



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

May 2025

CHAIR'S CORNER



Chairwoman Mari Lee

In the past few weeks, we co-hosted a Hands Off! protest & march, and a "We the People" People's Party with Rise Up Frederick and Frederick Indivisible Coalition, in response to the continuing power grab and authoritarian actions of the Republican administration. There was a large showing of community members at both. We also recently independently hosted a community town hall – "Reconnecting with America's Values" – moderated by Democratic community activists Teresa Schwab and Tony Soltero, and a sign wave last night in protest of the 100th day of the fascist regime. We are thankful for all who participated in these events.

We are currently planning our next two resistance events, one in June and the other in July, which we'll announce once details are finalized. In between now and then, we'll continue to promote other resistance events hosted by other local or national groups on our social media, and we'll

continue to assess when other events/activities are feasible and effective.

Switching gears to other events. There's still time to register for our Democratic Campaign School coming up this Saturday, May 3. As previously mentioned, the school is from 1 PM – 3:30 PM, and includes presentations focused on Basics, Fundraising, Messaging, Data Analysis, and Managing Volunteers. Our school is for registered Democrats interested in running in the City of Frederick or other municipal elections this year or county/state offices in 2026. Register [here](#). You can also click [here](#) for a complete listing of the municipal elections this year, and access to each of the town websites.

This month, the Monocacy Plowman & Fisherman Club is hosting its kickoff event on Wednesday, May 21, at 6 PM, with special guest Maryland Senator Guy Guzzone, Legislative District 13, Chair of the Taxation and Budget Committee. We will gather at the home of Senator Karen Lewis Young and Ron Young. You can learn more and get tickets [here](#).

Our annual dinner is Monday, June 9, at 6 PM, with special guest Harry Dunn, former U.S. Capitol Police Officer. That evening, we'll recognize our honorees for Outstanding Democrat, Outstanding Volunteer, Rising Star, and Stephen LeRoux Legacy Award. Click [here](#) for information on sponsorships, tickets, ads, and more. We hope you'll join us at either or both events.

Our local HQ is a collection site for a children's-book drive this month. Local group Dems Help will distribute the items to designated community organizations. You may drop off items anytime during our office hours: Tuesdays, 3-7 PM, Thursdays, 5-7 PM, and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM – 2 PM. Monetary donations are not accepted, and neither Dems Help nor the Central Committee will provide a tax-deductible receipt.

We continue to add information to our "[Resist Fascism](#)" page on our website. This page provides links to resources for impacted federal workers and links to sites and/or documents detailing how to contact your elected officials and options to get involved. Please help spread the word about this resource page.

Join us at our next Central Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 20th, at 6:30 PM, at our HQ, 8 West 5th Street, Frederick. Come share your thoughts and/or listen in as we discuss our business and activities.





Tom Slater, Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

The Rest of the Story – Vera Hall, a Trailblazer, Dan Rupli, a fighter for justice, and Frederick City's Allen Merchant

One of the projects that I am working on is a history of the Maryland Democratic Party (MDP) since World War II. I have been interviewing some who have been involved in the MDP in the second half of the Twentieth Century. I was pleased to be able to locate and visit with one of the trailblazers in Maryland politics: former Maryland Democratic Party vice chair and chair, Vera Hall. Vera has not been active in Maryland politics recently, but I was able to visit with her at an assisted living facility in Baltimore this April. Vera got her start in politics in 1970 when her husband, without informing her in advance, brought some local politicians, including State Senator Clarence Blount, to her house, and she prepared breakfast for them. She made an immediate impression on Blount and remained close to him throughout both of their political careers. A Baltimore Sun feature story on her selection as party chair in 1992 quoted Blount: "She has gotten to be quite a savvy politician. She's unquestionably a hard worker. If she takes a job and says she is going to do it – then she does it. And she carries people along with her. If you're lazy, you're not going to make it with her." Vera was appointed to the Democratic

State Central Committee in 1972 by Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel and subsequently elected to the central committee in 1974, the same year that I first was elected to the Frederick County Democratic State Central Committee. We both served on the Executive Committee of the MDP during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

