

# The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: DSCCFC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

October 2023

### **CHAIR'S CORNER**



Chairwoman Mari Lee

Whew! September was a busy month for our Central Committee. We volunteered at First Saturday, In the Streets, and nine days at the Great Frederick Fair. We would have had a presence at the Middletown Heritage Festival as well, but that was postponed due to the rains and winds from Tropical Storm Ophelia. But we're not finished yet! We still have three community events coming up in October: First Saturday and Middletown Heritage Festival on Saturday, 7 October, and Brunswick Railroad Days on Saturday, 7 October, and Sunday, 8 October. We're looking for volunteers to help us staff our tent at these events. Please consider signing up for one or more shifts at the event(s) of your choice. You can view more details and sign up here.

Other noteworthy events happening this month include the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Women's Democratic League of Frederick County (WDL). They are the longest, continuously operating Democratic

club in the state of Maryland! There will be a terrific lineup of Democratic officials (still being finalized but we know it will be good!) that will help to celebrate this fantastic milestone and also inspire us all for the year ahead. The deadline to purchase tickets or sponsorships has already closed. The United Democrats of Frederick County (UDFC) is hosting their annual picnic on Sunday, 15 October. You'll learn more information about that in the club's article and flyer later in the Banner. Additionally, all of the local Democratic clubs are cohosting a Meet & Greet for U.S. Senate - Maryland candidates on Saturday, 28 October, from 10 AM-11:30 AM at the ERUCC Community Room, 15 W. Church Street, Frederick. Candidates will have the opportunity to share about themselves, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions during social time before and after the event, time permitting. A Meet & Greet will be held for congressional District 6 (CD6) candidates on Saturday, 18 November at the same location and time. A formal forum for the Senate and CD6 races will be held on separate TBD dates between late February and the primary on Tuesday, 14 May. We will announce those dates and other details once finalized soon after the filing deadline on 9 February.

In October, our Central Committee will hold our next public meeting on Tuesday, 17 October, at 6:30 PM, at the Common Market Community Room on Rt. 85, Frederick. Please join us!

I'll continue to close out my article as I have over the last couple of months. It's not too early to think about being an election judge (aka poll worker) for

the 2024 presidential elections. You can get the details, including how to apply, compensation, and more on the Frederick County Board of Elections website.



We are looking for volunteers, to help us staff our Democrat Booth at various events, canvassing, and our Get Out the Vote efforts. Please click on the link below for more information and to sign up.

**Volunteer Today** 



Don't forget to check the calendar on our website to keep up with Democratic meetings, candidate events, and more!

http://www.frederickdemocrat s.org/events/calendar

#### **DEMOCRATIC** PARTY



Tom Slater, Frederick County Democratic Central Committee / Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

#### The Rest of the Story

On October 11, 2023, the Women's Democratic League of Frederick County (WDL) will celebrate its 100 anniversary at Ceresville Mansion in Frederick. The WDL has a rich and long history of participation in the evolution of the Democratic Party in Frederick County. Since I moved to Frederick in 1966, I have attended many events sponsored by the WDL and have had the privilege of knowing and interacting with the women who have led this worthy organization but there was a lot that I did not know about the WDL until recently.

A few months ago, a stranger called Central Committee Chair Mari Lee and told her that she had something that perhaps Mari would want. This stranger identified herself as a Republican, but she said that she was involved with the cleaning out of a house for a person who had moved into a nursing home and in the process had discovered four boxes of "stuff" that clearly was associated with the Democratic Party. Mari arranged to obtain the boxes and deposited them with me as the party historian. It turns out that the boxes contained an enormous amount of pictures, programs, newspaper clippings, etc., all associated with the Democratic Party and particularly the WDL. For the past

couple of weeks, I have spent hours reviewing the material and have gained much insight into the past activities of the WDL.

