



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County September, 2017 Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Sep 12 **DPW Election Support Training**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 6:00-7:30 PM. see page 4

Sep 12 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:30-8:45 PM. **Current** (2017) DPDC members are welcome.

Save the date:

Sep 26 **General Meeting & Speaker Forum**, location to be announced, 6:00-8:30 PM. See article below.

OCTOBER

Oct 10 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, (same as above except 6:30 start)

Save the date:

Oct 24 **Public meeting, "All about Badger Care** Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:30 PM. See page 4.

Digest of Contents

Page 2:

- Tammy Baldwin event review

Page 2-3:

- Annual Picnic review

Page 3:

- Membership Committee's Grass Roots Party Building

Page 4:

- Training Session by Royce Kim, regional organizer
- All about Badger Care with Rebecca Derenne

Page 5:

- The New Beatitudes - poetry by Mike Oarlock

Page 6:

- Note From the Chair - Kathleen is over the moon
- Membership matters - please join, or renew your membership in Door Dems.

Page 7-8:

- Opinion - "Democrats Risk Losing Their Base" by Jackie Bricco

John Nichols is Featured Speaker

John Nichols is the speaker for our next general meeting on the night of Tuesday, September 26, 2017. (venue yet to be determined) Nichols is the national affairs correspondent for The Nation and associate editor of Madison's Capital Times. As one of the country's best-known political commentators he regularly appears on The BBC, MSNBC, CNN, NPR and other networks. His new book "Horsemen of the Trumpocalypse: A Field Guide to the Most Dangerous People in America", has been hailed by Naomi Klein as "the crucial guide" to battling Donald Trump and "the gang of kleptocrats propping him up."

Continuing with the high energy created with the Tammy Baldwin fundraiser, I hope you can all join us to hear John Nichols. His knowledge of Wisconsin history and the way he massages it into analysis and predictions is fascinating. He's been a guest speaker here a number of times and always draws an enthusiastic crowd.



John Nichols

by Melissa Koepsel:

Tammy Baldwin Speaks to Northern Door Constituents

Monday, August 21, 2017

What a wonderful event! We were so pleased to welcome United States Senator Tammy Baldwin to the Baileys Harbor Town Hall. Tammy spoke to a large and enthusiastic gathering. The event began with a steady flow of politically minded community members coming through the door. Wine, beer, soda and snacks, supplied by Rachel Lohman and the Lars Johnson Family, were available all evening and helped create casual conversations that reflected a neighborhood atmosphere.

Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to speak with Tammy; it was wonderful to see that she is a gentle and focused listener. State Senator Dave Hansen was a joy to watch as he was familiar with many of the attendees. Both Tammy and Dave have a natural grace and genuine interest in what is on the mind of those who live, eat and breathe politics in Door County.



Overflow crowd moved outdoors

We were blessed to have so many talented artists from our community join us and provide music prior to Tammy taking the floor. The town hall erupted in voice as Katie led the singing of Woody Guthrie's, *This Land is Your Land*. (read on page 5)

Those in the audience had the rare opportunity to listen to an original poem written specifically for this event. Mike Orlock read his poem, *GOP Jesus: Sermon of the Mountebanks, The New Beatitudes*; many lines in the poem resonated with the crowd.

United States Senator Tammy Baldwin took the floor and began by describing what it means to be a badger; describing our states early miners and their habit of living in abandoned mine shafts (like a badger) and how the nickname evolved to mean a hardworking and energetic citizen from the state of Wisconsin. We have been able, to this day, to capitalize on this reputation for excellence in manufacturing with this image. She spoke of being raised dually by her mother and grandparents, and how this extended family instilled in her a drive to accomplish all that you can, and to serve and make a difference in the lives of others.



Bill Perloff greets Tammy

Tammy's soft spoken demeanor, quick wit and steely resolve permeated her speech; one can easily conclude that she is a dedicated senator who takes to heart the needs and passions of her constituents.

This event would not have been possible without the help of the following dedicated Democratic contributors:

Cathy Grier: music

Charlynn Hansen and Rich Girod

Jerry's Flowers: flowers

Joseph Lopez and Josiah Robben: beverage service

Kathy Navis: water

Katie Dahl and Rich Higdon: music and sound

Lar's Johnson Family: beverages

Michelle Geiger-Bronsky: vintage banner

by Laurel Brooks:

DPDC Annual Picnic Keeps Getting Better

On August 3, Democratic picnic-goers planned for sun and games, and although the weather did not cooperate, everyone considered the event another success. They left glad they came and inspired by speakers Bryan Kennedy, mayor of Glendale, and Kathleen Vinehout, gubernatorial hopeful.