When I visited with her, not surprisingly, she was watching Senator Cory Booker's record-breaking speech in the U.S. Senate. At 88 and after two strokes, she has not lost her interest in politics. She had recently lost her husband, Lawrence, last November, and I lost my wife in October, so we immediately re-bonded and rekindled our longtime friendship. We talked about our children. She is very proud of her son, who is a retired eye surgeon, and her daughter, who is a Shakespeare professor at Barnard College. Born in North Carolina, Vera was inspired by her grandmother's interest in sewing. Graduating in 1962 from Coppin State College with a degree in fashion design, Vera continues to make quilts that tell stories. Her career in education as a reading teacher in the Baltimore City schools, where she was the first African-American assigned to an all-white school in Little Italy, led her to become a reading specialist with the Maryland State Department of Education. She served as Maryland's Assistant Superintendent of Schools from 1979-1983. She was a presidential elector for Carter-Mondale in 1980. Morgan State University recognized her skills and hired her to be its legislative liaison from 1983-92. Elective politics followed, as she was elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1987 and 1991, serving during the Mayor Kurt Schmoke administration. After an unsuccessful bid for Baltimore City Council President in 1995, losing to Mary Pat Clarke, she retired from politics. Earlier, she served two terms as vice chair of the MDP. Vera and I worked together in Democratic Party

politics and at numerous Democratic conventions. In 1991, Governor Schaefer, his supporters, and many party activists like myself were behind an attempt to deny the re-election of Schaefer's own hand-picked chair of the MDP Nate Landow. Nate fought back and defeated Vera as he won his attempt at re-election. Later, in 1992, after Landow resigned to raise money for Al Gore, Vera made history as the first African-American female chair of a state political party in the United States. Her selection as party chair was not easy, as some political power brokers, including Governor Schaefer, suggested a co-chairmanship with former Congressman Michael Barnes. At first, she agreed and then decided to run on her own after receiving phone calls from many Democratic women whose message was "don't quit on us." The Executive Committee of the MDP recommended that she be selected as chair by a one vote margin and she was unanimously selected by the Maryland Democratic State Central Committee. She was a special guest at the 6th Monocacy Plowman and Fisherman event in Frederick County in 1992 at the home of Robert and Mary Kay Kresslein. Vera was always a pleasure to work with and a positive force for the values of the Democratic Party. She is truly a trailblazer, and I was so glad to be able to reconnect with her.

Dan Rupli died in March at age 82. He was a man who always stayed true to his principles, even if it made some people uncomfortable. Up until the end, he was fighting for justice, even running a quixotic campaign for Congress in the 3rd congressional district in 2024 at age 81 and receiving 34 votes in the primary (.04%). Born in Chicago and raised in Montgomery County, he earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore Law School. He worked for the Justice Department, where he oversaw voter registration in Mississippi as part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Later, he

(Continued on the next page)

formed the Organization for Consumer Justice, moved to Burkittsville and was elected its mayor. In 1976, he challenged incumbent Goodloe E. Byron in the primary. He also ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1978. Not being a successful candidate himself, he worked in the Tom Harkin and John Kerry presidential campaigns and became a good friend of Tom Harkin's. He also worked in Parris Glendening's campaigns for governor and Kweisi Mfume's 2006 U.S. Senate race, where Mfume lost to Ben Cardin. is sister described him as "having a big personality, big, fun-loving, and energetic. He could assess a political situation and not be a partisan. He could see the situation through the lens of history and his experience from working on so many campaigns. He came alive when he was working on a cause he believed in. In his career, he remained absolutely committed to his core beliefs in democracy and fairness, never wavering in favor of changing political trends." (from his obituary)

Allen Merchant recently passed away at age 74. After graduating from Frostburg State College, Allen returned to his native Frederick to work at the family business (Blue Ridge News Agency), serve as Mayor Ron Young's administrative assistant, and as a member of the Frederick City Board of Alderman.

* Correction – in my column in last month's Banner I mistakenly spelled former Delegate Richard Grumbacher's name



Vera Hall – 4/1/25

Dan Rupli with Ron Sundergill, and Charlea Coss during Tom Harkin's 1992 campaign for president.



Vera Hall at 1980 Democratic National Convention



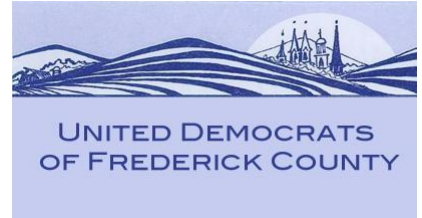
Vera Hall at 1982 Mid-Term Conference



Vera Hall with Verda Welcome, Christine Sarbanes, Grace Connelly, and Howard Thomas at 1982 Mid-Term Conference



Vera Hall at conference sponsored by the UDFC and the local Democratic party in



UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

Hello UDFC Member and Friends,

We look forward to welcoming you to Café 611 at 611 North Market for our monthly meeting on Monday May 5th at 7 PM. Our guest speakers will be the Maryland State Delegates from District 3: Karen Simpson, Ken Kerr, and Kris Fair. The three of them will be presenting their Legislative Updates from the recent session of the State Legislature. Following their talks, we will have time for a 15 minute Q & A session. Promises to be an interesting and lively session...please join us!

