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

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Someone Told Me It’s All Happening at the Club

Dear Members,

What made you join the WNDC? It could have been the draw of speaker programs, the convenience of GOTV actions, or the calendar of social events… or perhaps the easy access to an unhurried lunchroom and a guarantee of four art exhibition openings on your calendar every year. But as I reviewed the first part of 2022 for WNDC’s Annual Business Meeting, I was struck by the really long list of OTHER things that have been on our radar screen—people, ideas, activities, and more that you/we encountered at WNDC just since January. It made me think of Simon & Garfunkel’s song “At the Zoo,” where the lyrics playfully describe how “it’s all happening” there, whether with honest monkeys, missionary antelopes, or secretly plotting pigeons.

In that vein, I encourage you to show up. You never know who you might run into at the Club. A few people who have graced the WNDC, physically and virtually, over the first 6 months of the year:

• A former US President, a former US Secretary of State, a current (Colorado) Secretary of State.
• A couple getting married for the first time under a chuppah in the garden, a couple uniting a blended family in a weekday ceremony upstairs in the Blair Room.
• Bar Mitzvah celebrants joyously posing with the Joe & Kamala cutouts.
• Non-profit executives, private sector leaders starting up new ventures, the recipient of a prestigious scholarship to the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business.
• Workers demolishing walls, a Michelin-starred chef working in the kitchen, an antiques expert raving over the Whittemore House furnishings.
• Community organizations holding their monthly luncheons, Toastmasters practicing their speechifying, local Democratic organizations staging a Mayoral Candidate forum.

When you put yourself in the mix at WNDC, you are getting into an environment where so many things are happening. Take a “fine and fancy ramble” to the Club, and you may react as Simon & Garfunkel did:

What a gas! You gotta come and see
At the zoo

Your rum-loving zookeeper,

Laura Whitaker

MEMBER ACTIONS THIS MONTH:
STOP STRESSING ABOUT SOCIALIZING!

You plan outings with friends, ventures to social occasions, dates with your S.O., and after a while the routines can get stale. Let WNDC do the work for you: invite your guests to a Club event!

• Looking for live music with a side of local history? Monday June 27 is the Summer Sizzle party!
• Seeking a low-key way to mingle outside of your “usual” post-office locales? Friday Happy Hours are your friend!
• Hungry for something tasty from the grill? Thursday July 21 is the Summer BBQ!
• Taking it to the next level with a weekend getaway? Book a ticket to NYC and see a play with a group from the Club on July 23!

Visit democraticwoman.org/events for details & registration
MEMBERSHIP NEWS
Director: Lilly Strieder
lstrieder@wellesley.edu
Event planning meetings TBD

LEGACY CIRCLE: PROTECTING OUR PAST BY REMEMBERING OUR FUTURE

To celebrate our centennial, WNDC is revitalizing the Daisy Harriman Legacy Circle of members who are leaving a gift to WNDC in their wills or trusts. We started with a lovely Garden Tea on June 10, honoring existing Legacy Circle members and encouraging new members. We’ll invite Legacy Circle members to other special centennial events in the coming months.

Since our founding 100 years ago, the Woman’s National Democratic Club has stood proudly on the shoulders of its founders, one being Florence Jaffray “Daisy” Harriman. Through the generations, those shoulders have supported a network of deep friendships and activism to ensure we maintain and strengthen our founders’ vision: From the Right to Vote, the Power to Lead.

Planned gifts help ensure our beloved club keeps on a steady path into the future, so next generations inherit a healthy financial reserve and that circle of giving continues—inside the same historic mansion that has filled us with memories of proud moments in our nation’s history.

If you wish to join this circle, please contact co-chairs Shelly Livingston (sliving7@yahoo.com) or Mindy Burrell (mcburrell@hotmail.com).

Ways to give:
- Bequests Through Wills or Trusts
- Real Estate
- Retirement Plan Beneficiary
- Insurance Plan Beneficiary

SUMMER BBQ 7/21
Enjoy our final summer special event before the Club closes for August. See p. 7 for details.

BROADWAY SHOW 7/23
We have four tickets remaining for the July 23 Saturday matinee of the Broadway play, POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive by Susan Stroman and Selma Fillinger. These are $89 mid-mezzanine seats at the group discount rate. A group dinner afterwards would be fun but attendees must plan their own transportation to and from NYC. This is the last call so please confirm with Pat Fitzgerald by June 30.

WEEKLY FRIDAY HAPPY HOURS
Guests and RSVPs encouraged!
Register at democraticwoman.org/events.

July 1—new member welcome with docent tours
July 8—British pub quiz night
July 15—GOTV event to prep for the upcoming midterms
July 22—GOTV actions available
July 29—WNDC summer soirée

CONGRESSIONAL BALLGAME 7/28
It’s Democrats vs. Republicans at Nationals Park!
Mark your calendars to join your fellow members for this fun DC tradition! More information will be coming soon.
Summer Exhibitions in the Ballroom

Camilla David, whose exhibition, Bold Strokes, hangs in the Ballroom Gallery, is a Washington native. Her paintings of vibrant abstract art, exploring color, pay homage to her mentors and teachers, major Washington Color School artists, such as Leon Berkowitz, Gene Davis, Paul Reed, and Anne Truit. The exhibition is a wonderful display of her interpretation of fields, flowers, ocean, and other things in nature. The exhibition will be on view until Tuesday, September 6.

