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

www.democraticwoman.org
We live in unsettling times. Weeks after election day, and even though the election was called for VP Biden, the incumbent continues to lodge legal challenges in different states. Most are dismissed or dropped, but the President’s strident accusations of a stolen election grow louder. The Trump campaign has lost legal challenges in Michigan and Pennsylvania and withdrawn one in Arizona. Even the law firms who were working for the Trump campaign have dropped it as a client. However, Trump’s loyal base hangs on to his every word, and chants of “stop the steal” echoed across DC on November 14, where they held rallies. They, along with their leader, do not allow reality to intrude on their fantasies of electoral misconduct. The nation still awaits a concession speech from a cornered, scared President in denial.

It seems not to matter that President-elect Joe Biden has won a total of 306 electoral votes, flipping five states in the process. Pennsylvania’s 20 electoral votes catapulted Biden/Harris over the finish line, resulting in 276 total votes and the win, on Saturday, November 14. In Georgia, the close finish with Biden leading, resulted in a recount. The race was recently called for Biden/Harris and was powered by high turnout among Black voters in Atlanta, and some white suburban voters in the surrounding counties. Now the question remains whether the two Senate runoff races in Georgia will put the Democrats over the winning line or not. With the Senate in Republican hands and the Supreme Court 6–3 in their favor, the likelihood of the new administration achieving its goals will be that much harder without these wins. Thus, future success depends largely on big Democratic voter turnout in Georgia on January 5 to make the Senate 50–50, with the Vice President as the tie-breaker.

Once the spurious lawsuits are done and the Biden/Harris team takes charge, there is much to contend with. The COVID-19 pandemic requires a national strategy to bring it under control. The need for a new stimulus package is urgent. Economic recovery, education reform, racial equity, healthcare reform immigration policy, climate change and taxes are all issues needing attention and re-direction. Foreign policy issues like the Iran nuclear deal, a coherent China policy, the ever-evolving Middle East conundrum, public diplomacy, and human rights issues all need a reset.

Then there is the long-term big picture—issues that have boiled to the surface during the 4 years of the Trump administration. The importance of addressing presidential conflicts of interest and pardon power abuse. Tackling the growing cancer of foreign influence on elections aided and abetted by social media, even as it becomes a global phenomenon.

Trump’s assaults on the press with a co-opted law enforcement apparatus have created a toxic mix—how will future presidents be controlled in these areas. There are other festering problems, like Special Counsel procedures, FBI investigations of presidents and presidential campaigns, the role of the White House Counsel, war powers, control of nuclear weapons, violation of the emolument’s clause, domestic emergency powers, how to handle an outgoing president’s possible crimes, etc. The list is long and daunting. The solutions will not be easy. But they must be addressed, and resolutions found. Otherwise, the incoming administration stands to lose credibility at home and abroad. America has to come back from the brink. The Trump-tarnish must be washed off. It will be a long, hard road.

—Nuchhi Currier
Our symbiotic relationship with the natural world is at a breaking point. Due to the effects of greenhouse gas, the 20th century human has dealt a traumatic blow to our ecological systems. Global temperature shifts, a decline of Arctic sea ice, and the rise in sea levels, has created an environmental shift in animal migrations and growth patterns in trees and plants. Long term consequences of ineffective policy in conjunction with a misconception of our sovereignty over the natural world is bringing our global nation to the point of no return. WE MUST ACT NOW and allow science to guide us to a more harmonious relationship with the environment. This piece serves as a reminder to the potential loss of our natural world. The ominous full moon sheds light on the darkness of our circumstances, urging us to take action or be forewarned of the devastation that lays ahead.

“Climate Change Through A Personal Lens” will run in the WNDC Ballroom from December 3, 2020 through February 23, 2021. Join the artists in a dialogue about art and the environment on Wednesday, December 16.
DECEMBER 2020 EVENTS

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. 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!

Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
6:00–8:00 pm

The US Senate is still within reach! Join the Woman’s National Democratic Club to mobilize voters in Georgia where there are two races that are headed to a runoff. Democrat Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock will face Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler in a special election, and Democrat Jon Ossoff will try to unseat incumbent Republican Senator David Perdue. We can’t take anything for granted. Mitch McConnell has vowed to block the Biden/Harris Administration’s agenda at every turn. We cannot afford four more years of stagnation and regression—we NEED the Senate! The WNDC’s Winning Wednesdays on the Web will start back up on November 18 and run through December 30. We’ll come together on Zoom each week at 6 pm ET to make calls to voters in Georgia. Bring your phone and a computer or tablet, and we’ll provide you with all of the information you need to make calls.

Thursday, December 3
Racial Justice and the Election
Eddie Glaude, Jr.
10:30–12:00 pm

Incidents of police violence in 2020 sparked flashpoints in American society around the question of systemic racism, with widespread changes in levels of consciousness, a revival of civil disobedience, and renewed discussion of a racial reckoning in the United States. Professor Eddie Glaude Jr. studies these themes deeply as an academic (he chairs the Princeton University Center for African American Studies, and the Department of African American Studies), and will bring his thoughtful perspective to our Club’s members and guests for a talk and discussion.

Thursday, December 3
Virtual Member Happy Hour
5:30–6:30 pm

Please join us to celebrate our new Presidential administration! We will toast Joe Biden and Kamala Harris at 5:45 and, depending on how many people register, we will then go into break-out rooms.

Tuesday, December 8
Semi-Annual Meeting and Curbside Dinner
5:30–7:00 pm

Our semi-annual meeting is open to all members and will be held on Zoom. The meeting is an important opportunity to learn what has happened at WNDC over the last 6 months and to reconnect with old friends. A special festive dinner will be available for curbside pick-up from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. The meeting at 5:30 is free. Dinner is $40 per person, and we will have wine pairings from women winemakers available for $28/bottle. See the website for information on placing your order by Friday, December 4.

Thursday, December 10
How Will President-Elect Biden Approach Foreign Policy?
John Feffer
11:30–1:00 pm

President-elect Biden has already promised to return the United States to the World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Accord. Hear John Feffer, Director of Foreign Policy in Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies, discuss Biden’s likely approach to US allies in Europe and Asia, including his take on key competitors like China, and his views on the pandemic, the climate crisis, and the global economy. This talk kicks off the new series, “The US Role in a Changing World.”
**Wednesday, December 16**

**Climate Change Through A Personal Lens: E Street Artists**
6:00–7:00 pm

**Thursday, December 17**

**Confronting Racism in and through the Arts Series**
Serge Seiden
11:30–1:00 pm

---

The public dialogue on climate change is broken, divisive and ill-informed. Art offers a different language to consider climate change, one that is accessible and welcoming. Art does not judge the viewer. It speaks to each of us on a personal level. When we view art on an issue as complex as climate change, we consider it in the context of our own lives. We are not told what to think, but we are invited to reconsider our assumptions and to face hard truths, to contemplate our loss. Art challenges us to action. It is a powerful force for social change. Join the **E Street Artists** in a dialogue about art and the environment. Their exhibit runs in the WNDC Ballroom from December 3 through February 23.

**Serge Seiden** will share how Mosaic Theater Company is evolving as it responds to the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color’s Demands for White American Theatre, a detailed list of hundreds of actions aimed at challenging the vast privilege white theater-makers have historically enjoyed. Now it’s up to theater leaders, boards, and staffs to achieve that goal by changing organizations from the inside out. With its social justice-influenced mission, this is perhaps especially true for Mosaic Theater Company. Serge will share the steps Mosaic has taken and is contemplating, and how he is engaging the entire organization in the effort.

