



# WNDC NEWS

WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

*An historic, educational, political, cultural, and social club where Democrats meet, discuss, and act upon issues of the day.*

June 2010

## A LETTER FROM THE WNDC PRESIDENT

The highlight of May was the Justice Ruth Ginsburg Award Reception on the 4th. It was a beautifully orchestrated sold-out event—one that made us all proud to be members of this venerable institution. The Whittemore House glittered and shone—a perfect setting for this memorable event—reminding members of glories past while pointing the way for future promise. An evening reception with women Ambassadors and Chiefs of Mission to the U.S. was the next big crowd-puller. Almost 140 guests listened avidly to articulate presentations by a very impressive group of senior women diplomats from India, Oman, Guatemala, Guyana, Morocco, Senegal, Antigua & Barbados. There was a fairly large group of outside guests, some of whom have expressed a keen interest in our club. This is bound to translate into new members. Since January this year we have already signed up 40 new members! This has to be some kind of a record.

***An evening reception with women Ambassadors and Chiefs of Mission to the U.S. was the next big crowd-puller.***

The Hill and the Current newspapers as well as coverage on NBC. Congresswoman Markey, whose daughter contributed artwork, is working with us to arrange a reception for new Congresswomen.

A memorial tea was held on May 19th for our beloved Dorothy Dillon. There were poignant anecdotes related by those who cared for her deeply and respected her contributions to the club. Dorothy has left an indelible mark on our institution and her memory will remain alive for a long time to come!

Your treasurer and I have been busy cleaning up our accounts and the result is that by our fiscal year end, in June 2010, we will have managed to almost wipe out all outstanding bills, to start the new year with a clean slate. After clearing the remaining past debt, we will have a budget for 2010-2011 which is balanced—no shortfalls or deficits—with our investment account intact. Our goal is not just to break even but to make a profit so we can create a sizeable cushion for ourselves for the future.

Two very ardent and active young Dems are in the process of reinvigorating our institution. In concert with Generation 44, a DNC initiative, we are building a network that will be self-sustaining,

see **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** page 2

### President's Circle Tea

Please join us for this wonderful annual "thank-you" event.

*Tuesday, June 22nd, at 4 p.m.*

Look for an invitation in the mail very soon.

### ***History Made at Eleanor Award Reception***

The largest group in club history of current and past WNDC and WNDC-EF Presidents gathered to honor Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at a sold-out champagne reception on the evening of May 4. Two-hundred and fifty ticket holders witnessed Justice Ginsburg receive the WNDC-EF Eleanor Award from three generations of Roosevelt women: Eleanor Seagraves, Anna Fierst and Sophie Fierst. The Presidents in attendance were Nuchii Currier, Lois Fern, Lucia Hatch, Shirley Henderson, Amanda Hobart, Sherley Koteen, Judi Levin, Rosemary Monagan, Judy Olmer, Kathy Remus, Anne Thomas, Elsa Williams and Barbara Zelenko. (Cynthia McCaughan had to cancel at the last moment.)

Three close career friends and the Justice's husband gave tribute to her during the presentation ceremony which lasted exactly one hour.

The steering committee members who met regularly since late last summer include Virginia Lawton, Rosemary Monagan, Carol Baer Mott, and Abigail Nichols. Jim Connors, my husband, needs to be thanked for creating the idea of the WNDC triptych (the three women who have reached the highest levels yet in the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches of government and who have received the Eleanor Award—Hillary Rodham Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, and Justice Ginsburg) and for encouraging us to press ahead when the going wasn't always smooth.

It was indeed a pleasure to work with all of you on this memorable occasion.

Marlene Connors  
Eleanor Award Chair



Kendall Jackson (r) received \$1,000 and Malike Morris (l) \$500 in this year's WNDC Educational Foundation Ruth Nadel Award. The awardees are from the D.C. School Without Walls. They participated in the Young Women's Leadership Project, which encourages careers in public service. The winners submitted the best essays, among other requirements. The yearly award is named for Ruth Nadel (c), an enthusiastic supporter of the Project.

### WNDC-EF Reception

Tuesday, June 8, 10 a.m.

The WNDC-EF will again sponsor a reception for new U.S. citizens sworn in at the U.S. District Courthouse on Tuesday, June 8. Everyone who has attended one of these events has found it inspirational and fun. This year, WNDC member Padmini Gulati will deliver a short speech to the new citizens. Attendees must be in place in the courtroom before 10 a.m., and the reception will conclude before noon. The address for the courthouse is 333 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. Metro: Judiciary Square.

