees will be reduced by $25

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**SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Friday Happy Hours**  
5:00–7:00 pm every Friday  
Special Edition with games: February 18

Close out your week every Friday 5:00–7:00 pm when we’re open for drinks! Join us on February 18 for a special Valentine’s happy hour with games, drinks, and merriment to get you out of your winter blues.  
*Cash bar*

**Valentine’s Dinner**  
Monday, February 14  
6:00 pm Cocktails  
7:00 pm Dinner

Bring your special someone or assemble a Gal-entine’s gang of friends to enjoy a candlelit four-course gourmet dinner prepared by renowned chef, Patrick Orange.  
Wine & cocktail included!  
$85 per person  
For full details, see p. 7

**A Celebration of DC's "Black Broadway"**  
Monday, February 28  
6:00–10:00 pm

Join us for an evening of dinner, discussion, and musical flashbacks drawing on the Black performers who made U Street swing! Featuring local author Briana A. Thomas.  
$45 per person (WNDC members), $55 per person (non-members); $250 for a table of five  
For full details, see p. 7
Docent Program

If you have been curious about the contents of our elegant and historic mansion, the Whittemore House, now is the time to consider joining our renewed docent program! Learn about the Club’s home and history and assist with welcoming and leading guests on tours of our beautiful Dupont Circle home.

Informal sessions will begin in March—to explain how being a trained docent can be a great way to meet people and enhance the experience of visitors to the WNDC. We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to the docent program. If interested, please email the Director for VAMA, Nuzhat Sultan, with the subject line “Docent.”

Exhibitions

Don’t miss your chance to view our current exhibition, “The Weft of Life” by Rackie Diankha! Make an appointment to view the exhibit outside our open hours: Wednesday 9–5 and Friday 11–7.

To view online, see democraticwoman.org/exhibitions/rackie-diankha.

Our next exhibition, showcasing the work of Sabiha Iqbal, opens February 24th with a reception on Wednesday, March 2nd. To learn more, visit democraticwoman.org/exhibitions/sabiha-iqbal.

With 2022 underway, now is the time to get in the fight for the ever-important upcoming midterm elections. Democratic primaries are already on our radar, with Texas Democrats going to the polls on March 1 to select the candidates that will be on the ballot in November. Only 1 in 25 Texas voters participates in primaries, so we must take action to help drive up turnout and enthusiasm for democracy. Email our partners at Center for Common Ground at ROV.DCMV@gmail.com to request access to Voter Letters and to help write postcards to Texas voters.

Be on the look-out for additional opportunities to get involved with Democratic activism when Winning Wednesdays return in late spring.

On December 16, we sent 23 reels to be digitized and preserved. That leaves 116 reels to be preserved. We received a generous donation from Naomi Naierman and pledge from Conceição Andrade toward digitization of the next batch—thank you, Naomi and Conceição! Our goal is to match these contributions with another $1000 so we can digitize the remaining 116 reels. Donations are welcome!

Our other objectives for 2022 are to continue to research and interview eight past WNDC presidents, to suggest activities, programs, and exhibits for our centennial celebrations, and to resume cataloguing material into the Omeka System, to make these accessible to our members and the public.
Since April 2020, more than 250 members and friends, the Rotary Foundation, WNDC and Arts Club staff, other partners, and volunteers have supported Food*4*DC*Kids. Here is a beautiful letter from the principal at CHEC thanking each one of you for your support:

CHEC is proud to be a long-time partner of WNDC Educational Foundation’s outreach efforts and is deeply appreciative of the targeted COVID support and relief efforts that have made and continue to make all the difference to the most vulnerable members of our school community.

While there are not enough words to describe the true impact of your work at CHEC, I would like to try. CHEC is the District’s second largest school by student population and the neediest economically, with 100% of students on free and reduced lunch. As a citywide school, CHEC attracts students from all wards, including 26% of students who live east of the river. Prior to the pandemic, CHEC families were already on the margins. However, nothing compared to the tsunami that the pandemic unleashed when our families lost their service-related jobs. Overnight, our students were struggling in households where parents could no longer feed their children, pay rent or purchase basic necessities. Under these conditions learning was impossible, and the promise of an excellent public education at CHEC took a back seat to more basic needs.

And then with compassion, dignity and respect, WNDC Educational Foundation rescued CHEC.

The Foundation initially donated to support virtual student learning. Seeing the severity of need at CHEC, the Food*4*DC*Kids program was created to help provide meals for CHEC families. To date, this effort has provided a lifeline of 26,000 hot meals to our families.

The Foundation also continued supporting CHEC with a myriad of special programs virtually mentoring young women, providing college scholarship support, facilitating the establishment of a Model UN Club, providing historic calendars to celebrate Women of Color and the Fight for the Vote and even making it possible for students to participate in a virtual town hall with Stacey Abrams.