I may have attended the 40th anniversary of the WDL held at Betty's Restaurant on September 8, 1973, and probably the 50th anniversary held on December 1, 1983, also at Betty's Restaurant. At the 50<sup>th</sup>, Sara Bennett (back then she was referred to as "Mrs. Alton Bennett") was recognized as the only surviving member of the club's original founders. I can find no evidence of a 60th or 80th celebration but at the 1993 Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner (the predecessor of the Democratic Gala), the WDL, under the leadership of Mary Alice Marks, celebrated its 70th anniversary. On November 11, 2008, the WDL celebrated the 85th year of its founding with journalist Eleanor Clift as the featured speaker. The 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held on October 3, 2018. If you do the math, something is amiss. Here's what I think happened. In 1993 Mary Alice Marks wrote a history of the WDL for the Banner (I was the editor of the Banner then). She announced that the charter members of the Women's Democratic Club of Frederick County, which first met on October 4, 1923, were Mrs. Alfred (Lilliand) Gaver, Mrs. Robert (Hilda) Staley, Mrs. William (Fannie) King, Mrs. Alton (Sarah) Bennett, Mrs. George (Margaret) Abrecht, Mrs. Lillian Kehne Pearl, Mrs. William (Caroline McP.) McGill, Mrs. Victor M. (Sue V. Marken), and Mrs. Chester (Elizabeth) Knill. When I became involved in the Young Democrats in Frederick County in the late 1960s, Fannie King, Sarah Bennett, Caroline McGill, and Elizabeth Knill were still active in the Party. In her article in the Banner in 1993, Mary Alice also reported that another club, The Young Women's Democratic League of Frederick County, was chartered on October 26, 1933. Mary Alice included in her article a historical list of the presidents of the Women's Democratic League starting in 1933 with Mrs. Alfred (Lillian Gaver) and reported that during Mildred Fisher's presidency of the League in 1949-50, the name of the club was changed to the Women's Democratic League to be more inclusive (not just "Young" women). Complicating the matter is that Elizabeth Knill died in February of 1974 at the age of 65 – do the math!

Over these many years, the WDL has been immersed in the Democratic Party in Frederick County, holding monthly meetings in members' homes, at Winchester Hall, at clubs such as the VFW and the leffersonian Democratic Club, and at various restaurants in the community. Speakers have included Democratic officeholders and candidates for political office in Frederick County. According to notes found among the boxes left with Mari Lee, the WDL held a spring rally in Braddock Heights in 1944 (the year I was born, so I did not attend) with 550 people in attendance to hear speeches from U.S. Senator Millard Tydings, House Speaker Sam Rayburn, Maryland Governor Herbert R. O'Conor, Maryland Attorney General William Walsh, and future Marvland Governor William Preston Lane. In 1951, at one of the WDL's meetings, the leader of the local Democratic Party, Judge Alton Y. Bennett spoke of the need to get young people involved in the Party, the need to get organized on the precinct level, and the need to insist on good government (some things have not changed!). Congressman Carlton Sickles, Maryland's Congressman At Large spoke at a WDL meeting at the FSK hotel in 1965. Historically the WDL has hosted an annual picnic and Christmas/Holiday party. In 1965 U.S. Senator Joseph Tydings spoke at a WDL meeting at the Frederick Hotel and attended the Christmas Party at the VFW when his wife was the speaker as well as Maryland Delegate Nancy Burkheimer, then the youngest woman legislator in the State of Maryland.

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### **DEMOCRATIC** PARTY

In 1978 the WDL put an ad in the Frederick News Post criticizing the Republican-controlled Frederick County Board of Commissioners for not selecting Galen Clagett to be the president of the Board of Commissioners when he was the top vote-getter. The newspaper, in an editorial referred to the WDL as "gals" and accused them of being sore losers.

After Beverly Byron was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1978, the WDL, in 1980, honored her at a dinner as "our most distinguished member." They also have opposed keeping schools open on election day, advocated for the dualization of Route 15, and pushed for the appointment of persons to government positions, especially women. In 1986 the WDL sponsored a forum on women's role in politics at Frederick City Hall and a forum for Democratic candidates for the U.S. Senate at Hood College.