### A Bargain Offer

An elegant pearl bracelet and a handsome gold pin will be offered at a silent auction **during the WNDC semi-annual meeting on June 24th** for the benefit of the club's Educational Foundation, thanks to generous club member Margery Carpenter. Both pieces and full appraisal documentation will be available for inspection. If you need a gift for someone special or feel you owe yourself a treat, please come and bring your checkbook.

*New on the WNDC Website  
from the Public Policy Committee*

### Candidate Watch

#### Countdown to November: We're Nervous

The race in Pennsylvania's 12th district was the only one in the country where a Democrat faced off against a Republican. Mark Critz, former Rep. John Murtha's District Director, triumphed over Republican Tim Burns in the special election to replace Murtha, who died suddenly in February. Many pundits claim constituents expect Critz to "bring the bacon home" to the district like Murtha did, while others say his commitment to job creation and support for seniors and middle-class helped push him over the top. I suspect it's a combination of the two. These two will square off again in November, when I hope the President's ratings will be higher in this quadrant of Pennsylvania; otherwise, I'm nervous.

Over in Philadelphia, Sen. Arlen Specter, backed by the DC democratic establishment, had been able to weather heart and brain surgeries and even cancer, but was unable to beat back a formidable foe in Rep. Joe Sestak (past WNDC PAC-supported candidate). Sestak will face republican Rep. Pat Toomey, Club for Growth President, who barely lost to Specter in 2004. Sestak had a particularly strong showing in the Pittsburgh region and in Allegheny county. Gov. Rendell blamed Specter's loss on poor weather and not that he had switched parties. Hmm... Really??

Way down south, meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Bill Halter, who was outspent two to one by his rival Sen. Blanche Lincoln, garnered 44% of the vote, only 2 points behind Lincoln. Both must "duke it out" until a June 8th runoff election, the winner of which will face Rep. John Boozman, who won the republican primary with 53% of the vote.

Editor: Shelly Livingston, VP Public Policy

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER continued from page 1

bringing in new blood and bold ideas. Interest in the WNDC continues to grow among the young; our four new interns attest to that fact. We are planning to kick-off the political season soon, in concert with the DNC, so we can start working on the elections in 2010 and beyond. Our other initiatives are also being nurtured and we will have a complete report by the Semi-Annual Meeting on June 24. Please make sure you attend. We will be making a presentation on the State of the Club!

*The dividends from  
April's "Art in  
Congress" show keep  
rolling in.*

Warm regards,  
Nuchhi Currier

**Public Policy Committee**

*Chair: Shelly Livingston*

*The Public Policy Committee is made up of the Task Force chairs and a small number of at-large members. All WNDC members are welcome at our meetings. Please contact me or individual chairs if you are interested in joining a Task Force: Shelly Livingston at [sliving7@yahoo.com](mailto:sliving7@yahoo.com).*

**The Public Policy Committee**

*Chair: Shelly Livingston  
Mtg: Tuesday, June 8, 10:30 a.m.  
202-232-4437*

**Economic/Budget Policy Task Force**

*Chair: Stuart Brown  
888-262-1040  
[sbrown@warcap.com](mailto:sbrown@warcap.com)  
Mtg: TBA*

**Education/Children's Issues Task Force**

*Chair: Barbara Stout  
202-966-5710  
[bjrstout@aol.com](mailto:bjrstout@aol.com)  
No meetings in June or July. We will plan one for September.*

**Election Reform Task Force**

*Chair: Aggie Wolf  
703-759-2840  
[asw@bellatlantic.net](mailto:asw@bellatlantic.net)  
No meeting scheduled*

**Environment & Energy Task Force**

*Chair: Alice Day  
202-293-4798  
[at-lhday@verizon.net](mailto:at-lhday@verizon.net)  
Mtg: Friday, June 11, 12 p.m.  
Alice Day was away the month of April. Consequently, the May 7 meeting, scheduled to consider future activities and programs, did not have a quorum. We will use the June 11 meeting, instead, to discuss what Task Force members would like to do to gear up for the mid-term elections. The Public Policy Committee (PPC) plans to host one evening a month to a series devoted to Current Events, with an eye to what we can contribute to the Congressional elections. PPC Chair, Shelly Livingston, has some suggestions for what our*

Task Force might do for a September meeting, possibly coordinating with Stuart Brown, the new Chair of the Economic/Budget Task Force. I will invite him to join us at the June 11 meeting to explore the possibilities. Please attend and tell Patricia Fitzgerald if you plan to have lunch. The Club is trying out new caterers and would appreciate our feedback.

