



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

March 2021

Central Committee

(Front Row L – R)

Lauren Beacham, Bill Reid, Deb Reynolds, Mari Lee, Tom Slater, Deborah Carter, Regan Riley (Back Row L-R)

Renee Knapp, Gabriel Cassutto, Tony Soltero, Josh Cramer, Antonio Bowens



The Chair's Corner-

Hard to believe it's been (only) a year since the pandemic changed our way of life, and we're all reeling from the loss of more than half a million Americans. School is different, work is different, and small businesses are trying to build back. As more and more of us are able to be vaccinated, there's a hope that we can start having in-person events again sooner rather than later. With that in mind, we're encouraging our supporters to become members of the Monocacy Plowman and Fisherman Club (generally referred to as "Plow-Fish"). For those not familiar, Plow-Fish events are generally held in the homes of local Democrats, where we get to mingle with special guests like Attorney General Brian Frosh, Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis, or Maryland Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones. Depending on the schedule, you may meet members of Congress or gubernatorial candidates as well.

An annual membership for calendar year 2021 permits you and one guest to attend three Plow-Fish events at no further cost. Membership rates are \$150 (or \$140 for monthly sustainers; info on that below). If you do not wish to attend all the events or become a member, a single event-only ticket - including you and a guest - is \$75. We expect to hold our first Plow-Fish event this year in June or July,

although it may still be virtual, so please check the Banner and our Facebook page over the next couple of months for more information about this year's membership. We will update the link on our website well before June as well.

If you are not already a monthly sustainer, please consider becoming involved at any level that is comfortable for you. In addition to the Plow-Fish discount, sustainers get a discount on our annual gala, as well as a tote bag thank-you gift. For more information or to sign up, please visit <https://www.frederickdemocrats.org/get-involved/monthly-sustainer>.

And if you're in a position to help even more, we invite you to join us as a Frederick Democratic Trustee. For a donation of \$1,000 (paid in installments if you like), you will receive free admission to all 2021 activities, including the Plow-Fish events as well as the annual gala. Trustees are recognized at all of our events and also attend a special, private lunch in Washington, D.C.

with one of our federal elected officials. Please email info@frederickdemocrats.org to sign up.

Looking ahead to campaign matters, although there have already been announcements about the 2022 races, we are all mostly working on the Frederick city election this year. If you think you might want to help out in any capacity – or even run for office yourself – save April 24. We'll be holding a virtual campaign school for experienced candidates and newcomers alike. No commitment, no charge, so come as you are! You can ask questions, give advice, or just lurk.

Our office is still open limited hours, so stop by 1080 West Patrick Street, unit 4, on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 6:00 or Saturdays from 10:00 to 2:00. We may still have a "Proud Constituent of Jamie Raskin" bumper sticker for you!

-Deborah Carter, Chair

March 2021 - At-a-Glance



Women's Democratic League (WDL) Meeting
Monday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m.
For info please visit WDL.Frederick.org

Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting
Thursday, March 18th at 6:00 pm
The meeting will be virtual.



Delegate Karen Lewis Young

District 3A

We are at the mid-point of session. This has been a very unusual year for a variety of reasons. There are no in-person constituent or stakeholder meetings and events. All committee and caucus meetings are virtual also. Only general voting sessions are on the floor, as mandated by the state constitution, and many precautions are taken.

Since much of our legislative success is dependent on building relationships, it's a real challenge to nurture them virtually. Nevertheless, we have a number of bills that are moving along nicely or still in play.

The ability of pharmacists to administer a greater variety of injections is headed to a floor vote. I am optimistic that Ways and Means will vote an expanded tax credit for organ donation this week. Stakeholders will be finalizing a compromise on the ability to provide greater access to cancer drugs early this week. Progress is occurring from my efforts to obtain more visitation rights in long-term care facilities so that our loved ones can minimize suffering from isolation, loneliness, uncertainty, fear and depression.

As I am reporting positive news, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Kris Fair as my Legislative Director. He has already hit the ground running and learning the process quickly. Many of you know Kris, but you might not be aware of the great extent of his community involvement and service.

Kris is a lifelong Frederick County resident who graduated from Linganore High School in 2002, Frederick Community College in 2008, and Hood College in 2012. Kris has worked on civil rights and other community challenges for the past twenty years. He has been active with organizations including The Frederick Arts Council, The Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP), MOM's Demand Action, The Frederick Center, The Golden Mile Alliance, Marylanders for Marriage Equality, The Greater Frederick Advertising Federation, Frederick County Democratic Party, and Weinberg Center for the Arts. In recognition of his strategic planning abilities, leadership skills, and contributions of many volunteer hours, Kris has been honored with the Community Foundation of Frederick County's Wertheimer Award, The Human Relations Commission's Lord Nickens Public Service Award, and Hood College's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Award. He has been named the Frederick County Democratic Party volunteer of the year and was recently featured in Frederick Magazine's People to Watch. Kris currently lives in Frederick City with his husband, Dominick.

