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## CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

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[jeanegreeawalt@gmail.com](mailto:jeanegreeawalt@gmail.com)

### Parliamentarian

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, November 27, 2023 at 12pm

Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.  
Snacks available

## DWCUP Elections!

### Guest Speaker:

## Karen Lieberman

## Being Jewish in America



Karen Lieberman, PhD, R.D., retired from college teaching in 2014 (Purdue University NC: 1988-2000; Johnson & Wales University, North Miami campus: 2000-2014) and now lives in St. Petersburg, FL. Her teaching coursework included nutrition, various food-oriented classes, ethics, and food service sanitation. At present, she does contract editing work and is an activist grandmother.

In addition, along with her husband Bruce Nissen, son Jared, and her brother Gary Lieberman, she co-directs the Leif Nissen Foundation, which was created to honor her son Leif, who died in an auto accident in November 2008. The foundation supports progressive causes around the world. In 2013, the foundation created the Leif Nissen Social Justice Lecture Series at Temple Beth-El in St Petersburg. Our most recent lectures featured world-renowned climatologist Dr. Michael Mann, Pulitzer Prize winning-winning political cartoonist, Mark Fiore, and Saket Soni, author of "The Great Escape," which described amazing feats of organizing against Big Oil.

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**DWCUP**

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**Email**

[DWCUP727@gmail.com](mailto:DWCUP727@gmail.com)

**DWCF, Inc.**

[DWCF.org](http://DWCF.org)

**Nation Federation of  
Democratic Women**

[www.nfdw.com](http://www.nfdw.com)

**Florida Democratic Party**

[Fladems.com](http://Fladems.com)

**Pinellas County  
Democratic Executive  
Committee**

[Pinellasdemocrats.com](http://Pinellasdemocrats.com)

Lieberman was the Lead Organizer for the Coalition for Campaign Finance Reform in St. Pete and was very involved in the passage of the "Defend our Democracy" ordinance. The coalition was comprised of 30 local and national organizations. This St. Pete ordinance, which passed on October 5th, 2017, had two parts: (1) it abolishes super PACs and (2) limits donations by foreign corporations. The ordinance became law on January 1, 2018. However, 18 months later it was destroyed by the Florida legislature through preemption.

## Words of Inspiration

This November and December, we have club elections and then the swearing in of new leaders. In these two months, we give thanks for the service and inspiration of our departing officers and words of appreciation for our new and continuing leaders. It would be good to identify the status of departing, continuing and new officers at both meetings, IMHO.

We treasure our club's departing and continuing officers for

- ☆ everything they sacrificed,
- ☆ all the choices made,
- ☆ all the problems solved,
- ☆ all the times they persevered,
- ☆ all the fun we've had,
- ☆ all the times we've laughed,
- ☆ all the time we've been proud, and
- ☆ every time our club presses forward after fighting the good fight.

And, above all, for inspiring new officers and our members.

We thank those who served, those who will continue to serve, and those who start on a new path of service to our club and the Democratic principles we have treasured for the eighty-three years of the life of the Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas.

Diane Lebedeff  
DWCUP Recording Secretary

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2023



During this last month we've all been consumed by the news of the Hamas raid on Israel and everything we've watched happen since. I barely slept the first two nights afterward, and so many people I've spoken with shared the fear of what could be triggered, as well as the horror of the deaths we've witnessed. When we see the worst of man's inhumanity to man, our hearts

cry out for a better way for us all to live together. I will never believe that violence is the answer. I was gratified to hear our President, Joe Biden, remind us to "Feel the rage but don't be consumed by it." That's how we move forward, with determination.

This is a humanitarian crisis on a global scale. Innocent lives are being taken on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Citizens of several countries are still being held as prisoners. As of this writing, we are now seeing some of the injured being taken to safety and medical treatment across the border from Gaza into Egypt. We are all fearful of other groups and countries jumping into the conflict. The men in charge are rattling their sabers and speaking of war. My fantasy is that they would all be replaced by female leaders who would decide to sit down over coffee, tea, or homemade chicken soup, and talk it out. *There has to be a better response than WAR!* And this war could be long, costly, and end humanity altogether!