B Kennedy

Kennedy was introduced by Sturgeon Bay's voice of hope, Councilwoman Kelly Catarozoli. Jackie Bricco delivered an insightful analysis of politics and its public benefits when exercised by a thoughtful practitioner. She linked those qualities to Kathleen Vinehout as she introduced her to Democrats looking to the future.

(continued on next page)

DPDC Annual Picnic, continued from page 2



Sen. Vinehout

Senator Vinehout talked about her background and professional qualifications and engaged in question and answer with the audience, among whom she found many strong supporters. Despite the weather, both speakers

demonstrated the kind of intrepid commitment to their calling that all Democrats must have during the coming campaign cycle.

As usual, everyone brought their favorite picnic dishes and Cal Holvenstot, John Harris, and John Mahoney manned the grills...again, despite the rain. Jess Reinke and Charolette Baierl were charming bar mistresses, serving soda, wine and Jess's own recipe for sangria, as well as excellent beer from the solidly Democratic New Glarus Brewery.



Char, Jess, Kathleen V, and Becky



While attendance was lower because of the weather, we enjoyed the company of approximately 60 Democrats from around the county, as well as a couple from outside our borders. Thanks to more than 80 reservations and generous sponsors, Treasurer Kyle Chaudoir assures us that we concluded the event well in the black.

As faithful Democrat Cy Rosenthal used to say, "You can't beat fun for a good time!". We should get together more often!

GO DEMS!!

by Carol Jensen-Olson:

Grass Roots Party Building

The membership committee has grown from a committee of one to a committee of two!!! Thank you Trina.. YES, the membership committee needs you. YES, the committee needs people who are willing to reach out to people, get to know them, find out what their interests are, find out if the party's communications are getting to them, find out which issues are most important to them, send out last minute reminders of events and anything else that is viewed by the committee as important in keeping Door County Party's values alive and kicking.

Is this something that excites you ? Are you willing to take it on? Ron Maclean and Carol Jensen-Olson are in the process of creating a communication tool for achieving these goals but need your input, your time and your help. Uncle Sam needs you....well, so does the membership committee. PLEASE call Carol Jensen-Olson at 920-562-2838 or e-mail her at jenniegraham1313@gmailcom or contact Ron Maclean at ron.m@doordems.org



Note From the Editor:

Your Board of Directors has ambitiously committed to a mostly monthly newsletter schedule, published on the 1st of every month. Occasionally, an issue will cover two months, however, we expect a minimum of 10 issues per year.

by Dana Brooks:

HERE'S EDUCATION FOR YOU

The Education Committee works to engage the public on issues of importance to Democrats. Save the dates for these programs in September and October:

Mark your calendar watch: **NOTE: early start on Sept. 12**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Sturgeon Bay Library: Royce Kim, Regional Organizer for Northeast Wisconsin from the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, will begin training us to get ready for a Democratic future. This is your opportunity to make a difference in the way our lives are governed. You are welcome, so plan to come. The time and place will be confirmed via email. All party members and people interested in learning how to work for our future should plan to attend.

WHAT? In our teams, folks would be responsible for their designated roles/committees, whether it is volunteer recruitment, data, direct voter contact (which could be canvasses and phone banks etc), events, and issues, to name a few possibilities so in this context we believe that everyone is a leader. The point of these roles/committees is to have an efficient and clear line of communication between the different committees as well as the overall point of contact. Every talent and skill has a role to play.

WHY? The 2016 Election taught us that we needed to come together as a community. Our goal is to create this community through our neighborhood action teams. These teams will be volunteer driven and will focus on taking effective actions in their communities on issues and campaigns so that we can be successful both in 2018 and in the future. This is a great opportunity to learn how you can take action in your community to make sure we fight for progressive issues such as healthcare and education and to fight for Democrats like our own Senator Tammy Baldwin. Unlike the Trump presidency, our organization will not be temporary. This is how we will turn Wisconsin Blue.

An Organizer Is... :

In the past, Democrats relied on people at the grassroots who knew their neighbors and spread the word to family and friends. Those people knew who was in need, who was sick, and they helped their friends and neighbors in times of need. More recently, the party tried to rely on big money and social media to get its message to people, but it is difficult to match, let alone outspend, the wealthy elites that fund the Republicans.