For many years the WDL has been associated with the United Democratic Women's Clubs of Maryland and has participated in regional luncheons and annual banquets associated with the UDWC. In recent years the WDL has honored women's contributions to Frederick County by establishing awards for personal contributions, project contributions, and organizational contributions. There is a lot to celebrate over these last 100 years.



It is with sadness that I report the death of Seymour Stern at age 85. Seymour was active in the Democratic Party, was appointed to the F.C.C. Board of Trustees, was a well-respected lawyer in Frederick for over 60 years, and leader of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA). He served as president of the MSBA in 1990-91 and was one of the founders of the Maryland Institute for the Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers in 1976. It is fitting that, as we celebrate the WDL, I have found a

picture of Seymour with Ellis Carty, Goodloe Byron, Ron Young, Jim Murphy, and WDL president Connie Twigg at the WDL's first annual fundraiser dinner dance held on September 13, 1977.













# UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

Hello Frederick-

United Dems of Frederick County have had a busy month so far!

The first Monday of the month was 9.11.2023, the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania- by hijackers using our own airplanes as weapons. After a moment of silence, we had several members share reminiscences of the events of that unforgettable day. The meeting that followed was a talk by our own State Senator Karen Lewis Young, and she discussed the Maryland Blueprint for Education and the effects it could have for us here in Frederick County. There was a Q & A session after her talk.

September 15-23<sup>rd</sup> was the Great Frederick Fair! It was the 161st Fair in the history of Frederick! UDFC members served at the Fair throughout the 9-day event, but Thursday, September 21st was UDFC Day at the Fair! See the photos here of members Melanie Galloway and Maureen Grayzeck along with fellow Dems Diane and Eric Schobel. Also, a photo of Mari Lee and Mark Jafari on the evening shift! A good time was had by Fair-workers as well as Fair-goers! The weather was fabulous - low humidity, sunny, breezy, and comfortable- YEA! (You can discount the last day of miserable tropical depression storms!)

There will not be a regular UDFC "First Monday" meeting at Café 611 in

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October. Instead, we have a makeup date for the UDFC Picnic now scheduled for Sunday, October 15th from 1-3 PM at the Bar-T Mountainside Ranch near Urbana in Frederick. We will be under a large tent so that we can enjoy the picnic rain or shine!! Please read the flyer here in the Banner, and RSVP to let us know you are able to join us! UDFC provides fried chicken, cupcakes, soda, water, and adult beverages, as well as paper products. All guests are asked to bring a side dish or an appetizer to share! The picnic is free to all of our 2023 members- everyone else is welcome to join at the door: \$20.00 for an individual, \$35.00 for family dues (cash or checks).

Also in October, the combined
Democratic Clubs of Frederick (North
County Dems, South County Dems,
WDL, and UDFC are joining together to
host a Meet and Greet for the US
Senate candidates running for election
in the 2024 Primary next spring. This
Meet and Greet will be held on
Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 11:30
AM at the ERUCC church in downtown
Frederick (parking at the Church Street
garage.) More about this event soon!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Maureen Grayzeck
 President, UDFC









# WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK COUNTY

On August 18, 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup>
Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, enfranchising all American women and declaring for the first time that they, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

On October 4, 1923, 200 of those newly enfranchised women of Frederick County. MD joined together to form the Women's Democratic Club of Federick County. During the 1950's the group was renamed the Women's Democratic League of Frederick County. Since 1923, the WDL has been an active and ongoing social organization committed to the education and involvement of Democratic women in the political process and advocating for equality under the law for all people.

This group has stood the test of time. For 100 years, our members have fought for women's rights, civil rights, human rights, voting rights, fair housing rights, reproductive rights, and the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People. We will continue to fight as there is more work to be done.