Our Congress has a new Speaker of the House, Rep Mike Johnson. That's the nicest thing that can be said about him. As an election-denier and architect of Trump's attempt to undermine our democracy, we shudder at the legislative

possibilities on the way. I'm hoping Congress will find a way to keep the government open as the time is short for the extension.

At the club level, we'll be holding our club election this month to ensure the future of Democratic women in Pinellas County. We shall work as a team throughout the coming demanding election year. We can't let the rest of Florida and the nation forget that there are many Democrats here and we shall resist the opposition.

Thanks so much for all you do. Keep the faith! When in doubt, do the kindest thing.

## DWCUP Meeting Recap for October 23, 2023

Our October meeting was full of information, speakers and fabulous Democrats! We first paused for a moment of silence for all those impacted by Hamas' invasion of Israel. Also, we continue gathering signatures on petitions for Abortion rights, Clean Water and local candidates. This is where we can make a difference.

Our Democratic Women's Club of Florida Region Chair, Patty Cohn, spoke to us about the need for vital leadership. As we're electing new officers for our club for the next two years, her comments were so timely. We know this will be a difficult and demanding election cycle, and we want the rest of Florida and the nation never to forget that there are many Democrats here and we shall resist the opposition. Please contact Mary Freeman, 727-415-6629, if you're willing to run for an office.

Holiday time is coming and we're planning a wonderful party. We're going to keep the cost reasonable and still party hearty on Dec. 11th. Mary Freeman is the Chair of this event, which will include entertainment, surprises, drawings, and more. It will be \$30 (\$20 less than last year) and be a potluck! Those interested can pay our treasurer, Karen Miracle, or pay on Act Blue on our website, [dwcup.com](http://dwcup.com).

Karen Velardi, former President of the Pinellas County Teachers Association, was our primary speaker. She spoke of the many challenges impacting Florida schools, from teaching during COVID to the rise of Moms For Liberty [sic], a reactionary group

backed by DeSantis. Funding has been cut with the increased use of vouchers, and qualified teachers are quitting the profession due to low pay, lack of professional freedom, lack of due process and many other factors. The union may be discontinued due to the change in state legislation requiring 60% sign-up instead of 50%. We are truly experiencing an education crisis in this state!

We also met the excellent candidate for Clearwater City Council Seat 3, Javante Scott. He spoke about his qualifications and hopes for Clearwater. To learn more, he's on Facebook at PreparedForNext, 727-228-1931. [jmscott@preparedfornext.org](mailto:jmscott@preparedfornext.org)  
The website is [www.preparedfornext.org](http://www.preparedfornext.org).

It's also time to renew/pay your dues. Renew now and you'll be covered for all of 2024. Just see Karen Miracle or go on the website and pay with a credit/debit card on Act Blue.

-- Donna Dennis



## 2023 DWCUPE Election Candidates

### Elected Officers

President – Open

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Cora Kostka

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Nancy Vellucci

Treasurer – Kathleen Keohane

Recording Secretary – Theresa  
Bromm-Boesen

## Legislative Liaison Report for October 23, 2023

These links can be used to review all bills and analyses: [flsenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov),  
[myfloridahouse.gov](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

This link can be used to view weekly update videos and lots of other information:  
[thefloridachannel.org](https://www.thefloridachannel.org)

A special session, 2023C, has been added and will be held November 6 - 9. The purpose of the special session is to address Idalia damages, natural disaster resiliency, increase scholarships for students with disabilities, support Israel, and address hate crimes in Florida.

2024 Legislative session will begin January 9. As of Oct 20, 233 bills have been filed. Both parties support Israel and support victims of reform school abuse.