It is time for Democrats to organize house by house, street by street, road by road, to remind the people who they are and the democratic principles that brought a quality of life previously unknown to our country. We will need help, relearning how that organization takes place, so that we can once again build our party on the foundation that made this country great - the working men and women of the United States. Royce Kim is our regional organizer.

SO? This will be work. It is not for fair weather activists. But if you are willing to work to create a Democratic future for our county, our state and the nation, then this is for you. Come, Learn, Be Part of the Future.

OCTOBER 24, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the Sturgeon Bay Library: Rebecca Derenne of Wisconsin Citizen Action will inform us about BadgerCare for All, a bill introduced and supported by Democrats. The bill is currently pending in the State

Legislature. Ms. Derenne, a native of Green Bay and UWGB graduate, has over a decade of experience in public health, non-profit and business. She has trained and assisted state and local organizations working to improve Wisconsin's health.

GOP Jesus: Sermon of the Mountebanks The *New* Beatitudes

And seeing the multitudes living on the government's largesse,
He went from Wall Street to Washington;
and when he was settled there, comfortably on K Street,
tie loosened and twenty-year old single malt in hand,
His disciples came to him, and he taught them, saying:

Blessed are the top one percent,
for they can afford the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that invest wisely in politicians,
for they are comfortable and connected.

Blessed are the sleek and chic, the popular and self-glorifying,
for they shall inherit everything and be famous for it.

Blessed are they who are self-righteous in their hunger for more,
for their coffers shall be filled to over-flowing.

Blessed are the multinationals, the private equity firms, and hedge funds,
for they shall find safe havens in the Caymans.

Blessed are the flinty-hearted, the miserly, and greedy,
for they know the value of my money.

Blessed are the bankers,
for they are the children of the greatest God.

Blessed are they who do the bidding of the wealthy, who write favorable tax laws,
who give succor and sustenance to the elite among us,
for who has not wanted to someday work for them, lobby for them,
and break bread with them without worrying about the cost?

Blessed are they who exploit fear, anger, and hatred among the flock,
for God loves the shepherd who knows how to shear the sheep.

Blessed are the state legislatures and assemblies who have moved to protect my vote,
for they are consecrated in the whiteness of their intentions.

Blessed are ye, true patriots, when others shall revile you, ridicule you,
and say all manner of funny things about you on late night TV, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in the private sector,
once your term of office has ended, and even greater still in heaven
(which, as you know from scripture, is a gated community),
for things could be immeasurably worse.
Sweet Jesus me, you could be one of *them*.

Note From the Chair

I am just over the moon with our successful Tammy Baldwin Fundraising Event. Melissa, in her recap, listed all the volunteers who stepped up to support Tammy, the event and the party. Members of the Democratic Party Board and Events Committee worked towards its success as well. All Door County Dems should be very proud of the way, when Tammy had to take it outside due to overcapacity, everyone stood up, grabbed some chairs and headed out behind her.

Rich, Katie and a members of the crowd quickly moved the sound system outside so Tammy could continue. And no one left. What a night! Her team told me that they have never had that many people at a fundraiser before. Thank you all so much. I am so grateful and I know we surpassed Tammy's crew's expectation, they were thrilled.

Kathleen Finnerty
Chair, Door County Democratic Party

Things You May Have Missed in the News

In 2003, [Dr. Lawrence Britt identified and explained](#) characteristics common to fascist regimes of the 20th century. Summarized in the right hand column, find more in the link. Recognize any of these now? >>>>>>

[The 14 Defining Characteristics Of Fascism](#)

1. Powerful and Continuing Nationalism
2. Disdain for the Recognition of Human Rights
3. Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats as a Unifying Cause
4. Supremacy of the Military
5. Rampant Sexism
6. Controlled Mass Media
7. Obsession with National Security
8. Religion and Government are Intertwined
9. Corporate Power is Protected
10. Labor Power is Suppressed
11. Disdain for Intellectuals and the Arts
12. Obsession with Crime and Punishment
13. Rampant Cronyism and Corruption
14. Fraudulent Elections

“Interactive Timeline: Everything We Know About Russia and President Trump” is the title of an exceptional graphic on Bill Moyer's website. It is a searchable, sortable and collapsible collection of short articles about all the characters involved.

[TRY IT OUT HERE](#)

Membership Matters

Join/renew now.
Click the red button

[JOIN DOOR DEMS](#)

As a member of the Democratic Party of Door County:

- You help select priority issues, set policies, and adopt principles at the county level. You influence changes adopted in wake of the shocking 2016 Fall Elections.