On October 11, we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary. As we have been doing for the last 100 years, we will be honoring women who have over the past year for some and a lifetime for others, have promoted, and defended women's rights and have helped set a path for others to follow. We will be honoring former County Executive Jan Gardner, Linda Moran, Bonnie Portier, Whitney Duck, and Past WDL President, Lara Westdorp.

-Shelly Beaird-Francois, President











### Delegate Karen Simpson, District 3 Frederick

Your voice is important! I want to hear it. My team and I are hard at work figuring out how to improve on our efforts from last session and prepare for our quickly approaching second year in Annapolis.

The path forward is increasingly encouraging as we explore legislation to improve family law and criminal law, and how we can better address harassment complaints. To do this, I have been meeting with state, federal, and local partners to discuss how our legislative ideas would affect constituents at all levels, while also accomplishing what they are intended to do.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I am gaining a deeper understanding of the inner workings of our court system and how it impacts the people who interact with our legal system. This firsthand experience continues to shape my approach to justice reform and tackling the various legal challenges faced by our neighbors.

However, these collaborations are only productive when we fairly represent the diverse voices that make up our community. The best way to prepare for the 2024 Legislative Session is to meet with the people impacted by legislation. To build on our efforts in transparency and inclusivity, I would be thrilled for you to join me for **Coffee with Karen** on **Saturday, October 21** 

# at 10 a.m. at Starbucks on Patrick Street.

After recently attending the legislative recap and town hall hosted by the Maryland Latino Caucus right here in Frederick, it is my hope that this gathering will provide the same opportunity for you to connect with me, discuss the issues that matter most to you, and gain insight into the legislative process.

As we gear up to return to Annapolis in January, we remain committed to ensuring the needs of our community are met. We need to know what issues are affecting you and your family.

Please contact me at Karen.simpson@house.state.md.us.

Your voice is important and I want to hear it. Let's make a difference.



#### **CANDIDATES' CORNER**



**Brian Frydenborg,** Candidate for U.S. Senate - Maryland

Ben Cardin's Shoes Are Big Ones to Fill. We Need a Senate Candidate with a Deep Background on National and International Policy. That's Me.

From getting kids dental insurance to being a leader on the landmark Magnitsky legislation allowing us to sanction foreign government officials for human rights violations to protecting the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem, Senator Ben Cardin has a long list of accomplishments both foreign and domestic and a deep understanding of the legislative process, having served in the Maryland House of Delegates for 20 years until 1987—half that time as Speaker—then for 20 years in the U.S. House, and now for 16 years as a U.S. senator creating solutions as opposed to obstruction. None of my competitors in the race to succeed him have anywhere near that kind of distinguished political experience, and I sure as hell don't, either.

I don't have the business career some of my competitors do, one a 2nd-term U.S. representative coming from running a longtime successful wine business. But we aren't running to fill a corporate board seat. I sure don't have the local government experience the apparent frontrunner does, a county state's attorney turned county executive. But we are not running for a country office, but a national one and I have not been able to find anyone in modern U.S. history who went from being a local county official straight to being a U.S. senator. But I do have over two decades of national-level and international policy expertise: academic, journalistic, professional, NGO, and government (contractor) experience most of my competition cannot match. And I'm running on ideas, and detailed plans for achieving real progress.

To be fair, there don't seem to be many journalists who have jumped directly to the Senate, but the great Jon Ossoff from Georgia is one recent example. And I wouldn't be as qualified to run a major business or be a county official as my competition I have highlighted, with them spending most of their professional lives filling those roles and from what I can tell, overall filling them

(Continued on the next page)

well. But that doesn't make them the best choices to be a U.S. senator. I believe my experience is far more relevant: 23 years of dealing with national and international politics and policy from a wide variety of angles and roles, from being a guest of the United Nations Mission in Liberia to covering gun violence in the U.S. as a policy problem to calling out weaknesses in our cyber defense. Business and local politics are essential pillars of our nation, but for filling the Senate seat of Ben Cardin, a more national and international portfolio like mine is better.

