

# DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

*Of Upper Pinellas*

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## Guest Speaker – Katie Vicsik



Katie Vicsik is the Florida State Director at All On The Line, where she leads a statewide program to create awareness and action around the redistricting process via strategic partnerships and grassroots engagement. Katie has prior campaign experience in Florida, working on President Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, as well as serving as the Florida State Director at Enroll America, an issue-based campaign that educated would-be insurance consumers, and increased enrollment in health coverage under the Affordable Care Act. The National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC), chaired by the 82nd Attorney General of the United States Eric H. Holder, Jr., is the first-ever strategic hub for a comprehensive redistricting strategy. With the support of former President Barack Obama, as well as key leaders around the country, the NDRC is attacking this problem from every angle to ensure the next round of redistricting is fair and that maps reflect the will of the voters.



## President's Message Mary Freeman

When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, they were making a clear declaration: *a woman's body belongs to her*.

Ever since, the right to self-determination has been under relentless siege by abortion opponents -- and they've persuaded the Supreme Court to hear a case attempting to overturn a lower court's blocking of Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban

Anti-choice advocates are using this case to **directly** challenge *Roe v. Wade's* legality. If the Supreme Court rules in their favor, states could be given much greater leeway to ban abortion -- in any and all cases.

Gov. DeSantis is supporting them.

Every woman deserves the ability to decide what to do with her own body. End of discussion. But we all know Ron DeSantis won't protect a woman's right to choose; in fact, he's *already* signed laws restricting abortion access in Florida. Just in 2021, over three hundred anti-abortion bills have been introduced in state legislatures. Women deserve the right to determine the future of their own reproductive health, and this right is aided by the mifepristone pill which allows women to end their own pregnancies. People have already begun using these safe and effective abortion pills on their own to end their unwanted pregnancies. Accurate information and support are needed to help spread awareness on the efficacy of these pills, as everyone has the right to determine the future of their own body.

We can't be made to go back to the coat hanger days. No Woman should have to suffer giving birth to a baby conceived by rape. Take ACTION now.



HERE'S SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE AND WILL PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!

In 1927 in Plains, Georgia, a three-year-old boy named Jimmy Carter lived next door to an auto mechanic, Francis Smith, and his pregnant wife, Allie. That August, Allie went into labor, and Jimmy's mother, a nurse, helped deliver her daughter. The next day, little Jimmy went next door and peered into the crib. The baby inside was named Rosalynn.

As a teenager, "Rosie" had a fierce crush on Jimmy, but he was three years older, and apparently took little notice of the shy kid next door. During WWII, he left town to join the Naval Academy. One day in the summer of 1945, Jimmy returned to Plains on vacation. While riding in the rumble seat of a friend's Ford, he looked toward the United Methodist church and saw Rosie, now seventeen and all grown up, standing out front. He was gobsmacked. Jimmy hopped out of the rumble seat and asked her to the movies. She jumped right in. He came home that night and told his mother that the baby she'd delivered seventeen years earlier was the girl he was going to marry.

This week, Jimmy and Rosalynn will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary. Theirs is the longest marriage in presidential history. They have known each other for almost one hundred years.



Happy summer! We couldn't be more excited to share the first five women selected for the United States Mint's American Women Quarters™ Program:

- [Maya Angelou](#), a world-renowned poet and scholar;
- [Wilma Mankiller](#), the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and an activist for Native American and women's rights;
- [Adelina Otero-Warren](#), a leader in New Mexico's suffrage movement and the first female superintendent of Santa Fe public schools;
- [Dr. Sally Ride](#), the first American woman in space and first acknowledged gay astronaut; and
- [Anna May Wong](#), the first Chinese American film star in Hollywood, achieving international success despite racism and discrimination.

These trailblazing women will be featured on circulating and numismatic American Women Quarters Program™ coins beginning in 2022. In accordance with the Public Law, the Secretary of the Treasury selects the women to be honored following consultation with the Smithsonian Institution's American Women's History Initiative, the National Women's History Museum, and the Congressional Bipartisan Women's Caucus.

**SB 274 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction** was one of the bright spots in a miserable 2021 FL Legislative Session. This Republican-sponsored juvenile justice reform bill was years in the making, but in 2021 it finally passed unanimously in all committees and floor votes of both chambers. The bill would allow juveniles who successfully completed diversion programs their second-chance opportunities for success in life by expunging their records from public scrutiny (e.g., when applying for schools, the military, housing, jobs, loans and other programs).

Unfortunately, Gov. DeSantis vetoed **SB 274** on June 29 out of concern for "public safety". This can only be explained as misinterpretation or misstatement of the facts, and it is why this bill is the prototype example of one that should **go back for a veto override** in the next Legislative Session. Here are some background talking points regarding this bill:

- Diversion programs do exactly what they describe--i.e., they "divert" juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system through the legal process and place them on a track that is less restrictive and include more opportunities for rehabilitation and restoration. In other words, they maximize their chances for success later in life and reduce their chances of recidivism.
- A diversion program is not even an option for juveniles who commit felonies of the second degree or higher, any type of violent crime, aggravated assault, robbery, attempted residential burglary, and other serious crimes.
- The decision to refer a juvenile to a diversion program is at the discretion of either the law enforcement officer who confronted the juvenile at the time of the incident or the state attorney who referred the case.
- After completing an eligible diversion program, a juvenile currently can only seek to have his or her nonjudicial arrest record expunged if the arrest was for a *misdemeanor*, appropriate documentation has been submitted, and the case meets other defined criteria.
- Without expungement after successfully completing diversion programs, juvenile records are not confidential and not exempt from public disclosure.
- An illustrative example of the problem is one using theft as the crime. If one child steals an Android cell phone worth \$299 or less and completes a juvenile diversion program, that child is eligible to apply for record expunction because it is a petty theft misdemeanor. But a child who steals an Apple iPhone worth \$300 or more and successfully completes a diversion program is not eligible to apply for expunction because it is grand theft and a third degree felony.

