



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.

July-August 2010



WNDC President Nuchhi Currier speaking at the WNDC Semi-Annual Meeting on June 24.

“THE STATE OF THE CLUB”

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good morning. My name is Nuchhi Currier and until now I have been your accidental president. Stormy seas tossed me on this slippery shore and it has taken six months for the storm to abate. We are finally on terra firma again.

I am still asked, “Will we make it?” My response: “We have made it, we did it!” For the first time in many years, maybe decades, we have completed steps that have enabled us to stem our budget deficits. Last month things still looked shaky as we approached year-end, but I appealed to you, and you came through, again! The books are balanced, bills paid, and our investment account has not been touched. We start the new year with a clean slate and a balanced budget.

How did this turnaround happen? There are many reasons. A process of containing our operating costs was started last year which consisted of staff reduction, closing of the kitchen, reducing utility bills, redoing our insurance policies and other equally important measures. We were successful in all of these endeavors.

We also concentrated on revenue generation. We have gained almost 50 new members in the past 6 months. We have raised our room rental rates to bring them at par with other similar venues. We have created new packages for event planners and caterers. We have an attractive new Website called www.thewhittemorehouse.com. We arranged stellar programs which had very healthy attendance and garnered a lot of publicity. But above all, our members expressed their confidence in us by giving generous donations just when we needed them.

see **PRESIDENT’S LETTER** page 2

Join your WNDC friends on an EF-sponsored foray to Staunton, VA!

Tour Woodrow Wilson's birthplace (see photo below) and spend an autumn weekend in this charming, historic town in the Shenandoah Valley. Enjoy a trolley tour of Staunton, a guided tour, by tram, of the Frontier Culture Museum, Trinity Church with windows by Tiffany, and a free afternoon to explore shops and galleries on Staunton's Wharf and Beverly Street. Tour cost will include two nights at a beautifully refurbished, historic hotel, the Stonewall Jackson. Two breakfasts, two lunches, and one dinner are also provided.

We are planning for Halloween weekend--October 29-31. Costs are still being worked out--buses are surprisingly expensive to rent! But the cost should come to somewhere in the area of \$800 for a single room, \$700 for a double. We do not yet need firm reservations, but I do need serious statements of interest.

Contact Judy Olmer at (301) 320-4237 or olmerj@aol.com for more details.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER *continued from page 1*

Where do we go from here? We have ambitious plans! Here are a few:

POLITICAL & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

We are working with the new Congresswoman Betsy Markey of Colorado, whose daughter's art was in our "Art in Congress" show, planning a reception for freshmen women in congress. Stay tuned for more information.

Sharron Yang of the DNC has spear-headed a new youth initiative called "Generation 44" – it targets democrats 40 years and younger. We have had meetings with her and she is excited to join the WNDC and work with us on this initiative.

Two new members, Brooke Stedman and Simona Sanders are discussing a new initiative for Young Dems at the WNDC. They are extremely keen and have wonderful ideas.

Sam Bennet, President & CEO of the Women's Campaign Forum, was invited to address us, by another new and active member, April Carson. Sam is spearheading a "Women at the Top" reception honoring Women Chiefs of Staff and the DC premiere of "Voices from the Ladder" followed by dinner parties in Congresswomen's homes. She has invited us to collaborate with her.

Aggie Wolfe and I met with Terry McAuliffe and his wife Dorothy for lunch. Dorothy was keen to join the club and Aggie is pursuing that. He thinks that former DNC Counsel Jo Sandler can help us get an at-large seat with the DNC and advise us on other issues.

Asia Society is moving in on July 6, 2010. The lease began in June 2010. We are anticipating a very active relationship with them. Joint programming, room rental by them for events, new members for WNDC due to greater exposure, and much more.

We will have hosted the President's Circle Tea by the time we go to press. There are over 40 members who are in the Circle, each having contributed more than \$1,000 in unrestricted giving in the year.

OLD & NEW MEMBER INITIATIVES

Janet Howard, a friend of Pamela Harriman and the Head of International Relations of Coca Cola, just rejoined the club. We are delighted to welcome her back.

I met with Esther Cooper-Smith at an Embassy event and invited her to rejoin the club.