- You are also a member of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and of 8th Congressional District Democratic Party. You can participate in setting policy and platforms, and attend their annual conventions.

- You multiply the effect of your single vote. Through your Door Dems membership, you enable programs to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and boost

OR consider helping
with a donation.

[DONATE ON-LINE](#)

Opinion**Democrats Risk Losing Their Base**

Recently, some of our Democratic leaders have come under fire for saying they will support anti-choice candidates in an attempt to be more “universally appealing” and to swell the numbers of potential Democratic voters, all in hopes of winning the House back from the Republicans.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee will not withhold financial support from candidates who oppose abortion, according to DCCC chairman and Representative Ben Ray Luján (New Mexico’s 3rd District). “There is not a litmus test for Democratic candidates,” he said, emphasizing that the DCCC’s major focus is to get more Democrats in office — and if that means more candidates with anti-choice agendas, so be it. Independent Bernie Sanders defended his support of anti-choice Democratic candidates, agreeing that it was the kind of thing Democrats needed to start doing if they wanted to become a 50-state party.

Democratic Base Pushed Back

They pushed back hard and fast. “The Democratic Party is in fact saying that there’s ‘no litmus test’ regarding their colleagues’ support of basic bodily autonomy,” said New Republic writer Rachel Cote. “I’ll be withholding support for the DCCC if this is true,” said former Vermont Governor, Howard Dean. DNC chair Tom Perez, after following Bernie Sanders around the country for a week in an attempt to appeal to more Millennial voters, quickly issued a statement for that reaffirmed our party’s platform on supporting a woman’s right to choose.

Democratic Congressional candidate Brianna Wu (Massachusetts’ 8th District) responded to Sanders and Luján: “Liberal men that think women should compromise on abortion: Can you name a civil right of yours you’d be willing to put on the bargaining table?”

Let me get this straight.

Are we as women actually being expected to further sacrifice our hard-won rights, rights that are already being squeezed into near meaninglessness by the Republican party?! I understand that not everyone supports abortion, and that’s ok.

But the DCCC is actually putting party money behind candidates who want to take legal choice and autonomy away from one of the biggest ‘identities’ in their party, from people who gave them that money in the first place! Are our Democratic leaders in a position to risk being cut off from the financial backing of more than half of their party? Are they actually daring to risk losing us, to risk betraying us, their base, by assuming that our rights are negotiable and disposable?

The backlash over allowing anti-women’s rights candidates into leadership positions in the Democratic party is emblematic of the growing split between those liberals who embrace identity politics and those who want the party to win back the blue-collar voters they lost in 2008 and the younger voters they weren’t able to win over in 2016 – a.k.a, white men and Millennials. White guys and young adults are identities, too, of course, and they are just as entitled to equal rights and considerations as the POC, LGBTQ, immigrants, elderly, and women who make up the majority of the Democratic Party - *but not at our expense.*

Democrats need more wins

Yes, we need more wins in state and federal elections, but I don’t agree that we are overly focused on identity politics, or that the considerations of our diverse identities keep us from being more universally appealing. I do agree that the Democratic party is in crisis, *but perhaps it’s because we don’t appreciate our base.*

(continued on next page)

Aren't Women's Rights Human Rights?, continued from page 7

According to Pew Research (2016), 87% of blacks, 63% of Hispanics, 66% of Asians, 50% of those over the age of 52, 89% of LGBTQ, and 54% of women are Democrats. These are our people, our foundation, and the base we *should* be appealing to, rather than compromising their interests, rights, and needs to people who don't agree with our platform in the first place, need us, or want to be a part of our mission.

Only 32% of white men and 25% of Millennials voted as Democrats in this last election. Should we try to bring them in, try to win them over? Definitely, but not at the expense of our party's base and beliefs. Immigrants, who tend to be younger, will make the Millennial generation more diverse over time, thus more likely to vote with Democrats, anyway; and white men, who are going through an identity crisis of their own, are too volatile to predict or corral right now. They'll come to us if and when they agree with our Democratic platform, and if they don't agree with it, they won't.

It's irresponsible, stupid, and self-defeating to change our fundamental platform in the hopes of winning more votes, especially if you risk losing the base to do so. I, for one, won't be a member of any group that supports sexism, ageism, or racism, or that supports taking any rights and freedoms away from anyone, for any reason. **If this is what the Democratic Party leaders truly propose, then this is no longer the Democratic Party.**

by Jacqueline Bricco
a Dedicated Democrat
Sturgeon Bay, WI