---

This was an unusual year. Our grand plans for a glittering election night celebration were upended by the pandemic. Door-to-door canvassing and in-house electioneering all moved to virtual zoom events. But the WNDC, true to tradition, hosted debate-watch parties (one covered by the *New York Times*) and a successful, socially-distanced Election Watch Party at the clubhouse. On November 3, over 40 attendees watched anxiously as results rolled in, aware of the possibility of skewed initial results. To keep people engaged and relaxed there was a delicious dinner (including curbside pick-up), handouts with candidates’ bios, election-night trivia, B.I.D.E.N. Bingo, the Presidential photobooth, electoral predictions, and a special collaboration with Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a non-profit organization serving families of veterans. Despite the uncertainty of final results, the evening was full of joy and camaraderie in keeping with the finest traditions of the Woman’s National Democratic Club.

---

**ELECTION NIGHT WATCH PARTY**

Have opinions about programs and events? Share your thoughts in a survey today! tinyurl.com/WNDCPCsurvey2020

---

**CHRISTMAS SUPPER TO PICK-UP CURBSIDE**

Festive holiday dinners to go will be offered for pick up at the Club on the morning of Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020, from 9:00–11:30 am.

The menu at $45.00 will include soup, a selection of beef or fish entrée with accompaniments, dessert, and holiday cookies. We will also be offering wines to pair with your dinner.

Please place your dinner order by Friday, December 18.

---

**CHOCOLATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS:**

A perfect gift or stocking stuffer.

Sumptuous Choucrette Chocolate by chocolatier Sarah Dwyer was featured at the recent EF Wine, Women, and Chocolate event to rave reviews. Available to purchase at the Club. Proceeds benefit Food*4*DC*Kids. Choose Dr. Fauci, RBG, Kamala, or Biden (boxes of 5, $20) or Tasting Set (4, $16).
K. D. Harris, the Sorority Sister by Valda Crowder, MD, MBA

Many things have made Kamala Harris who she is today, but I would like to share one that we have in common, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority. My beloved sorority, the first African American Greek-lettered sorority in the country, was started on January 15, 1908, on the campus of Howard University by nine courageous women. To put this in historical context, this was only 42 years and 1 month after the end of slavery at a time when there were fewer than 1,000 “Negroes” enrolled in higher education in the United States.

These nine visionary founders of AKA developed five founding principles that you will see embodied in the commitments, actions, and accomplishments of all of its members:

1. To cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards
2. To promote unity and friendship among college women
3. To study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature
4. To maintain a progressive interest in college life
5. To be of “Service to All Mankind”

So, since 1908, AKA sorority has blossomed into an organization of 300,000 women and 1,024 chapters. And we are literally EVERYWHERE making a difference: television (Ava Duvernay, Phylicia Rashad, Loretta Devine, and Vanessa Bell Calloway), writers (Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Iyanla Vanzant, Maya Angelou), musicians (Ella Fitzgerald, Alicia Keys, Gladys Knight), activists (Coretta Scott King, Bernice King, Rosa Parks), scientists (Katherine Johnson, whose story was portrayed in Hidden Figures, and astronaut Mae Jamison). And Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the first female president of Liberia.

So, we are everywhere, breaking glass ceiling along the way!! How can you identify us? Our colors are salmon pink and apple green. You know us by our high-pitched “Skee Wee” or just a pinky finger-only wave. And with that, I say, “Skee Wee,” congratulations to my soror Kamala Harris. Continue to walk in the legacy that was started in 1908 and continues today.

K.D. Harris, an Introduction by Winfield Swanson

Attorney Kamala Devi Harris served as San Francisco’s district attorney from 2004 to 2011, as California’s attorney general from 2011 to 2017, and in 2017, was sworn in as a US Senator for California. But, perhaps the real beginning of her political career occurred in 1977 when at 13, she and her younger sister, led a successful demonstration in front of their Montreal apartment building to allow children to play on the lawn. Since then, her mission has remained unchanged: fighting for the rights of communities. In 2014, Harris married attorney Douglas Emhoff (they were both born in October 1964), who came with two children, Cole (now 26) and Ella (now 21).