I cannot thank the WNDC Educational Foundation enough for these past two years of support. Working with such a special partner to solve real and immediate needs is the best part of my job.

Sincerely,
Maria Tuveva
Principal

COVID isn’t over. Please consider a gift to help us continue Food*4*DC*Kids.
wndceducationalfoundation.org/food4dckids
DIPLOMATIC “TEA” WITH AMBASSADOR CYNTHIA EFIRD
Tope G. Fajingbesi, Interim Chair of the Foreign Policy Task Force
Each time I get the opportunity to present my passport at a foreign country’s border, I often wonder what is going on in the mind of the border control officer on the other side of the Plexiglas. I wonder how he or she feels about America and Americans, and what interactions they may have had with the Americans who represent the rest of us in their country. However, when I traveled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the 2021 Christmas break, not only did I have these thoughts while waiting to be admitted into the country, but I also stood at the border “armed” with new perspective, which I had gained from my conversation with Ambassador Cynthia Efird who served as the United States Ambassador to Angola from 2004 to 2007.
Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/ppc-diplomatic-tea-efird-pd-temitope-fajingbesi

DEMOCRACY, VOTING RIGHTS, & THE ENVIRONMENT
Jean Stewart, Chair, Earth & Environment Task Force
Across our nation, states like Georgia, Texas, and North Carolina are limiting access to the vote by those likely to vote Democratic: Black and Brown voters, college students, and indigenous people. States with Republican-majority legislatures, even some with Democratic governors like North Carolina, are not only changing the rules to limit access to the vote, but also to allow greater control of the election process by Republican officials. Further, intense gerrymandering of congressional district maps will cement GOP political power in a majority of states.
Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/ppc-democracy-voting-rights-environment-pd-jean-stewart

THE TRUE FACE OF GLENN YOUNGKIN
Jean Stewart, Chair, Earth & Environment Task Force
Now that he is safely elected and about to take office as Governor of Virginia, Glenn Youngkin is showing what his real policies are going to be. As he infamously said to his base voters in a video released before the election, he had to be moderate in his campaign to ensure support from independents, but once elected, “I won’t go squishy on you.” A recent editorial in The Washington Post [1], showed that with regard to environmental policies, he is at heart a Trumpist. According to the Post’s editorial, Youngkin has already announced that he will “pull Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, an emissions-cutting pact among Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states, in defiance of common sense, and perhaps state law.” Sounds a lot like the former president when he pulled America out of the Paris Climate Accords.
Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/ppc-true-face-glenn-youngkin-pd-jean-stewart

WE MUST PRESERVE DEMOCRACY IN HEALTH POLICY
Karen Pataky, Chair, Health Policy Task Force
Full Democracy in health policy means each life is of equal value and that all health care decisions are made based solely on science ... Democracy is based on the basic equality of every person to be treated based on their universal humanity.
Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/ppc-preserve-democracy-health-policy-pd-karen-pataky

VICTORY IN 2022!
Elizabeth Clark, Chair, Human Rights & Democracy Task Force
Don’t hang back from political action for goals that need political action now! If you succeed, you’ll have a Victory High making your 2022 and our 2022 a good year!... The democracy imperative is also a moral imperative. Seeing a human spirit in everyone is to open our eyes to ethical behavior, and ethical behavior will strengthen us.
Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/ppc-victory-in-2022-pd-elizabeth-clark

Note: The preceding commentary may not represent the precise positions of every member of WNDC. We welcome feedback.
Thursday, February 17
Vice President Kamala Harris: Her Path to the White House
Malaika Adero
6:00–7:00 pm (Zoom only)

Malaika Adero, author, editor, and chronicler of the stories of barrier-breaking Black women, will discuss her recent work—the first fully illustrated, photo-driven biography of Kamala Harris’s life and work. Adero will discuss why she wrote the book Vice President Kamala Harris: Her Path to the White House, her intentions for the text & commentary, what she found most intriguing in her research of the Vice President, and answer questions on current affairs and issues concerning Kamala Harris’s role. Adero will share short passages from the book and give historical context to Black and female representation in government.

Thursday, February 24
What We Don't Talk About: Sex and the Mess of Life
JoAnn Wypijewski
6:00–7:00 pm (Zoom only)

Writing at the confluence of sex, class, race, and the criminal legal system, JoAnn Wypijewski posits that sex scandals have united people across the ideological spectrum in the "shape-shifting politics of fear." In her most recent book, What We Don't Talk About: Sex and the Mess of Life, she discusses the ways sex panics and the expansion of the punitive state are intertwined. Wypijewski will examine modern sexual politics and the effects of contemporary political scandals; the absence of any real sex education in America, a retribution-focused justice system and more.