When I was just an intern for then-Sen. Joe Biden, I helped resolve a backlog of defense equipment for Lebanon. Since then I have deeply researched and reported on some of the biggest issues of our era: how to keep our country safe from terrorism and stand up for freedom in Ukraine and globally, the need for major healthcare reform, and the primacy of guns in perpetuating gun violence, racial bias throughout our society and the need to develop infrastructure, the need for green energy investments as well focusing on how to make our economy work so that so many people aren't left behind. And not least of all, fighting domestic extremism, foreign interference, and Trumpist fascism to protect our democracy.

Unlike my competition, I already have detailed plans available on my website. from a renter's federal refundable tax credit to strengthening the crucial NATO alliance against cyberwarfare and disinformation to protecting younger workers from being exploited as interns in violation of Department of Labor policy. I will soon have new plans up capping credit-card interest rates at 19.99%--nearly all the people paying the higher interest and struggling working poor—as well as for addressing our embarrassing infant and maternal mortality (especially its racial disparities), how to foster national police reform (not abolishing, nor turning a blind eye to abuse), and a

road map for Israeli-Palestinian peace. We need a candidate versed deeply in these issues over time and with thought-out, developed, workable, and publicly posted policies from day one, not just slogans or bullet points. That candidate is me. Learn more at Brian4MD.



Joel Rubin, Candidate for Congressional District 6

Joel Rubin is Running for Congress!

Joel Rubin is a pragmatic progressive who grew up in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, a hub of Jewish activism, surrounded by family, neighbors, and conversation about social justice at the dinner table each night that informed his view of the world and desire to devote his life to public service. Joel also served three terms in municipal government, including as his town's Vice Mayor, where he was hands-on in helping constituents during the pandemic, and served as an advisor to Senator Bernie Sanders on Jewish community affairs.

Joel is a national security expert, progressive activist, Jewish community leader, and local elected official who served in the Obama Administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. Motivated by his experience of being a civil servant in the Bush Administration when it went to war in Iraq based on lies, Joel committed himself to peace

and helped found what is now J Street, a pro-Israel group that advocates for peace and democracy in the region. He later led the American Jewish Congress to counter antisemitism here in the United States. He also served in the Obama Administration in a senior State Department role, where he led the agency's work with the House of Representatives.

Come meet Joel yourself at either of his upcoming events happening this week!

- Friday, September 29th Event in Potomac - link to RSVP: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/JMR929">https://tinyurl.com/JMR929</a>
- Saturday, September 30th Event in Bethesda link to

   RSVP: tinyurl.com/JMR930

And make sure to sign up to keep up to date with what Joel and his team are doing on the campaign trail!

<a href="https://www.rubinformaryland.com">https://www.rubinformaryland.com</a>





Did you know that in addition to voting for President of the United States in 2024 there are local races on the ballot too, including Board of Education?

Are you thinking about running for office in 2024? We would like to hear from you! Please send us an email at info@frederickdemocrats.org.









The Kumar & Murali **Families** 





TEKESHA¬

MARTINEZ



UNITED DEMOCRATS

Shelly Beaird-Francois Karl Bickel M.C. Keegan-Ayer Jerry Donald Ken Kerr **Kavonte Duckett** Renee Knapp Melanie Galloway Tami McNulty Maureen & Ed Grayzeck

Beth Gura Lois Jarman Diane & Gary Kantner Thomas & Steven Slater

Michael O'Connor Bill O'Toole Mike Reid







#### **Editor's Corner**

Gmail users - Our mail server may cause The Banner to be delivered to your email "Promotions" tab instead of your inbox. If you do not receive your monthly edition, please check for it in that tab. If it isn't there, please send me an email and I'll check your subscription. You may also view The Banner on our website by clicking here.