Heads up! On Monday, June 2nd, we will have a guest speaker who is new to UDFC. Payne Harrison attended our April meeting and has since introduced himself to Melanie Galloway and me. Payne is an author and a longtime Democratic activist from Texas who has ideas to share about grass roots activism. Please save the date and join us Monday, June 2nd at Café 611!

In lieu of a formal July meeting, we will host the UDFC picnic:

Sunday, July 20, 2025 from 2-5 PM at Pavilion 2 in Middletown Park, 7628 Coblenz Road, Middletown, MD 21769. Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE!!** UDFC provides fried chicken, cupcakes, juice, soft drinks, beer and wine, as well as plates, napkins and utensils. Picnic is free to UDFC members, and you can also pay at the picnic. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share.... Variety is welcome!

(Continued on the next page)



See the UDFC Flyer for details in this May Banner, also read through this edition to get up-to-date info on events and activities in and around Frederick!

-Maureen Grayzeck
President, UDFC



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK COUNTY

The WDL will hold our monthly meeting on Monday, May 19th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Democrat's Office at 8 W. 5th Street in Frederick. The speaker will be Danielle Haskins from the Immigrant Affairs Commission. The Commission acts as an advisory body that serves as a means for immigrant voices to be heard and understood, facilitates civic engagement among immigrants, and recognizes and legitimizes issues of importance to immigrants arriving and living in Frederick County.

I hope to see you there!

Shelly Beaird-Francois,
President, WDL



SOUTH FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATS

The South County Dems had a terrific meeting on April 19 with a stellar panel of 4 past Republicans entitled "Republicans Then, Democrats Now." The panelists shared insights regarding their path from Republican to Democrat. Over 50 people attended the engaging and informative program.

We hope that you will join us for our next meeting on May 17 from 9:30-11:00 am at Bar-T Mountainside at 2914 Roderick Rd, Frederick. The program is entitled "Kingian Non-violence and Its Relevance Today." Kingian Nonviolence is a philosophy and methodology based on the teachings and practices of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., emphasizing nonviolent conflict resolution and the pursuit of a "Beloved Community." The speaker, Barbara Bezdek, is a professor of law at the University of MD. She will share strategic steps based on those used by King that can effectively address social injustices.

To get to the meeting location, follow the entrance road as it curves to the left. We meet in the larger white building located past the small white building (camp office) on your right. It is across from the parking lot with a side entrance under the porch overhang on the right side of the building.

All like-minded folks are welcome; it does not matter where you live. Please feel free to invite friends to join us. If you have questions, please contact the South County Dems President, Melanie Galloway,

at Danmelgalloway@verizon.net or the Vice President, Annette Breiling, at Annette.breiling@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Annette Breiling,
Vice President, SFCD

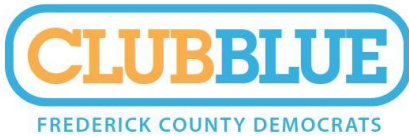


Volunteers Needed!



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](#)



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 [here](#) for more details. Donate as little as \$5 a month and let the Frederick County Democrats do all the work!



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

or

Central Committee -

info@frederickdemocrats.org

Taste of Emerge MD

One Day Candidate Training

Saturday, June 28th

10:00 AM ET

IBEW Local 24

RSVP: bit.ly/tasteofmdfrederick

Learn how you can prepare to run for office and make a difference in YOUR community. A Pre-training for our Signature program.

contact@emergemaryland.org



ANNUAL DINNER

You may pay for your tickets, sponsorship, or advertisement [online](#) or mail a check to the address on the invitation.

THE FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Annual Dinner



MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025
 6 PM SOCIAL HOUR | 7:15 PM DINNER | 8 PM PROGRAM
DUTCH'S DAUGHTER
 581 Himes Avenue, Frederick MD

Special Guest
HARRY DUNN
 FORMER U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER

TICKETS: \$95 PP | \$85 PP FOR CLUB BLUE MEMBERS
\$65 PP FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (AGES 18-40)
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: SEE FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG

PLEASE MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO FCDCC. MAIL TO:
 FCDCC | PO BOX 793 | FREDERICK, MD 21705
 PLEASE WRITE "DINNER 2025" ON CHECK'S MEMO LINE

OR PAY ONLINE: FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG

BY AUTHORITY: FCDCC, MCCAMIE PATTERSON, TREASURER

THE FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Annual Dinner



MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025
 SOCIAL HOUR | DINNER | PROGRAM & AWARDS
DUTCH'S DAUGHTER
 TICKETS - \$95 PP | \$85 FOR CLUB BLUE MEMBERS
 \$65 FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (AGES 18-40)