Here is the kicker -- **SB 274 does not change the strict eligibility criteria needed to qualify for a juvenile diversion program.** Juveniles will continue to be barred from diversion programs for committing serious and violent crimes; therefore, they will never be eligible for record expunction. There is no impact on community safety. The Republican and Democratic legislators all understood this difference when they passed the bill. That is why they passed it! And it is why they were shocked when the Governor vetoed the bill for reasons of "public safety".

**Please help correct this wrong and demand that Senate President Wilton Simpson and Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls place SB 274 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction on the legislative schedule in September for a veto override.** Their contact information can be found below:

Senate President Wilton Simpson -- [simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov) OR (850) 487-5010

Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls--[Chris.Sprows@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Chris.Sprows@myfloridahouse.gov) or (850) 717-5065

Jean Siebenaler

DWCF Legislative Chair



## CELEBRATING 81 YEARS!

The Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

Wednesday September 29, 2021

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Dunedin Golf Club

1050 Palm Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698

Luncheon

Choice of Chicken Marsala or  
Stuffed Shells (vegetarian) Entrée

Attire

Dressy

Entertainment

Live Entertainment

More information:

Donna Dennis 313-443-2587  
Or Mary Freeman 727-415-6629

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are limited.

RSVP by August 31, 2021, with this form:

Name and Phone Number:	
Ticket Quantity:	
Meal Choice:	
Your Occupation:	
Please make out your check to DWCUP:	DWCUP C/O Donna Dennis 223 Island Way, #4B Clearwater 33767

## “Reunion Celebration”



Live and in person,  
Representative  
Anna  
Eskamani!



BADWAY ON BROADWAY AND LAUGHING DOG MEDIA PRESENT

BADWAY • BARBOUR • BOYKIN

# BROADWAY

## ...OUR WAY

DALE BADWAY

LIVE IN CONCERT

JAMES BARBOUR

**SATURDAY AUG 28TH**

PHILLIP BOYKIN

**@ 2P & 8P**



CENTRAL PARK  
**cpacc**  
PERFORMING  
Arts CENTER

CENTRAL PARK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

105 CENTRAL PARK DRIVE | LARGO, FL 33771  
TICKETS @ [LARGOARTS.COM](http://LARGOARTS.COM) OR 727-587-6793

**Special Concert with our friend Dale Badway**

## March On For Voting Rights- August 28th

August 28, St Pete is a major city to stand up for voting rights across the country. This is our Tampa Bay site. 6 pm City Hall. Please spread the word now. We want to show what we care about. Sponsored by NOW, League of Women Voters, LULAC and more. All ages welcome to walk. Please sign up now, pass on to your own network, and let's speak up for our voting rights!!

We have agreed to move forward with an event to address the regressive voting rights attacks across the country. We decided to align with the March on for Voting Rights organization that is holding marches in key cities across the country on 8/28/21. March on for Voting Rights is the lead organization managing the nationwide event and representing several major co-sponsors/hosts. These include The League of Women Voters, NOW, LULAC and others. You can get more information at their website: <https://marchonforvotingrights.org/> "March On for Voting Rights is a mass mobilization to demand that elected officials stop hijacking democracy, denounce voter suppression and ensure fair, easy access to the vote for all. On August 28, the 58th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's historic March on Washington, we will march on cities across America to demand that the vision of MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech be deferred no longer. We invite all Americans who believe in the power of democracy and free elections to join us. Marches will take place in states where voter suppression efforts are already imperiling our democracy: Atlanta, Georgia; Miami, Florida; Phoenix, Arizona; Houston, Texas; in Washington, D.C.; and across the country." Our event will start at the St. Petersburg City Hall, 175 5th St N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 at 6pm. Participants can sign up for our event by clicking on the Tampa Bay

event at <https://marchonforvotingrights.org/> or you can sign up directly at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/march-on-for-voting-rights> .

I am asking that you share this information with our membership and that they:

- 1) Start signing up for the event
- 2) Begin sharing the event with their organizations that are concerned about the attack on our voting rights.

## 2021 Nominating Committee

This is an election year for the DWCUP and the DWCF. The Chair of our Committee is Donna Dennis, [donnis33@hotmail.com](mailto:donnis33@hotmail.com).

Positions for the election are as follows:

President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Treasurer

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary/Publicity Chair

Region Representative

Please contact Donna Dennis if you are interested in running for office.

## Wednesday, August 4th at 11:00am-11:45am

Join State Representative Anna V. Eskamani to discuss ongoing concerns and advocacy related to manatee populations across Florida. The Representative will be joined by marine experts and taking your questions live!

RSVP here: [bit.ly/FLSaveManatees](https://bit.ly/FLSaveManatees)

Location

Virtual event

Join from anywhere

About this event: Join State Representative Anna V. Eskamani to discuss ongoing concerns and advocacy related to manatee populations across Florida.

The Representative will be joined by marine experts Dennis Hanisak, Ph.D., Research Professor, Director of Marine Ecosystem Health at Florida Atlantic University; Cora Berchem, Save the Manatee Club's Director of Multimedia and Manatee Research Associate; and Jaclyn Lopez, Florida Director and Senior Attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity.



“Reunion Celebration”

September 29

11:30 – 2:00

October Meeting

Live at

Clearwater Library