**Global Women's Task Force**

*Co-Chairs: Ellen Overton  
202-388-4820  
Ruth Nadel 202-362-3789*

**Human Rights and International Organizations**

*Chair: Betsy Spiro Clark  
202-537-1279  
[epsclark@rcn.com](mailto:epsclark@rcn.com)  
Mtg: Thursday June 17, 10:30 a.m.*

**Art Committee**

*Chair: Suzanne Finney  
202-497-9710  
[suzanne.finney@starpower.net](mailto:suzanne.finney@starpower.net)*

**Archives Committee**

*Chair: Kathryn Ray  
202-244-0770  
[kcrdlb@gmail.com](mailto:kcrdlb@gmail.com)*

**Budget**

*Chair: Kathy Remus  
[kathyremus@mac.com](mailto:kathyremus@mac.com)*

**By-Laws Committee**

*Chair: Shirley Henderson  
301-598-9744  
[shenderson9744@comcast.net](mailto:shenderson9744@comcast.net)*

**Finance/Development Committee**

*Chair: Huma Malik  
301-983-0895  
[humameh@gmail.com](mailto:humameh@gmail.com)  
Mtg: June 2, 11 a.m.*

**House, Garden, and Museum Committee**

*Chair: Leila Plassey Harrington  
[lplassey@yahoo.com](mailto:lplassey@yahoo.com)*

**House Subcommittee**

*Chair: Carol Baer Mott  
[carol.baer.mott@verizon.net](mailto:carol.baer.mott@verizon.net)*

**Exhibits Committee**

*Chair: Jewell Fenzi  
202-347-0726  
[fenzijg@verizon.net](mailto:fenzijg@verizon.net)*

**Garden Subcommittee**

*Co-Chairs: Ellen Eager 202-363-6066  
Gloria Meade 202-966-4614*

**DC/Metro**

*Chair: Jewell Fenzi  
202-347-0726  
[fenzijg@verizon.net](mailto:fenzijg@verizon.net)*

**Membership Committee**

*Chair: Anna Fierst  
301-652-6728  
[aefierst@yahoo.com](mailto:aefierst@yahoo.com)  
Mtg: Wednesday June 9, 11 a.m.*

**Program Committee**

We used to be called PROGRAM ASSOCIATES. As the club has changed, so have we. We have changed our name to show what we really do: plan programs. Please consider joining us. We need help in getting the kind of programs that appeal to our members. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 3rd, at 10:30....before the Major Pettigrew's Last Stand luncheon.  
- Ellie Newman, VP Programs  
202-363-9795  
[elnewman@earthlink.net](mailto:elnewman@earthlink.net)  
Mtg: Thursday, June 3, 10:30 a.m.

**Social Security**

*Chair: Sylvia Kassalow  
703-354-5654*

**Public and Media Relations**

*Chair: Linda Cook  
301-340-7227  
[lfaycook@comcast.net](mailto:lfaycook@comcast.net)*

**Executive Committee Meeting**

Wed., June 9, 12:45 p.m.

**Board of Governors Meeting**

Wed., June 16, 12:45 p.m.

**Educational Foundation Bd. Mtg**

*Chair: Elsa Williams  
[elsawill2@verizon.net](mailto:elsawill2@verizon.net)  
202-362-5330  
Mtg: Wed., June 16, 10 a.m.*

**WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
JUNE 2010**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Finance Cmte. Mtg. 11 a.m.	<b>3</b> <b>SPEAKER LUNCHEON</b> <b>Helen Simonson</b> Major Pettigrew's Last Stand Program Cmte. Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	<b>4</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) <b>PANEL DISCUSSION AND LUNCHEON</b> <i>Women's Health in the U.S.—Why? No Federal Funding for Abortion?</i>	<b>Accounting Office Hours</b> Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
<b>7</b> <b>NO FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>8</b> <b>EVENING RECEPTION</b> <b>Sam Bennett</b> <i>Women's Campaign Forum</i> 5:30-7:30 p.m. Public Policy Cmte. 10:30 a.m.	<b>9</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Exec. Cmte. Mtg. 12:45 p.m. Membership Mtg. 11 a.m.	<b>10</b> <b>NO PROGRAM</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Environ. & Energy Task Force Mtg. 12 p.m.	<b>Parking Garages</b> New Hampshire Ave., directly across from WNDCC 18th St., near Mass. Ave. Between 1727 and 1711 Mass. Ave.
<b>14</b> <b>NO FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>15</b> <b>EVENING RECEPTION</b> <b>Hon. David Kilgour and David Jones</b> 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.	<b>16</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Bd. of Gov. Mtg. 12:45 p.m. Ed. Foundation Mtg. 10 a.m.	<b>17</b> <b>EVENING RECEPTION</b> <b>Ambassador Akbar Ahmed</b> <i>Journey Into America: The Challenge of Islam</i> 6:30 p.m. Human Rights and Internat'l Org. Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	<b>18</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT)	N St., 1600 Block <b>Subway Red Line</b> Dupont Circle, Q St. exit (turn right from the Metro escalator exit, walk 2 blocks east following Q St.)
<b>21</b> <b>NO FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>22</b> <b>SPEAKER LUNCHEON</b> <b>Hon. Mary A. Gooden Terrell</b> <i>International Judicial Training &amp; African Judicial Network</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT)	<b>24</b> <b>Semi-Annual Meeting</b> 10:30 a.m. <i>Cocktails, noon Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT)	For more information please visit our website at <a href="http://www.democratic&lt;br/&gt;woman.org">www.democratic woman.org</a> or email us at <a href="mailto:info@&lt;br/&gt;democraticwoman.org">info@ democraticwoman.org</a>
<b>28</b> <b>NO FOOD SERVICE</b>	<b>29</b> <b>NO PROGRAM</b>	<b>30</b>			