We are also delighted to exhibit Creation, Destruction, and Resilience, the works of Indian American artist Nimi Trehan opening on Thursday, September 8.

Look for details about the September 12 opening reception in the September newsletter.

GOTV

Summer is here, and the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) effort is in full swing. Here's how to get involved:

- Participate in a Winning Wednesday on July 20, in-person or by Zoom. Grab a glass of wine, connect with fellow Dems, and start contacting voters in key states.
- Attend the next GOTV meeting on Wednesday, July 13 at 6 pm to discuss our fall activities ahead of the midterm elections.
- Use your summer social time, at reunions, weddings, and more, to energize Democrats. Check out our tip sheet for Summer 2022 talking points and actions, suggested ways to get involved in the lead-up to the midterms.
- Plan now for fall activism! Clear time for GOTV efforts after Labor Day. Mark your calendars for weekly Winning Wednesdays from September 7 through Election Day.

Visit democraticwoman.org/get-out-the-vote for the tip sheet and more ways to take action!
WNDC ARCHIVES—FOUND TREASURES

As we move closer to WNDC’s Centennial, the Archive Committee is busy reviewing and preparing important items of WNDC history! We’ve completed restoration of our second batch of recordings and now have nearly 100 digitized recordings of WNDC speaker events dating from 1958 to 1980. Speakers include Betty Friedan, Robert Kennedy, and young President Joseph Biden. We are grateful to member Judy Waxman, who has been assisting with digitizing our VHS tapes of speaker events. Intern Maddy Robbins continues to digitize scrapbooks created by past WNDC presidents that include photographs, newspaper articles, and more from their tenure. All these materials are continually being added to our online Omeka catalog, which will serve as a tool for researchers and members to discover the history hidden within our archives.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

President: Pamela Johnson
pamelajohnson999@gmail.com
Next EF Board Meeting: Thursday, July 14, 2:30–4:00 pm

WOMEN’S HISTORY CENTER

The Educational Foundation thanks the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities for the generous support for our soon-to-be-launched History Center office on the 2nd floor. Details to follow in the September newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE

August 26: Turning Out the Youth Vote—A Call to Action
For further details, please visit: yourvoicematters.vote

On September 20, the WNDC Educational Foundation will honor the distinguished Marian Wright Edelman with our highest honor, the Eleanor Award. Mark your calendars for this illustrious evening event.

YOUTH VOTER TURNOUT

WASHINGTON DC 83.3% 68%
MARYLAND 68% 59%
VIRGINIA 58.4%
PENNSYLVANIA 54.1%
NEW YORK 53.5%
GEORGIA 52.8%

PERCENTAGE BY STATE 2020 ELECTION

NATION AVG 54.1%

GETTING OUT THE YOUTH VOTE

Nationally, only 54.1% of young voters between 18 and 29 turned out to vote in 2020. While this is an increase, young citizens still represent the largest single block of potential voters who do not turn out. Interestingly, the District of Columbia led the nation with an extraordinary 83.3% turnout of this cohort. The WNDC Educational Foundation is working with various partners to document the best practices to increase youth voting.
**GETTING OUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL VOTE**

*Jean Stewart, Chair, Earth & Environment Task Force*

As we mobilize to counter voter suppression and motivate Americans to vote, there is another avenue to help accomplish this goal. With American democracy hanging in the balance and environmental disaster looming, it is imperative to use every tool to get strong environmentalists to become consistent voters in every election, from town to county and state, as well as national. The Environmental Voter Project (EVP) is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization dedicated to identifying millions of non-voting environmentalists and to turn them into consistent voters. Shockingly, registered voters who identify as strong environmentalists, that is, who answer questionnaires about their policy preferences by putting “the environment” or “climate change” as their number one concern, are among the poorest voters. The EVP estimates that over 8 million environmentalists did not vote in the 2020 presidential election and over 12 million skipped the 2018 midterms. EVP uses big data to identify strong environmentalists who vote seldom or inconsistently, and uses proven techniques to efficiently convert them into “a critical mass of consistent voters that will soon be too big for politicians to ignore.”

*Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/getting-out-the-environmental-vote*

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**THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IN A COMPLEX WORLD**

*Cynthia Efird, Member, Foreign Policy & National Security Task Force*

The humorist H. L. Mencken once commented, “For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and WRONG.” This insight goes a long way to explaining why the Biden foreign policy differs from the previous Administration’s. Biden and the Blinken State Department team are, I would argue, correctly rejecting the simplistic answers flogged by the previous Administration and instead—demonstrating nuanced expertise—are influencing foreign actors in ways that benefit the United States and the world at large.

*Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/the-biden-administration-in-a-complex-world*

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**ENLARGING THE SUPREME COURT**

*Zina Greene, Member, Human Rights & Democracy Task Force*

When Democrats get out the vote, as democracy demands we do, and when we keep and improve our Senate majority, we can end the filibuster and pass all the legislation that we have fought for these past 2 years. This includes: meaningful gun control; permanent freedom for women to have an abortion, use contraception, and enter into the marriage of their choice; LGBTQ+ people living in dignity without harassment and discrimination; enacting environmental justice; and, most important, assuring voting rights for all people without discrimination or gerrymandering.

*Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/enlarging-the-supreme-court*

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**IS IT THE GUNS OR THE HATRED?**

*Karen Pataky, Director, Public Policy & Political Action Committee*

So, we are only 6 months into 2022 and America has endured 200 mass shootings. “Mass shootings” are defined as four or more gun deaths in a single incident. We know of recent gun slaughter events at a synagogue, a Black community grocery store, and an elementary school filled with Latino/Latina children, among others. Current shooters have been white male adolescents (younger than 21 years of age), supposedly without anyone in their orbits taking notice of violent inclinations. Between 18 years and 21 years of age, male testosterone is abundant and far exceeds the intellect that mediates violent actions. Most states do not allow anyone under 21 to purchase liquor or cigarettes or Sudafed. But buying an AR15 or other wartime mass killing machine is perfectly fine. What are we thinking?

*Read the full article at democraticwoman.org/is-it-guns-or-the-hatred*
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY
ON SCREEN, ON THE HILL, AND IN THE STATES

Thursday, July 7
Uncivil War Film Screening with the Director
5:30—8:00 pm (In-Person)
Gerrymandering, voter suppression, and disinformation: Uncivil War explores these three factors negatively impacting American democracy. The film unravels a web of threats to American elections, separates truth from fiction, and exposes a hidden war against democracy itself. Alongside the film’s director, Tony Silberfeld, we welcome you to watch the film with us, and then, engage in a lively Q&A following the screening.

Tuesday, July 12
Briefing on the January 6th Committee Hearings
Jill Wine-Banks
6:00—7:00 pm (Zoom)
The televised January 6th Committee Hearings dominated the headlines in June, and now, as we await the release of the final report, join former Watergate prosecutor and MSNBC Contributor and Legal Analyst, Jill Wine-Banks, in a lively and interactive discussion on the ramifications of the investigation.

Tuesday, July 19
Restoration of Voting Rights for Returning Citizens
Desmond Meade, Kemba Smith Pradia, Brandon Rivers, and Kate Fellman
6:00—7:00 pm (Zoom)
The very foundation of democracy is the right to vote, but nearly every state disenfranchises individuals convicted of a felony charge. Moderated by Kate Fellman, Founder & Executive Director of You Can Vote, our esteemed panel of experts will explore this issue in more depth. The panel includes Desmond Meade, Executive Director of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition; Kemba Smith Pradia, advocate for criminal justice reform and Board Member for Virginia CARES, Drug Policy Alliance; and Brandon Rivers, You Can Vote Regional Director.

Don't miss these June Programs!

Monday, June 27, 6:30–8:30 pm (In-Person)
Summer Sizzle—Black Broadway, Part 2

Tuesday, June 28, 6:00 pm (Zoom)
PAC-Talk: "Sex & the Politics of Fear"

Thursday, July 21
Summer BBQ
5:30—8:00 pm (In-Person)
Who doesn’t love a good summer BBQ?—Music, activities, delicious food, and of course, plenty of drinks! It’s a tradition here at WNDC, and we invite you to bring your friends and family to the Whittemore House to enjoy a summer evening in our beautiful garden. Vegetarian options available. Bar opens at 5:30. Dinner 6:00–8:00 pm. $45 Members, $50 Non-Members. Cash bar.

Tuesday, July 26
PAC-Talk:
The Vocabulary of Activism
6:00–7:00 pm (Zoom)
The activists of 20 years ago would hardly recognize the terms “reproductive rights of pregnant people” or “gun violence prevention”—the vocabulary of activism has changed with the times! PAC-Talks are where WNDC members can dig into topics that deserve a full hour of participation. This month, our in-house activists will lead a discussion about language, specifically around abortion and gun violence, and the way that words influence our advocacy's impact. Let’s all learn how to be effective and empathetic activists.

OPEN TO WNDC MEMBERS ONLY

On the Radar for Fall

September 8: Florida Politics—A Bellwether for the Nation?
September 20: Eleanor Award presented to Marian Wright Edelman
Also: Beyond the Bus book talk (date TBD)
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<td><strong>Summer Sizzle</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30–8:30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Walking Tour</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:00</td>
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<td><strong>Independence Day:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Club Closed</td>
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<td><strong>Uncivil War</strong>&lt;br&gt;Film Screening&lt;br&gt;5:30–8:00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Restoration of Voting Rights for Returning Citizens</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:00–7:00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>PAC-Talk</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:00–7:00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Congressional Baseball Game at Nats Park</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:05 pm</td>
<td><strong>Happy Hour</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:00–7:00 pm</td>
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**AUGUST 2022: CLUBHOUSE CLOSED**

**Woman's National Democratic Club**
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202.232.7363
democraticwoman.org