We held a memorial service for Joyce I. Miller on February 26th. Her husband Ed, her son Tom and her daughter Susan came from all over the country for it.

On May 19th we held a memorial tea for Dorothy Dillon. It was a moving occasion with touching stories being recounted about Dorothy's life and contributions.

FUTURE PLANS

We also want to initiate a resident scholar program. We would like to fund a woman researcher / author working on a book related to women's issues. An initiative like this raises our stature and moves us away from our glorious past into a proactive future.

I would like to thank the outstanding Executive Committee and the members of the Board of Governors for the hard work they put in this difficult year. We have succeeded because of

their commitment and unceasing faith in the future of this club.

My experience in the last 6 months has been rich and rewarding, if exhausting. This is an amazing institution with a committed and engaged membership and anyone would stand tall and be proud of leading it. I thank you all for being there for the Woman's National Democratic Club and for supporting the efforts of the executive team.

- Nuchhi Currier

MUSEUM NOTES - BEHIND THE SCENES

Art in Congress, the exhibition on display in the Stevenson-Ball Room until July 22, has been one of WNDC's huge media successes. Organized by Suzanne Finney, chair of WNDC's Art Committee who dug deep into her congressional Rolodex to find artists on the Hill, the exhibition has been covered by the Washington Post, the neighborhood Current newspapers and the three "townier" publications, as well as The Hill and other media outlets.

As with all Club triumphs, Art in Congress was a great collaborative effort. Elizabeth Punsalan, a new member and museum professional helped transport the art from the Hill, guided the hanging of the works (Thank you, Vallie Dennis!) and wrote the labels for each object.

Anna Frame, a professional graphic artist, designed the stunning exhibition poster that features Art Committee Chair emeritus Pamela Wedd Brown's, Donkeys on the Hill. Anna also designed the exhibition pamphlet; all of her talents were pro bono.

The Chair's contribution was four guests, constituents of participating congressional artists, two from Arizona and two from California. Guests also included Rep. Betsy Markey (D-CO) and Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), members of the media and Washington's art community.

Contributions to the Art in Congress evening would be incomplete without profound thanks to General Manager Eric Gunnerson, Patricia Fitzgerald and Anthony Sheppard, all of whom kept the Club on an even keel through the official opening reception. If we have omitted a member who contributed to the success of this original venture -- the first ever exhibit of congressional art -- our apologies. The Art Committee is planning a second Annual Exhibition in 2011.

Meanwhile, opening September 28, the Committee's exhibition of Very Special Arts (VSA) will feature works from the organization's early years to today. VSA artists have special needs, and WNDC's exhibition will highlight the significant role VSA has played over the years in changing society's attitudes toward people with disabilities. The rarely shown early works generated that change, and the Club is privileged to include them in our show.

In June, Estella Chung, Curator of American Material Culture and Historian at Hillwood Museum, researched her upcoming biography of Marjorie Merriweather Post in WNDC's Archives. The Post drawing room was of particular interest to Ms. Chung: the drapes date from the late 1960s when a generous gift from Mrs. Post enabled WNDC to restore the room.

- Jewell Fenzi, Chair, Exhibits Committee

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.

The Public Policy Committee

Chair: Shelly Livingston

Mtg: TBA

202-232-4437

Economic/Budget Policy Task Force

Chair: Stuart Brown

888-262-1040

sbrown@warcap.com

No meeting scheduled

Education/Children's Issues Task Force

Chair: Barbara Stout

202-966-5710

bjrstout@aol.com

No meeting scheduled

Election Reform Task Force

Chair: Aggie Wolf

703-759-2840

asw@bellatlantic.net

No meeting scheduled

Environment & Natural Resources Task Force

Chair: Alice Day

202-293-4798

at-lhday@verizon.net

Mtg.: Friday, July 16, 12 p.m.