## Upcoming WNDC Events

### Thursday, June 3 - LUNCHEON

#### Helen Simonson

##### *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*

Time: 12:30-2 p.m.

Price: Members \$25, Nonmembers \$30.

Come and celebrate a Bethesda author's first and very successful book launch. The Washington Post declared, "this thoroughly charming novel wraps Old World sensibility around a story of multicultural conflict involving two widowed people who assume they're done with love. The result is a smart romantic comedy about decency and good manners in a world threatened by men's hair gel, herbal tea and latent racism." This is not "chick lit" nor is it a politically corrective drone of a book, couched as fiction. It is instead, an English comedy of manners that still touches on many modern themes: the clash of culture and religions, the downsides of globalization, and the generational tensions between fathers and sons. The author grew up in a similar English village to the one she describes, and perhaps because of this, it has the feeling of authenticity. This event is being co-sponsored by the Asia Society.



Women's Forum, the only national, multi-issue Asian and Pacific Islander (API) women's organization in the country working to build a movement to advance social justice and human rights for API women and girls; Dr. Suzanne Poppema, author, former associate professor of medicine, retired abortion provider and long-time advocate for abortion; and Stephanie Poggi, Executive Director of the National Network of Abortion Funds, the largest network providing private funds for abortion services for women in economic need, and Nancy Belden, Partner, Belden Russonello & Stewart, strategic research and communications.

### Tuesday, June 8 - EVENING RECEPTION

#### Sam Bennett

##### *Women's Campaign Forum*

Reception: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Price: Members \$15, Nonmembers \$18

Sam Bennett's career has had many facets – congressional candidate, businesswoman, community leader, and now President/CEO of the Women's Campaign Forum. She has appeared on MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews, Fox News' America's News HQ, and To the Contrary with Bonnie Erbe.



In 2008, Sam ran in PA for the U.S. House of Representatives. She garnered national attention with her fundraising skills winning the endorsements of over forty national organizations including, the Women's Campaign Forum, League of Conservation Voters, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and EMILY's List. Though ultimately losing her race to incumbent Charles Dent, she obtained more votes and raised more money than any other Democratic candidate in the district's history.

Today, Sam Bennett is the current President of the Women's Campaign Forum, a non-partisan national network dedicated to achieving parity for women in public office.

Despite our progress, women still lag far behind men in local, state, and federal office as we hold only 17% of the seats in Congress which ranks us 74th in the world. The WCF and their "She Should Run" Program identifies talented women leaders and then gives them the encouragement, information and connections they need to make that decision. Join us for an engaging discussion on how we can level the political playing field and get women candidates in on the ground floor.

### Friday, June 4 - LUNCHEON

#### Panel Discussion

##### *Women's Health in the U.S.—Why No Federal Funding for Abortion?*

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Price: Members \$15, Nonmembers \$20.

Panelists:

- **Nancy Belden**, Partner, Belden Russonello & Stewart, strategic research and communications, to discuss the political will of the American people on federal funding for abortion, based on polling data;
- **Dr. Suzanne Poppema**, a retired abortion provider and long-time advocate for abortion providers;
- **Stephanie Poggi**, Executive Director of the National Network of Abortion Funds
- **Miriam Yeung**, Executive Director, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

Moderated by: **Jon O'Brien**, President, Catholics for Choice

In light of the passage of the healthcare reform bill, Catholics for Choice is convening an exciting panel that will discuss the need to refocus our efforts to foster federal funding for abortion. Leading advocates for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services will reexamine where we have come from and where we might go next to ensure that all women, especially those most economically vulnerable, have the ability to exercise their reproductive choices and have unfettered access to the services they need.