Democrats are proposing bills ensuring that a woman who has an abortion is not penalized, modifying Stand Your Ground so that a person who can retreat from conflict safely must. An assault weapons ban, and forbidding guns in schools, museums, bars (a long list), and safe gun storage. Social media protection for minors. Property Insurance - making it harder for a company to deny a claim and prohibit insolvency if the company does business in another state. Can't use gender identity to excuse a perpetrator's loss of control.

Republicans are proposing bills prohibiting public funded entertainment to be canceled due to performer's use of social media or political affiliation, removing mandatory 3-day waiting period when buying a gun (but still wait for background check), owners of plug-in cars will pay \$200 for a license. 15-17 year-olds can work more hours. Changing the current 15-week abortion restriction to 12 weeks, prohibit the abortion medication sent through the mail, and strict documentation required if raped. Police are required to be in the presence of ballot boxes at all

times. In education, wording as to IB courses was expanded to include ‘or equivalent.’

I also attended a zoom webinar from the DWCF entitled “Embracing and Empowering Millennials and Gen Z” by Rhea Maniar, Danielle Hawk, and Britney Hodson. Rhea is Gen Z, 10 to 26 years old, the other two speakers are Millennial - 27 to 42. Numbers show that young people align politically with the Democrats but are not mobilized. They feel that Democrats only show an interest in them when it is time to vote. They know they don’t want Republicans, but are not convinced to vote blue.

To mobilize the young we should embrace them, remove obstacles, and empower them. Make space for their participation - if the young saw other youth knocking on doors it would be a big difference. Have an online presence - they will check Instagram before coming to a meeting. Young people trust digital as a news source more so than TV. Overcome financial barriers - for example, more well-off members could sponsor young people at an event. Don’t make assumptions about them - don’t automatically make them do the tech. Guide them as to what we are about. Mentor them, respect them, and spend time helping them to cultivate leadership. Step aside and let them have power.

Pinellas County Legislative Delegation Meetings are coming up. I plan to go.  
October 26 and November 29, 2023, 1 PM – 4 PM  
9200 113th St N, Seminole, FL 33772 (SPC Seminole Campus)

-- Jean Greenawalt



## Region VIII Report for October 23, 2023

The DWCUP is one of five Democratic Women's clubs in Region VIII, which includes Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough and Hernando counties. The presidents and representatives of these clubs met via Zoom on Oct. 14th. The clubs shared their recent activities and achievements. All the clubs are working on building membership, encouraging leadership, participating in Voter Registration, petition-gathering and local campaign activities. The recent state board meeting was summarized, as this was the first in-person state board meeting since COVID. Our region plans its first in-person meeting in early 2024, as well as a possible region fundraiser.

-- Donna Dennis

### **FYI: DEMOCRATIC PODCASTS**

Amicus – covering SCOTUS and the courts.

Pod Save America – by the speechwriters for Obama.

Lovitt or Leave It (adult humor)

Strict Scrutiny – covering SCOTUS and the courts.

This Day in Esoteric Political History

Slow Burn – about Justice Clarence Thomas

Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me – from NPR

--with thanks to Lacy Hollings

# **HOLIDAY PARTY**

*December 11*

*DWCUP Holiday Potluck Luncheon*

*Unitarian Universalist  
Church*

*2470 Nursery RD.*

*Clearwater*

*11:30 - 2:00*

*\$30 - Bring a dish*

*RSVP. Mary Freeman, 727-415-6629*

*Sign up at November meeting or at [dwcup.com](http://dwcup.com)*



## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS!

All members of the DWCUP are also members of the DWCF (Democratic Women's Club of Florida). Please go to the website, [www.dwcf.org](http://www.dwcf.org), and get registered, create a password and take a look at all the features of the organization. There is a special members section as well. Get an idea of what's going on with other clubs in the state, the Florida Democratic Party, and so much more!

### **DWCUP Annual Membership Dues: \$25** **Get the best deals with a tiered membership!**

- **PLATINUM MEMBERS:**  
3 Years for \$70
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**Pay your membership dues here:**  
[dwcup.com/donate](http://dwcup.com/donate)

#### **NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

**Monday, November 27, 2023 at 12pm**  
**Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.**

