



Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, February 28, 2022

2465 Drew St., Clearwater, FL SPC Library (Drew & Old Coachman Rd)
12 pm

GUEST SPEAKER

Longtime political organizer and consultant **Ella Coffee** is our guest this month. Ella was a candidate for Tampa City Council and was an area director for the Florida Democratic Party. She is active in the St. Petersburg community.

Along with an Informative Discussion Club's History

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fierce Warriors,

I am reflecting on the meaning of Black History Month. The shortest month of the year. I, as a white female, think that this is still needed; redundant, but needed.

Since the murder of George Floyd and along with many others, I have been on a personal pilgrimage to find out what I can on racism and how I play into it.

Two years ago, I would tell you that I am not racist. The reasons I would argue were because my ancestors were African and were brought to the Americas on slave ships. Oh, and that I grew up in New York, so yeah, I was not a racist.

When I moved to Dunedin in my 8th grade year, I was slapped in the face with Jim Crow. Both my middle school on Long Island and Dunedin Highlander Middle School used the same textbook, same editor, same cover, same topic. ONLY it was a completely different Civil War. As a fourteen-year-old I was confused. I was not aware of lines between race nor the complexities of a new desegregated south. I was not a racist.

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www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party
FlaDems.com

Pinellas County
Democratic Executive
Committee
Pinellasdemocrats.com

My recent journey took me to the League of Women Voters North Pinellas and the NAACP Clearwater/Upper Pinellas. They offered a course on racism. I took it thinking that I had nothing to learn, and I may have somethings to contribute. I was not a racist.

I was wrong. SOOO WRONG.

I was given an opportunity to see the other side. Some of my acquaintances in the course were active in the Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) in the area, so I had a history and thought I was a good associate. My friends had graciously tolerated my arrogance in privilege and prejudice.

Again, I was wrong. SOOO WRONG.

THIS GROUP SENT ME TO READ” **HOW To Be An Antiracist**” by Ibram X. Kendi (IXK). This book has me reinventing myself. Yeah, it is fine to be not a racist, but how do I become an ANTIRACIST? IXK answers with personal growth and defined action. While you might think that this would be a laborious read, you would be mistaken. IXK is a wonderfully talented writer and takes you through the steps that need to be taken.

While reading” **HOW To Be An Antiracist,**” a distant cousin, who was ‘adopted’ to a white Swedish family, lead me to “**Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm**” Robin DiAngelo. This shed a light on my inner racist. I have an awesome house in an awesome city and an awesome privileged life. If I do not acknowledge this, I harbor racism.

I haven’t ventured into “**The 1619 Project**” book- by **Nikole Hannah-Jones & The New York Times Magazine**. I have only read the ‘**The 1619 Project**’ -**The New York Times** in the New York Times. But I would recommend it.

As I said, we STILL need a Black History Month, if only just to nudge our white friends into the discussion.

Back to business. The GOP is stopping all race discussion in the PUBLIC schools, not Charter or Private schools. ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. This placation into white supremacy, it a marked change for the State and to society as a whole.

This past week, the Florida Democratic Party (FDP), held their weekly legislative briefing. It was hosted by Rep Angela Nixon, and we were joined by Senator Susan Valdes, Rep Travaris McCurdy, and Senator Terry Polsky. All are great leaders and knowledgeable. Rep Angela Nixon, who sends out weekly emails via the FDP, is an inspiration and if you ever get a chance to hear her speak, please do so.

All were concerned with the Republicans' overreach and decorum. While they are allowed to speak during committee hearings, most, if not all, amendments made by Democrats are being disregarded.

We are heading to the middle of the Florida Legislative session and there has not been a day without Action Alerts. The Republican run legislature has a tight rein on **civil liberties** and focus on dismantling **public education**. Both movements are laser focused on fascism and making Florida an autocracy, with 1/3 of Floridians woefully following a deranged ringleader.

There are so many individual bills to tackle, but the most atrocious are those that have been penned by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). These bills are being copied and tailored to each Republican State Legislature in the Nation.

THE DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION IS ASKING YOU TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ON ALL "ACTION ALERTS." THIS IS PIVOTAL TO OUR DEMOCRACY AS IT LEAVES A RECORD OF DISSENT.

I have to say that we have more work to accomplish. Getting like-minded people registered to vote in Pinellas County is paramount as is getting them to sign up for Vote by Mail (VBM).

Our messaging: "WE DESERVE THE FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY PROSPEROUS AND SAFE."

Can you spend some time knocking on doors, making phone calls, or sending out postcards to our kind democrats? Please do so, now.

NOW LET'S GET TO WORK!

Karen Mullins
(She/Her/Ella)

~You are the change. You are the government. You are the power.

Please find out **ACTION ALERTS** on our [LinkTree](https://linktr.ee/DWCUP_727) site. Please click through to find all our alerts. https://linktr.ee/DWCUP_727

We deserve the freedom to be healthy, prosperous, and safe.

North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Center

1402 North MLK Ave. Clearwater
Come in and volunteer!
Open Mon-Fri
12-4pm
Sat
10am-12pm.

Info:

Office@pinellasdemocrats.com
727-327-2796

Vote Chase:

NAACP Clearwater/Upper Pinellas with the support of **League of Women Voters North Pinellas, West Pinellas NOW, Indivisible Safety Harbor,** and the **Democratic Women’s Club of Upper Pinellas,** are working together to reach out to voters who did not vote during the last election. This will be the 1st time that there will be a consortium between these epic non-profits. There will be a focus on canvassing including voter registration and VBM initiative built into the drive. Contact Karen Mullins, dunedin7@gmail.com for more information.