What people say:

Shyamala Gopalan, her mother:
“Don’t you let anyone tell you who you are; you tell them who you are.”
Trump (twice in 2019): “Nasty.”
Biden (2020): “A fearless fighter for the little guy, and one of the country’s finest public servants.”
Cole and Ella Emhoff: “Momala.”

What she says:
[RE: carrying on Obama’s legacy] “I have my own legacy.”
Her motto: “You may be the first, but make sure you’re not the last.”
Kamala—a Source of Inspiration and Hope by Cynthia Chase
What an American story! A daughter of immigrants, a woman of color has risen to the second highest position in the land. Proud graduate of Howard University, then University of California Law School, Attorney General of America’s third largest state, US Senator, and now Vice-president elect of the United States. Can you imagine how many barriers she had to overcome to get to this place? It’s mind-boggling. Yet there she is, a symbol of hope and an inspiration to young women of all colors. Even as the forces of racism and misogyny continue to influence our divided body politic, I prefer to think that we can rise above those forces. I’m hopeful that she can help us do that. Congratulations, Kamala!

Kamala Harris, A Woman Unto Her Own by Marisha Kirtane
Kamala Harris makes me feel seen. (A special shout-out to the millennials for that very useful turn of phrase!) In the wake of Harris’ election to the vice-presidency, much has been written about diversity and representation. I've been reflecting on what it means to me, and why it feels personally uplifting.

Some of it, of course, is that someone who shares an ethnic background with me was elected to a higher office than a woman of color has ever been before. There’s a joy in seeing a woman of South Asian heritage, a culture to which I belong, in power. But what I find most inspiring and aspirational about Kamala Harris is how unapologetically she is herself.

She has an Indian mother, and a Jamaican father, but she is a Black American woman. Her heritage is hers alone, and she has been unwilling to make it a part of her public persona—as is her choice. Kamala Harris is a woman who got married well into her life and career, inherited children who already had parents, had romantic relationships that preceded her current one, and feels no need to explain any of these decisions. Family to her is not just her husband and children, but her sister, niece, and grandnieces—and she presents that as a given. She knows intimately the code-switching that occurs in the shift between cultures, but her choices on when and when not to switch are not for public consumption.

Why is any of this relevant? At a personal level, it provides me a role model to live and present my choices without justification. We are, unfortunately, still at a point in American culture where variance from the norm is viewed with a degree of suspicion. And the norms have not been set by people who look, or live, like me. At a political level, I have hope that a woman who understands difference will bring to her office a degree of empathy and attention to diverse needs. That Kamala Harris will not only inspire people that see themselves reflected in her, but represent them. They have been ignored for far too long.

In Homage to Catherine Jean Finnegan Biden by Anna Fierst
Throughout the course of this past campaign, we have heard much about the employment ups and downs of the President-elect's father, and how those moments of adversity shaped his son's sense of the world. But behind the outward turmoil, there was the quiet presence of a mother who saw much promise in her “Joey.” The President-elect likes to tell the story of a nun at his parochial elementary school who made fun of his stutter. Word trickled back to his mother and the next day, Catherine Jean, a stalwart member of the Catholic Church, accosted the teacher with the comment, “If you ever speak to my son like that again, I'll come and rip that bonnet off your head.”

Her force of character and influence on Biden’s development was rarely a part of stump speeches this year but in her 2010 obituary it was noted that his mother lived by the American creed: no one is better than you and that the honor and dignity of hard work is supreme. With limited financial means, Jean Biden was creative as well. Her son recalled how when his mother couldn't find a pair of cufflinks for him to wear to a middle school dance, she made a pair out of nuts and bolts which left him mortified. She told him, "Now look, Joey, if anybody says anything to you about these nuts and bolts, you just look them right in the eye and say, “Don’t you have a pair of these?”
Joe Biden's Essence by Patti Anderson

"A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including their life." —Unknown