Stuart Brown, a new WNDC member, who has agreed to serve as Chair of the Economic/Budget Policy Task Force, was the special guest at our June 11 task force meeting. We discussed the possibility of collaborating on a program to explore the economic and social costs of moving to a new system of energy use and production. Stuart cited a number of issues he sees relating to the intersection of economics, energy and the environment, such as: "deliverables" and the grid, subsidies and military spending, assets and liabilities of alternative sources of energy, energy efficiency. Clearly, the first step is to

frame the topic so that it both addresses key challenges in making the energy transition and raises questions important to Democratic candidates in the mid-term elections.

At Stuart's suggestion, we have invited Jeanine Hull, an energy lawyer, to our July task force meeting. Stuart has talked with her about our plans for a Fall program and she has accepted our invitation to join the July task force meeting. Stuart thinks she can help us to frame the topic and identify speakers whom we can approach to deal with various issues. Please plan to attend and inform Patricia if you will be eating lunch.

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

Mtg: TBA

Art Committee

Chair: Suzanne Finney

202-497-9710

suzanne.finney@starpower.net

Archives Committee

Chair: Kathryn Ray

202-244-0770

kcrdlb@gmail.com

Budget

Chair: Kathy Remus

kathyremus@mac.com

By-Laws Committee

Chair: Shirley Henderson

301-598-9744

shenderson9744@comcast.net

Finance/Development Committee

Chair: Huma Malik

301-983-0895

humameh@gmail.com

Mtg: July 7, 11 a.m.

House Subcommittee

Chair: Carol Baer Mott

carol.baer.mott@verizon.net

Exhibits Committee

Chair: Jewell Fenzi

202-347-0726

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

Mtg: August 20, 10:30 a.m.

Membership Committee

Chair: Anna Fierst

301-652-6728

aefierst@yahoo.com

Mtg: July 8, 10:30 a.m.

Program Associates Committee

ATTENTION: New members--So many of you have expressed interest in Speaker Programs and the arranging of them. Please join us and see how we manage to bring so many wonderful speakers to our Club.

- Ellie Newman, VP Programs

202-363-9795

elnewman@earthlink.net

Mtg: TBA

Social Security

Chair: Sylvia Kassalow

703-354-5654

Public and Media Relations

Chair: Linda Cook

301-340-7227

lfaycook@comcast.net

Executive Committee Meeting

Wed., July 14, 12:45 p.m.

Board of Governors Meeting

Wed., July 21, 12:45 p.m.

Educational Foundation Bd. Mtg

Chair: Elsa Williams

elsawill2@verizon.net

202-362-5330

No meeting scheduled

WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB
JULY 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	PLEASE NOTE:
					<p>Accounting Office Hours Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>Parking Garages New Hampshire Ave., directly across from WND C</p> <p>18th St., near Mass. Ave. Between 1727 and 1711 Mass. Ave.</p> <p>N St., 1600 Block</p> <p>Subway Red Line Dupont Circle, Q St. exit (turn right from the Metro escalator exit, walk 2 blocks east following Q St.)</p> <p>For more information please visit our website at www.democraticwoman.org or email us at info@democraticwoman.org</p>
5	6	7	8	9	
NO FOOD SERVICE		<i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Finance Cmte. Mtg. 11 a.m.	Membership Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	<i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT)	
12	13	14	15	16	
NO FOOD SERVICE	SPEAKER LUNCHEON Sid Davis and Bill Sheehan <i>Washington Summer in Review</i>	<i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Exec. Cmte. Mtg. 12:45 p.m.		<i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Envi. and Natural Resources TF. Mtg. 12 p.m.	
19	20	21	22	23	
NO FOOD SERVICE	SPEAKER LUNCHEON Isobel Coleman <i>Paradise Beneath Her Feet</i>	<i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT) Bd. of Gov. Mtg. 12:45 p.m.		DC Premier COUNTDOWN TO ZERO E street cinema 5:30 p.m.	
26	27	28	29	30	
NO FOOD SERVICE	SPEAKER LUNCHEON Countdown to Zero Follow-up Discussion Dr. James Acton Dr. Jeffrey Lewis	<i>Lunch Service</i> 12:15 - 1:30 pm (NEW FORMAT)	Evening Speaker Reception Alyse Nelson President Vital Voices	CLUB CLOSED FOR AUGUST EXCEPT FOR MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN ADVANCED. CLUB REOPENS SEPT. 7.	

