

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Of Upper Pinellas

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Happy Democratic Women's Month



Guest Speaker: Meri Forte-Namuj
Monday, May 24, 2021 on Zoom

Five years ago, Meri attended the Institute for "Policy and Solutions Sea Level Rise Conference". Her interest led her to Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, which she attended and completed in October 2017. Meri is currently a Climate Reality Leader and is a founding charter member of the Greater Tampa Bay Climate Reality Chapter. She is a member of ICAR (The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience). Her goal is to educate the public of the advancement, crisis, and solutions caused by Climate Change. She is Past President of the Democratic Women's Club of Central Pinellas; currently, Credentials Chair and Climate Chair on the DWCF State Board. She held the position of Region Co-Chair (2016-17), Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hernando. Meri has worked on several State Representative campaigns and held a Field Organizer position with the 2012 Obama campaign. She recently was Data Director (2020) for The Dean Trantalis Fort Lauderdale Mayoral Campaign.

Before retiring, Meri worked as an IT Project Manager for Time, Inc and Seagram's Beverage Company in New York City, NY.



President's Message Mary Freeman

Dear Persisters, Happy Democratic Women's Month! Take pride in being a Democratic Woman. Now that we have a Democratic President and a female Vice President it can't get any better, or could it? A female President is in our future, but it can't happen without our help.

We need to get out there and register voters, write those postcards and volunteer in any way you can. Do whatever it takes to make Florida a blue state and not an embarrassment to the whole country. DeSantis will do all he can to suppress voters. He already has. May 6 he signed into law a controversial voting bill aimed at curbing access to mail-in voting in the state, joining a host of other GOP-led states pushing new limits in connection with former President Donald Trump's baseless claims of fraud in the 2020 election.

We need to do all we can to get more Democrats elected all the way down the ballot.

It looks like we are coming out of the Pandemic and hopefully all of you have been vaccinated. I look forward to the day that we can all be together in one place. I know meeting on Zoom was convenient but I want to be together with all of my members. For now please look forward to September when we will celebrate at the Dunedin Country Club. Bag Pipes, speakers and great food, not to mention great items to bid on.

So please invite your friends, let them see what an honor it is to be a member of the Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas. Make my wish come true to have 100 members by the end of 2021.



2nd Speaker: (10minutes) John Schreiner a member of the DEC & Vice-Chair of District 69 will discuss an Alternative for the Tropicana 86-acre Development following the North Dakota model. He is proposing Private-Public Partnerships for local business development. This would happen by way of a City of St Petersburg-owned Development Company in conjunction with a public Bank of St Petersburg. They've been successfully doing this in North Dakota since 1919.

DWCF STATEMENT ON THE CHAUVIN VERDICT

The Guilty-Guilty- Guilty verdict in the Derek Chauvin Trial represents a step forward and gives us reason to hope that our society is moving to a more just tomorrow and closer to equal justice for all.

This trial represents accountability more than justice. An excessive amount of over-proof was offered to the jury along with a video of Chauvin's guilt and yet the world waited ten hours to see if the verdict would be as was obvious it should be.

The murder of George Floyd and the Chauvin Trial has forced all to acknowledge the painful truth that widespread systemic racism still exists in America and is unacceptable. Our society must undergo a transformation to get to the point where people of color are not treated differently. This accountability brings forth hope, but it is only the beginning on the road to true justice.

**Patty Farley, President
Democratic Women's Club of Florida**



For generations, the state of Florida has served as a beacon for people seeking a fresh start in the land of paradise. That's my family's story too. My grandfather arrived from Cyprus in 1914 and worked hard so that my father could become a doctor and raise four kids in the Sunshine State. But these days, Florida no longer seems to be a place for *all* Floridians.

Every year, the middle class gets squeezed: by housing costs, utility bills, health care, student loans, stagnant wages, and more. People of color continue to be systemically locked out of opportunity. And during this pandemic, Black and Hispanic residents are more likely to get COVID-19, be hospitalized, be unemployed -- and they're less likely to receive the vaccine.

This isn't by accident. The deck is stacked against the middle class, aided and abetted by Ron DeSantis and his Republican allies in Tallahassee. He's failed to lead during the greatest health and economic crisis in our lifetime. And he sees our state's wonderful diversity, its melting pot of culture and political views, as a threat, rather than a strength to be celebrated.