Sponsorship Opportunities
COCKTAIL SPONSOR - \$1500
 10 Tickets (Full Table) | Full-Page Ad | Event & Social Media Recognition, Sign Placement in Ballroom During Cocktail Social, & Two-Minute Welcome Remarks

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1000
 10 Tickets (Full Table) | Full-Page Ad | Event & Social Media Recognition

SILVER SPONSOR - \$600
 5 Tickets (1/2 Table) | Full-Page Ad | Event & Social Media Recognition

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$350
 2 Tickets | Full-Page Ad | Event & Social Media Recognition

FULL-PAGE AD - \$150
 SIZE: 5 1/2 X 8 1/2
 Please email all ads to Deb Reynolds at dndreynolds@verizon.net. Submit by Thursday, May 15.

PATRONS - \$35
 Your name will be listed on a patrons' page in the program book.

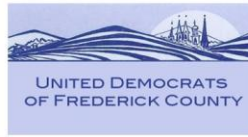
SPONSORSHIP AND AD PAYMENTS
 PAY online: FrederickDemocrats.org or make a check payable to FCDCC.
 Please write "Dinner 2025" on check's memo line. Mail to:
 FCDCC | PO Box 793 | Frederick, MD 21705

BY AUTHORITY: FCDCC, MCCAMIE PATTERSON, TREASURER

It's



with the



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

**Sunday, July 20, 2025
2 PM—5 PM**

Middletown Park

7628 Coblentz Road, Middletown
Pavilion 2

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

Dues—\$30 individual or \$50 family

Dues can be paid by cash or check during check-in at the picnic or you may mail
a check in advance to UDFC, PO Box 3882, Frederick, MD 21705.
(Your membership will be active to the end of this year.)

Picnic will be held



or



Hope you can and will join us!

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



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

[http://www.frederickdemocrats.org
/events/calendar](http://www.frederickdemocrats.org/events/calendar)



City of Frederick Votes 2025

The City of Frederick will hold its municipal elections
later this year. Voters will vote for the mayor and the
seven-member City Council. Learn more [here](#).

Seven other municipalities in Frederick County will hold
elections this year. Learn more [here](#).

Join CASEY DAY
FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
Banned Book Bingo
THURSDAY JUNE 5TH 5:00 PM
C. BURR ARTZ LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

JOIN US FOR A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL EVENING AS WE PLAY SOME GAMES OF BINGO, DISCOVER
MORE ABOUT RECENTLY BANNED & CHALLENGED BOOKS, AND LEARN ABOUT THE MARYLAND
RIGHT TO READ ACT!

SPECIAL GUESTS (SO FAR): RAE GALLAGHER & MARY JO RICHMOND, RETIRED FCPS SUPERVISOR
OF MEDIA SERVICES

TICKETS REQUIRED AND AVAILABLE FOR A DONATION AT [BIT.LY/BBOOKBINGO](https://bit.ly/BBOOKBINGO)

THIS EVENT IS A FUNDRAISER FOR CASEY DAY FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE MAINTAINED AND USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.
BY AUTHORITY FRIENDS OF CASEY DAY, LINDSEY BECK, TREASURER.

Casey Day – Banned Book Bingo

Tickets are needed to reserve a space
and available for a donation
at bit.ly/BBOOKBINGO

May 2025 At-a-Glance



United Dems of Frederick Co. (UDFC) Monthly Meeting **Monday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m.**

Café 611, 611 North Frederick Street, Frederick

North Frederick Co. Dems (NFCD) Monthly Meet-Up **Saturday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m.**

Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Road, Thurmont
(Please bring a non-perishable item for the area food bank.)

South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Monthly Meet-Up **Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m.**

Bar-T Mountainside, 2914 Roderick Road, Frederick

Women's Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting **Monday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

Frederick Co. Democratic HQ, 8 West 5th Street, Frederick

Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) **Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Frederick Co. Democratic HQ, 8 West 5th Street, Frederick

Young Democrats of Frederick County (YDFC) Monthly Meeting **Thursday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m.**

C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick



and

Frederick County Democrats

Like us on Facebook



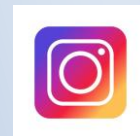
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Follow us on Instagram



Click on the icons for a direct connection.

Check us out on YouTube too!



A LOOK BACK AT FREDERICK DEMS IN THE COMMUNITY IN April 2025

Frederick "Hands Off" Protest & March, Saturday, 04.05.25



We The People People's Party, Saturday, 04.19.25



Sign Wave in protest of the 100th day of the Republican regime, Wednesday, 04.30.25