February 14: Valentine's Day Dinner
A joint event between the WNDC and the Arts Club of Washington
6:00 pm Cocktails, 7:00 pm Dinner
Dietary needs can be accommodated

Join us at The Whittemore House for an indulgent evening with friends or a date: a candlelit four-course gourmet dinner prepared by renowned Chef Patrick Orange and his team from the Arts Club. Former Chef-Owner of La Chaumière restaurant in Georgetown, Chef Patrick is a true culinary artist whose elegant and innovative cuisine is inspired by his extensive knowledge of classic French cooking. $85 per person includes a Champagne cocktail and wine during dinner

Menu

Appetizer
Classic Lobster Bisque Infused with Cognac | Salpicon of Lobster & Vegetables

Entremets
Belgium Endive & Arugula Salad | Root Vegetable Julienne, Goat Cheese Crostini, Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrée
Roasted Veal Strip Loin Forestière, Port Sauce | Pommes Duchesse, Medley of Wild Mushrooms & Baby Carrots
or
Seared Mediterranean Sea Bass Filet in Black Olive, Sweet Onion & Herb Crust | Pommes Duchesse, Fennel Fondue & Winter Squash Ratatouille

Dessert
Valentine Sweet Heart Sabayon Sauce
Coffee & Tea

February 28: Celebration of DC's "Black Broadway." The Golden Era of U Street
Cocktails: 6:00 pm; Dinner: 7:00–8:00 pm
Program and music until 10:00 pm

Wrap up Black History Month with a party! You are invited to an evening of dinner, discussion, and musical flashbacks drawing on the Black performers who made U Street swing! Soak up the vitality and the history of U Street from the 1900s to the 1950s with a backdrop of musical performances hailing legends such as Nat King Cole, Pearl Bailey, and Cab Calloway. Featuring Briana A. Thomas, local author of Black Broadway in Washington, D.C.

Tickets include seated dinner and live performances.
WNDC members: $45 Non-members: $55
## FEBRUARY 2022

**FEBRUARY 2022**

**MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY**
---|---|---|---|---
**Winter Hours & COVID Safety Measures**
The Club is open Wednesday 9:00 am–5:00 pm and Friday 11:00 am–7:00 pm. Proof of vaccination is required for entry; masks must be worn when not actively eating or drinking, air purifiers are in use, and stringent cleaning and hygiene protocols are in place for your protection. The Club is closed to members Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. WNDC staff are available Monday through Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm at 202-232-7363. Please call ahead to coordinate docent tours and other business.

### 2

**Vice President Kamala Harris: Her Path to the White House**
Malaika Adero
6:00–7:00 pm

**RSVP Deadline for Valentine’s Dinner**
Happy Hour
5:00–7:00 pm

### 3

**Happy Hour**
5:00–7:00 pm

### 9

**March newsletter deadline**

### 10

**RSVP Deadline for Valentine’s Dinner**
**Happy Hour**
5:00–7:00 pm

### 11

### 14

**Valentine’s Day Dinner**
6:00 pm Cocktails
7:00 pm Dinner

**Presidents’ Day**

### 15

### 16

**What We Don’t Talk About: Sex and the Mess of Life**
JoAnn Wypijewski
6:00–7:00 pm

### 17

**Sabiha Iqbal Exhibit Reception**
6:30–8:00 pm

**Special Valentine’s Happy Hour**
5:00–7:00 pm

### 18

**Happy Hour**
5:00–7:00 pm

### 21

### 22

### 23

**Celebration of DC’s “Black Broadway”**
6:00–10:00 pm

**RSVP Deadline for DC’s “Black Broadway”**
Happy Hour
5:00–7:00 pm

### 24

**What We Don’t Talk About: Sex and the Mess of Life**
JoAnn Wypijewski
6:00–7:00 pm

### 25

**On the Radar:**

- March 15: The Global Far-Right’s Assault on Democracy
- March 22: Electing Madam Vice President: When Women Run Women Win

### 28

### 1

**Sabiha Iqbal Exhibit Reception**
6:30–8:00 pm

### 2

**On the Radar:**

- March 15: The Global Far-Right’s Assault on Democracy
- March 22: Electing Madam Vice President: When Women Run Women Win

TBD: Ann Hornaday Oscars Preview

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**Join us for lunch! Reservations Wednesdays & Fridays, 12:00–2:00 pm**

democraticwoman.org/lunch_rez

**WNDC FOLLOWS ALL WASHINGTON DC COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

Register for programs (see p. 7): democraticwoman.org/events

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**W N D C**

**Woman’s National Democratic Club**

1526 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036

202.232.7363
democraticwoman.org