That's why today, I am announcing that I am running for governor to make our great state a Florida for all Floridians.

Together, we can build a Florida for *all* Floridians. That means making it easier to vote, not harder. Respecting the rights of *all* Floridians, *all* the time: peaceful protesters, the LGBTQ community, and women who have the right to choose.

It means treating climate change like the existential threat that it is and safeguarding our communities from rising sea levels and stronger hurricanes. And it means investing in our future by supporting public schools, colleges, infrastructure, and small businesses.

But powerful special interests depend on DeSantis for their massive profits, and they'll spend tens of millions of dollars to keep him in power. Defeating him and embarking on our ambitious agenda won't be easy -- but we can get it done by working together.

It's past time for your voice -- the people's voice -- to be heard in Tallahassee again. Piece by piece, brick by brick, we can build a Florida for all Floridians. But no one, including me, will be able to do it alone.

Can you help?

To ensure accurate accounting and security, our Treasurer would like to ask for assistance, especially if you have any accounting or bookkeeping or IT experience. If so, call Donna Dennis, 313-443-2587, donnis33@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU!

ITS TIME TO SAY THANK YOU AND GOODBYE UNTIL NEXT YEAR

All,

I have been asked if I could supply the list of emails of our Democratic Senators and Representatives as a group so that it is easier for you all to put into an email as a BCC group. So here it is with Rep. Carlos Smith's name and address included. Just copy the entire column and paste it into an email using BCC as the recipients.

Thank you again,

Jean

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Quiz: Mother's Day began

- A. In 1858, when Ann Jarvis, a young Appalachian homemaker, organized "Mother's Work Days" to improve the sanitation and avert deaths from disease-bearing insects and seepage of polluted water.
- B. In 1872, when Boston poet, pacifist and women's suffragist Julia Ward Howe established a special day for mothers –and for peace– not long after the bloody Franco-Prussian War.
- C. In 1905, when Ann Jarvis died. Her daughter, Anna, decided to memorialize her mother's lifelong activism, and began a campaign that culminated in 1914 when Congress passed a Mother's Day resolution.

The correct answer: All of the above.

Each woman and all of these events have contributed to the present occasion now celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

The cause of world peace was the impetus for Julia Ward Howe's establishment, over a century ago, of a special day for mothers. Following unsuccessful efforts to pull together an international pacifist conference after the Franco-Prussian War, Howe began to think of a global appeal to women.

"While the war was still in progress," she wrote, she keenly felt the "cruel and unnecessary character of the contest." She believed, as any woman might, that it could have been settled without bloodshed. And, she wondered, "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?"

Howe's version of Mother's Day, which served as an occasion for advocating peace, was held successfully in Boston and elsewhere for several years, but eventually lost popularity and disappeared from public notice in the years preceding World War I.

For Ann Jarvis, also known as "Mother Jarvis," community improvement by mothers was only a beginning. Throughout the Civil War she organized women's brigades, asking her workers to do all they could without regard for which side their men had chosen. And, in 1868, she took the initiative to heal the bitter rifts between her Confederate and Union neighbors.

The younger Anna Jarvis was only twelve years old in 1878 when she listened to her mother teach a Sunday school lesson on mothers in the Bible. "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day," the senior Jarvis said. "There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Following her mother's death, Anna Jarvis embarked on a remarkable campaign. She poured out a constant stream of letters to men of prominence — President William Taft and former President Theodore Roosevelt among them — and enlisted considerable help from Philadelphia merchant John Wannamaker.

By May of 1907, a Mother's Day service had been arranged on the second Sunday in May at the Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Mother Jarvis had taught. That same day a special service was held at the Wannamaker Auditorium in Philadelphia, which could seat no more than a third of the 15,000 people who showed up. The custom spread to churches in 45 states and in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Mexico and Canada. The Governor of West Virginia proclaimed Mother's Day in 1912; Pennsylvania's governor in 1913 did the same. The following year saw the Congressional Resolution, which was promptly signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

Mother's Day has endured. It serves now, as it originally did, to recognize the contributions of women. Mother's Day, like the job of "mothering," is varied and diverse. Perhaps that's only appropriate for a day honoring the multiple ways women find to nurture their families, and the ways in which so many have nurtured their communities, their countries, and the larger world.