**Banner Newsletter Ideas?** Send me an email with your ideas, materials, or feedback for consideration.

Hope you enjoyed reading! Shelly Beaird-Francois,

shelly@frederickdemocrats.org

Central Committee info@frederickdemocrats.org



"I was born and raised here. Despite the challenges I faced, I decided I was not going to be a victim, so I doubled down, stayed in my hometown, and began serving my community.

Our district needs the momentum of a movement if we're going to keep it blue, so I'm building one. After less than 2.5 months, we have over 2,300 working-class contributions.

Some people believe that we can't win this because we don't have the institutional support yet. I say that's what gives us the edge."

- Tekesha



## **MEET TEKESHA**

Tekesha Martinez, the first Black Mayor of Hagerstown, MD, is a homegrown American success story against all odds.

As a trained mediator and spoken word poet who grew up in foster care, Tekesha intends to bring her fresh perspective, deep love of community, and broad experience to Congress, running for the open seat in MD's 6th District.



PUBLIC SAFETY

HEALTHCARE
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

**REFORM** 

TEKESHAMARTINEZ.COM



The Democratic State Central Committee of Frederick County does not endorse Democratic candidates in a contested primary election. We encourage you to get to know them and help the campaign of your choice in any way you see fit.

### October 2023 At-a-Glance



Joint Democratic Clubs Event
Meet & Greet for U.S. Senate - Maryland Candidates
Saturday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

ERUCC Church Community Room, 15 West Church Street, Frederick
Co-hosted by North Frederick Co. Dems (NFCD)
South Frederick County Co. Dems (SFCD)
United Democrats of Frederick County (UDFC)
Women's Democratic League of Frederick County (WDL)

Democratic State Central Committee of Frederick Co. (DSCCFC)

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, 17 October at 6:30 p.m.
Common Market Meeting Room, 5728 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick

Join CLUBBLUE! Our sustainers are activists and everyday people who contribute a monthly monetary donation to help the Party sustain its competitiveness in current and future local and statewide elections. Click <a href="here">here</a> for more details. Donate as little as \$5 a month and let the Frederick County Democrats do all the work!





#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY



RSVP for the UDFC Picnic in advance by clicking the link below:

https://forms.gle/cZweZgBw4gtxCE1s8.

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with the



Join UDFC for fun, fellowship, and a few speeches at our Annual Picnic

> Sunday, 15 October 2023 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Bar-T Mountainside**

2914 Roderick Rd, Frederick, MD 21704

We have rented their enclosed tent. Follow the driveway around to the backside of the Activities Bldg.

UDFC will provide fried chicken, cupcakes, paper goods, and drinks (water, sodas, & adult beverages) Please bring a dish of your choice to share.

#### Paid members attend for FREE!

Non-members can attend by joining UDFC - \$20 individual or \$35 family

(Can be paid during check-in at the picnic; membership will be active to the end of the year.)

Everyone is asked to RSVP. Please scan the QR code below, or visit https://forms.gle/cZweZgBw4gtxCE1s8





Hope you can and will join us!



Questions? Contact UDFC at UnitedDemsFrederick@gmail.com, or President Maureen Grayzeck at 443-414-7303.

Picnic will be held

### A LOOK BACK AT FREDERICK DEMS IN THE COMMUNITY IN SEPTEMBER 2023.

Several photos from the Democratic tent at the Great Frederick Fair





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# **DEMOCRATIC** PARTY

























In the Streets



### **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris - Website

# DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR THE 2024 ELECTION



#### **U.S. SENATE - MARYLAND**

Angela Alsobrooks - Website

Juan Dominiguez - Website

Brian Frydenborg - Website

Will Jawando - Website

Steven Seuferer - Email

David Trone - Website

Andrew Wildman - Website

# U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6 - MARYLAND

George Gluck - Website

Ashwani Jain - Website

Lesley Lopez - Website

Tekesha Martinez - Website

Mia Mason - Website

Stephen McDow - Website

Laurie-Ann Sayles - Website

Destiny Drake West - Website

Joel Rubin - Website

Joe Vogel - Website