Jon O'Brien, will moderate the panel, to consist of members of several key stakeholder groups including Miriam Yeung, Executive Director, National Asian Pacific American

## Tuesday, June 15 - EVENING RECEPTION

### Hon. David Kilgour

*2010 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, Latin Americas, Africa*

### David Jones

*American Diplomat*

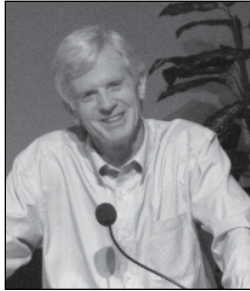
Reception and book discussion: 6:30-8 p.m.

Price: Members \$20, Nonmembers \$25

2010 Nobel Peace Prize nominee **Hon. David Kilgour** and co-author **David Jones**, a former American diplomat, will discuss the relationship of Canada and the U.S. The topics include democratic practices, economic and resource management, health care, and national identity and self-image.

David Kilgour, 2010 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, is also a 7-times re-elected Member of Parliament in Canada. He has travelled to 45 countries on speaking engagements to raise awareness of state-sponsored organ pillaging in China. David authored many books including *Bloody Harvest*, *Uneasy Patriots*, *Betray* and *Inside Outer Canada*.

David Jones is a retired U.S. senior foreign-service officer, focusing on NATO and arms control issues. He served as the political minister counselor at our embassy in Ottawa and continues to work on the State Department's annual human rights report. He has written several hundred articles, op-eds, reviews, and analyses for U.S. and Canadian newspapers and magazines.



## Thursday, June 17 - EVENING RECEPTION

### Ambassador Akbar Ahmed

*Journey Into America: The Challenge of Islam*

Reception and Bar Service: 6:30 p.m.

Lecture and film screening: 7:30 p.m.

Price: Members \$20, Nonmembers \$30

**Ambassador Akbar Ahmed** is currently the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University and is the First Distinguished Chair of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the U.S. Naval Academy, and a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He has taught at Princeton, Harvard, and Cambridge Universities and is considered "the world's leading authority on contemporary Islam" by the BBC. He has advised General David Petraeus, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, and Secretary Michael Chertoff on Islam and foreign policy. He is regularly interviewed by CNN, CBS, BBC, and Fox News and has appeared several times on the "Oprah Winfrey Show." He is the author of over a dozen award-winning books, including *Discovering Islam*, which was the basis of the BBC six-part TV series called "Living Islam". His



books have been translated into many languages, including Chinese and Indonesian. His most recent book is *Journey into Islam* and his current project, "Journey into America," is a documentary based on an unprecedented fieldwork study of Muslims in America. He has a PhD. University of London, and an M.A from Cambridge University.

This event is co-sponsored by the Asia Society.

## Thursday, June 22 - LUNCHEON

### The Hon. Mary A. Gooden Terrell

*International Judicial Training & African Judicial Network*

Time: Bar opens at 11:30 a.m. Lunch 12:15 p.m.

Price: Members \$25, Nonmembers \$30

**The Hon. Mary A. Gooden Terrell** is a retired Associate Judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She will discuss International Judicial Training in the area of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Judicial Assessment. Judge Terrell has traveled to Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, and Mali to work with judges in these countries. She has worked extensively through the African Judicial Network she created with assistance from the federal government's Education for Development and Democracy Initiative.

Judge Terrell is an active member of the community and has received numerous awards and recognitions for her efforts. She is Past-President of the Washington Bar Association Judicial Council and a former member of the D.C. Advisory Commission on Sentencing. She founded the High Tea Society for elementary and junior high school, at-risk girls in DC. These protégés learn etiquette, attend writing workshops, and visit college campuses. Judge Terrell has a distinguished career including her appointment by President Clinton to the Superior Court in 1997. Earlier, she served as Assistant United States Attorney. She received her B.A. from Howard University, M.A. from Antioch College and her law degree from Georgetown University.



## Thursday, June 24

### Semi-Annual Meeting

Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

Cocktails and lunch: 12 p.m.

Luncheon Price: \$25

Please attend and get a wonderful update on our beloved WNDC. The business meeting and installation of new officers will take place at 10:30 a.m. There will be cocktails at noon followed by lunch. Watch your mail for an agenda. Your vote is needed. Please join us in thanking our hardworking President, officers, and all others in leadership positions.