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE to YOUR PC! We are asking every Club, Region and member to make a pledge to contribute to the PC over the next 20 months. Imagine...If each of our 3,500 members gave just a onetime donation of \$5...that would be \$17,500 for your PC!! If those 3,500 members made the \$5 recurring for 20 months, that would be \$350,000!! We could do a LOT with \$350,000!! If you make a recurring donation – www.dwcfpc.com – you will hardly miss the money...really! Think about this...no amount is too small!

Clubs and Regions can only give \$500/calendar year to “electioneering”. This is an off-year (only local elections), so why not budget (treasurers) to give this maximum in 2021! All Clubs/Regions that contribute the maximum \$500 in 2021 will receive a special thank you gift. Thank you to Alachua, Barefoot Bay, Highland, Palm Beach, St. Lucie DWCFs and Regions 4 and 11 who sent in their maximum contribution for 2021 of \$500!! As a THANK YOU for this max. donation, a 4’x6’ Biden Harris banner (flagpole not incl.) was sent to each of you! Thank you also to Hendry DWCF for their \$100 donation and Charlotte for their \$200! We have our first Stimulus Sister*, Marie Garnes! If you get a stimulus check in the next few weeks (THANK YOU President Biden!), consider donating your stimulus to stimulate your PC. You will receive a (4) Sister pin (below) for your \$1,400 donation.

On our updated website, we added a new page – Grassroots Campaign - (www.dwcfpc.com/grassrootscampaign/), where we are introducing the Bond Between Sisters giving levels (\$100-\$5,000)...a different “Sister” pin for different donation levels. Don’t wait...donate now...we’ll catch up your donation with your pin! \$25-\$99 \$100-\$499 \$500-\$999 \$1,000-\$2,999 \$3,000-\$4,999 \$5,000+

A Donor/Pledge Form is available. Anyone who has contributed to the PC since January 1, 2021 and now wishes to expand their donation(s) with a pledge and/or a recurring donation, the previous donations back to January 1, 2021 will be considered. Questions? Contact Nancy Hurlbert tnhurlbert@aol.com 954-254-1000.





DONOR/PLEDGE FORM

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Occupation _____

Email _____

By signing below, I am committing to the following donation/pledge to DWCF PC:

Amount \$ _____

To be used for: _____ Candidate Support _____ GOTV Efforts _____ As Needed

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

_____ I am fulfilling the entire Pledge at this time

_____ I will pay the entire Pledge on or before _____

_____ I will go online and complete my Pledge and Payment (www.dwcfpc.com)

_____ I will fulfill my Pledge online with recurring donations of \$ _____/mon. for _____ months

_____ I would like to be billed in _____ installments of \$ _____, _____ monthly _____ quarterly
Beginning _____

_____ Check enclosed (payable to DWCF PC, 15346 Ponce DeLeon Ln., Clermont FL 34714)

_____ Please charge my: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Amer. Exp. _____ Discover

Card # _____ Expires _____ CVV _____

_____ Other method of payment (no cash please) _____

CONFIRMATION

Signature _____ Date _____

TALLAHASSEE OPEN After nearly 14 months of being closed to the public, the Florida Capitol will reopen this week ahead of a special legislative session on gambling.

Senate President Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, made the announcement Monday, but it's not clear if other parts of state government will follow a public-health advisory by Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees to open back up as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Simpson's office sent out a memo that said the Capitol will be open to the public Friday, one week after lawmakers finished the regular 60-day legislative session.

That means members of the public can enter the building without first getting tested for COVID-19 or showing proof of vaccination. The special session on a proposed gambling deal, known as a "compact," between the state and the Seminole Tribe of Florida is scheduled to be held the week of May 17.

Public access to government buildings and properties remains limited.

Time to pay our annual dues!

Annual Membership Dues \$20.00

TIERED MEMBERSHIP

PLATINUM - 3 years for \$50.00

SILVER - 6 years for \$100.00

GOLD MEMBER - Member for Life \$200.00

Make checks out to DWCU or
Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas.

Mail to Donna Dennis

223 Island Way #4B

Clearwater, FL 33767

Members who have not paid their dues by June 1 will be removed from our Membership list.



Next Meeting
Via Zoom
June 28
12 Noon – 1:30
Speaker- Marylou Woods
Grassroots
Campaign Chair