DWCUP Annual Membership

Annual Dues:

\$20.00

Get the best deals here:

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3 years for \$50.00 ✓
- SILVER Member:**
6 years for \$100.00 ✓
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Member for Life \$200.00 ✓

Make your dues payment here:

<https://dwcup.com/donate>

Pinellas County Schools Volunteer Opportunity

Become a Lunch Pals Partner. A little bit more about Lunch Pals:

The Lunch Pals program is designed to encourage members of our community to join the effort in encouraging our youth to strive for success. Many students in Pinellas County are disadvantaged and could use an additional caring adult in their life.

Lunch Pals participants have a 30-weekly lunch (in person or virtual, whichever works best) with a student who would greatly benefit from a mentor. Those who are interested attend a virtual workshop to learn about the program details and to be connected with a student at a convenient school.

Lunch Pals Partners periodically distribute or post a message about Lunch Pals, that we provide, to their staff. That’s it. Everything after that is handled by Pinellas County Schools.

It would be wonderful if you would provide me with a contact and our Lunch Pals Coordinator can follow up to answer any questions.

If you would like to contact me, you may email me (**preferred**), or you could call me at (727) 565-7259. If you prefer to read more into the program beforehand, you may do so at www.lunchpals.org. This is a great and impactful cause, and I hope to be hearing from you soon!

Thank you!

Kaitlyn Villarreal
Pinellas County Schools Intern

EVENTS:

- **DWCUP Executive Board Meeting**
 - February 16th
 - Community Room
223 Island Way, Clearwater
- **DWCUP Membership Meeting**
 - February 28th
 - 12 pm
 - Library, St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus, 2465 Drew St. Clw
- **DWCF 66th Annual Convention**
 - April 28th-May 1, 2022
 - Rosen Center, Orlando, FL
- MORE EVENTS:
 - Click Here: <https://www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec>

What Biden Has Accomplished:

- Biden **signed** a law preventing the Federal Elections Commission from approving equipment posing a risk to national security
- Biden **declassified** previously secret 9/11 documents.
- Biden **directed** Treasury and HUD to implement policies to increase the supply of affordable housing.

DWCUP Words of Inspiration

Let us all reflect deeply on the messages we hear during February and Black History Month.

Some messages provide soaring inspiration, as when Desmond Tutu reminded us: "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

Other messages are gritty and powerfully telling, such as the words of feminist welfare reformer Johnnie Tillmon: "I'm a woman. I'm a black woman. I'm a poor woman. I'm a fat woman. I'm a middle-aged woman. And I'm on welfare. In this country, if you're any one of those things you count less as a human being. If you're all those things, you don't count at all. Except as a statistic." (Welfare is a Women's Issue, Ms Magazine, Spring 1972)

Both are true, both are realistic. As Democratic Women, we hear both hopeful and painful truths and then work to create a world suited to us all.

~**Diane Lebedeff**

We deserve the freedom to be healthy, prosperous, and safe.



**Democratic Women's Club of Florida
66th Annual Convention /
Per Sister's Rally
April 28 - May 1, 2022
Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL.**

It gives me great pleasure to present you with an opportunity to partner with The Democratic Women's Club of Florida. We are hosting our 66th Annual State Convention April 28th through May 1st, 2022, at the

Rosen Centre Hotel in the beautiful city of Orlando, Florida. Our Annual Per Sister's Rally will also be held on April 28th.

The **Democratic Women's Club of Florida** is an active organization of Democratic women and men. We have more than 3500 members and 63 local area Clubs, throughout the state working together to make Florida a better place for all its residents. Our mission is to educate, encourage, inform the citizens of Florida to successfully register to vote, to participate in the election process, and to elect the best Democrats candidate.

The DWCF uplifts the morals and integrity of Democratic values.

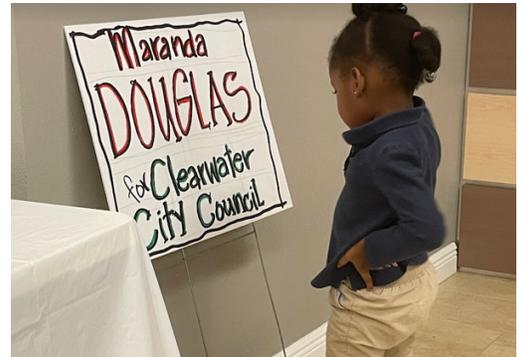
We are seeking your support to help further the incredibly important work of our organization as the largest Democratic Caucus in Florida, we fulfill through activism, issues/ legislative discussions, and advocacy for policy that advances a healthy, prosperous, safe Florida for its constituents.

We kindly, thank you in advance for your sponsorship. The DWCF Convention Committee is bringing together an impressive group of outstanding speakers and workshops for 2022. The 2022 theme is: **Women Leading with Vision, Working with Persistence.**

We deserve the freedom to be healthy, prosperous, and safe.

Our *Donna Dennis* held a **House Party** for Clearwater City Council Candidate **Maranda Douglas**!

You can host a **House Party** in your yard/courtyard, driveway, common area...the choices are endless!



Next Meeting

St. Petersburg College, Library

2465 Drew St, Clearwater, FL (Drew St. & Old Coachman Rd)

March 28th

12pm-1:30pm

We deserve the freedom to be healthy, prosperous, and safe.