American military veterans come from all 50 states and 5 territories. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 22 million live in the United States ranging in age from over 100 (the “Greatest Generation”) to 18 (“Generation Z”) and every age group in between. They serve on every continent, on every ocean, around the clock, in extreme heat, and in numbing cold. They serve for months and even years without seeing their families. They embody all backgrounds, faiths, races, and ethnicities and come from all walks of life and from all economic and social backgrounds. Joe Biden respects military service. He understands sacrifice. He knows the deep anguish of personal loss. He values soldiers, veterans, and military families. He will never call us suckers or losers. He will never tarnish the legacy of those honored dead who have given the last full measure of devotion.

Not every soldier supports Joe Biden, but Joe Biden supports every soldier. Regardless of personal politics, American soldiers have learned the hard way just how essential the qualities of integrity, responsibility, and character are to leadership. Our president-elect possesses all of these qualities. He is a decent person. Our times call for integrity, duty, and determination. Our nation cries out for character, and leaders who know how to lead. It calls for Joe Biden.

Biden and Inclusiveness by Conceicao Andrade

As a naturalized Portuguese-American, the aspect of President-elect Biden's platform that impresses and moves me the most, is his call for inclusiveness. He believes that the United States can move forward united together as a country with a common goal of inclusive justice, economic growth, racial equity, and dignity for all, despite the fact that we are a diverse nation composed of people of different races, religions, origins, genders, legal statuses, and personal and political beliefs. This ultimately would provide everyone with an opportunity to achieve the American dream: the Pursuit of Happiness. Biden reminds us that many immigrants and refugees, like the first Europeans who partially helped build this country, are escaping political and religious persecution. They are seeking asylum in the US so they can be free to live their lives according to their beliefs, as well as contribute to the cultural and economic enrichment of our country. We should welcome these immigrants and refugees as generously as the first Europeans were welcomed.

Not only does Biden possess a cohesive and inclusive national strategy, but he also has extensive international experience in foreign affairs, which will enable him to restore the respect and faith of our allies and the rest of the world. The US will once again participate in global key issues, such as climate change, environmental and energy security, public health and immigration. These key issues are essential for the survival of the humanity and the planet.

The reasons why I came to this country were precisely because of its ideals of inclusivity, equality, and social justice and my main objective in eventually becoming an American citizen, was the opportunity and privilege to participate in the political process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Order Deadline for Semi-Annual Meeting Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Winning Wednesday</strong> 6:00–8:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Racial Justice and the Election</strong> Eddie Glaude, Jr., 10:30–11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Member Happy Hour</strong> 5:30–6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Committee Meeting</strong> 10:30–12:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Semi-Annual Meeting</strong> 5:30–7:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Membership Committee Meeting</strong> 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Happy Hannukah</strong></td>
<td><strong>January Newsletter Deadline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Policy and Political Action Committee Meeting</strong> 5:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Curbside meal &amp; wine pick-up 2:00–4:30 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winning Wednesday</strong> 6:00–8:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>President-Elect Biden and Foreign Policy?</strong> John Feffer 11:30–1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Program Committee Meeting</strong> 10:30–12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Program Committee Meeting</strong> 6:00–7:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Climate Change Through A Personal Lens: E Street Artists</strong> 6:00–7:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Confronting Racism in and through the Arts</strong> Serge Seiden 11:30–1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Winning Wednesday</strong> 6:00–8:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Winning Wednesday</strong> 6:00–8:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Holiday—Club Closed</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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

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

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

Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036
202.232.7363
democraticwoman.org

January Newsletter Deadline: Friday, December 11
Send your event write-up or article to winfieldswan@gmail.com. We cannot guarantee printing items submitted after the deadline.

Publisher Information:
Anna Fierst, Newsletter Editor
Winfield Swanson, Director of Communications

ON THE RADAR
January 5: Georgia Run-Off Elections
January 12: Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat
January 20: Inauguration Day