New WNDC Members Since January 2010

Meenakshi Ahamed
Beverly Bachmemin
Edward and Alice Bernton
Paula Boland
Stephanie Bosh
Stuart Brown
Jeanne Campbell
April Carson
Sayeeda Chaudhry
Giordano Chiaruttini

Margaret Child
Anthony Churchill
Carol (Bunny) Dwin
Kari Fawcett
Alberta Gaskins
Alexandra Gerson
Doll Gordon
Janet Anne Howard
Annette Lantos
Katrina Jones

Carol Ann Kell
Sachiko Koyama
Huma Malik
Peggy McCracken
Edward Miller
Marcia Monagan
Susan Monagan
Glenda Nelson
Barbara Pillsbury
Elizabeth Punsalan

Simona Sanders
Erin Schmalz
Gaili Schoen
Deidre Shadler
Elizabeth Smith
Susan Solomon
Kadiatou Traore
Janice Trey
Joyce Webb
Pamela Wrigley

Upcoming WNDC Events

Tuesday, July 13 - LUNCHEON

Sid Davis and Bill Sheehan

Washington Summer in Review

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

Price: Members \$25, Nonmembers \$30

Broadcast journalists **Sid Davis** and **Bill Sheehan** have been leading a popular monthly discussion session at the Cosmos Club for some ten years. On July 13, they are bringing their special discussion format to the WNDC. We are calling the WNDC version “Washington Summer in Review.”

The format they have developed depends heavily on audience participation. So come prepared to join in the debate on such issues as the upcoming fall elections, the gulf oil spill, the immigration debate, a new energy policy, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, or any other topic in the news you would like to discuss. Messrs. Davis and Sheehan have been closely associated with major events of the last several decades.

Mr. Davis was White House correspondent, then Washington Bureau chief for the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company (1960-78) and a vice-president and Washington Bureau chief for NBC News (1978-82). He was one of three reporters to witness the swearing-in of President Johnson aboard Air Force One following the assassination of President Kennedy. In all, Mr. Davis covered or directed news coverage of nine presidents. He also spent seven years as program director of Voice of America.

Mr. Sheehan worked for ABC News for 20 years, starting in 1960 – as national correspondent, foreign correspondent, vice president for television news, and president of the news division. He also served as senior counselor of the International Media Fund and was with NASA for five years after the Challenger accident as associate administrator for public affairs. Mr. Sheehan was also a board member of the Public Broadcasting System.

The moderators will help guide the conversation. But if the session is to be lively and interesting, audience participation is essential. So come prepared to join in the discussion.

Tuesday, July 20 - LUNCHEON

Isobel Coleman

Paradise Beneath Her Feet

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

Price: Members \$25, Nonmembers \$30

Isobel Coleman, a Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, will introduce her latest book, *Paradise Beneath Her Feet: How Women are Transforming the Middle East* (Random House, 2010) on July 20th, in which she draws on her expertise in regional gender issues as well Middle Eastern affairs at large to explore women’s struggle for basic rights and freedoms in their daily lives. Despite a rise in politicized Islam that often sees feminism as a Western import, many women throughout the region have made feminism their own by finding and strengthening feminist traditions within Islam. Coleman has travelled through Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan meeting women who are working within the tenets of Islam to create political, economic, and educational opportunities for women.

Ms. Coleman’s focus at CFR is on the Middle East and South Asia. She is also the director of the Council’s Women and Foreign Policy Program. Before joining the Council on Foreign Relations, Dr. Coleman was a partner with McKinsey & Co. in New York and the CEO of a healthcare services company. Her academic career spans two continents as she attended Princeton University for her BA in Public Policy and East Asian Studies before matriculating to Oxford University where she holds an MPhil and a DPhil in International Relations. She has authored and co-authored several books including *Restoring the Balance: A Middle East Strategy for the Next President* (Brookings Institution Press, 2008) and *Strategic Foreign Assistance: Civil Society in International Security* (Hoover Press, 2006). Her writings have appeared in many publications such as the Washington Post, International Herald Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, Foreign Affairs, Financial Times, and Foreign Policy.

This event is co-sponsored by the Middle East Institute Muslim Women’s Fund.