One of Kris's first projects was to develop a newsletter that provides a comprehensive update of the session's priorities. I am extremely proud of both the style and the substance of this effort and happy to share it with you. <https://conta.cc/2NsKcc4> If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive all future updates, please send an email request to Karen.Young@house.state.md.us.

Finally, the Frederick County delegation is working in a bipartisan manner to obtain answers on COVID-19 vaccination issues, receive briefings from our federal delegation, finalize a replacement process for Board of Education resignations, and support expansion opportunities for our local restaurants and breweries.

-Karen



Delegate Ken Kerr

District 3B

Happy (almost) Spring, Frederick Democrats!

As I write, we are halfway through our 90-day session in Annapolis and working hard for you and all the people of Maryland. We were able to override several of the governor's vetoes – not the least of which is the Blueprint for Maryland's future. We have also passed over \$1 billion in emergency relief for Maryland residents who have been economically affected by the state of emergency.

While the general assembly is not directly in charge of the day-to-day operations of government, we have been holding the governor's departments' virtual feet to the fire with the disastrous unemployment insurance and sputtering vaccine distribution. We will continue to call them before our oversight committees and demand accountability.

In my own legislative agenda, I have been able to get passed in the House my prescription drug expiration date bill, my insurance subsidies for young Marylanders, and my tax relieve for businesses and individuals economically affected by a state of emergency.

Next Wednesday, HB370 Seizure Safe Schools, is up for an important vote in Ways and Means. Senator Young and I have been working hard in our respective chambers to get this bill enacted into law this year. I'll be looking for a favorable committee report in the next two weeks.

I'm really missing seeing you in Annapolis this session. It's not been the same without you!

-Ken



Tom Slater- Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

The Rest of the Story

It is my observation that those who become involved in politics can be divided into two groups: advocates and political strategists. Most do not exactly fit into either category, but there is a continuum in which people can find themselves. At the extreme, the advocates care much less about the practical way to reach the ideological goal they wish for and care most about their version of reality and the ideal that they aspire to be adopted by elected government officials. Extreme advocates often have little tolerance for contrasting points of view and view strategists who settle for half a loaf as sellouts if they are willing to settle for less than the ideal. At the other extreme, the strategists care more about achieving political success and power and are not all obsessed with achieving ideological success, so long as their side prevails. To the strategist, compromise and electoral success are essential to the art of politics. Some call them hacks or operators. Of course, most of those who actively participate in politics are not at either extreme of this continuum.

The perfect blend of the advocate and the strategist is my friend Vinny DeMarco. Vinny is a 63-year-old, Italian-born Maryland advocate and strategist. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University, and after earning a law degree, immediately became involved in Maryland politics. He was elected president of the Young

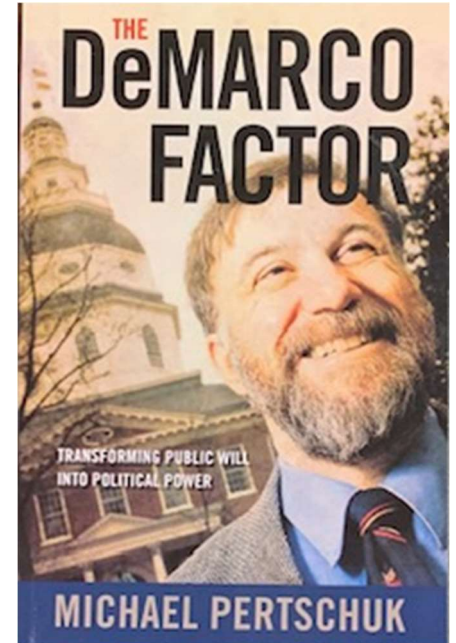
Democrats of Maryland, campaigned for a nuclear freeze, worked in Steve Sachs's 1986 campaign for governor, and worked for Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.

He is the perfect advocate, but he matches the advocate's zeal and idealism with the practicality of a political operator. In the 1980s, he led the effort in Maryland to ban Saturday Night Specials. For that advocacy he was named the *Baltimore Sun's* Marylander of the Year in 1988. In the 1990s, he started the effort to for a smoke-free Maryland and initiated the Maryland Children's initiative, which eventually resulted in a 50-cent-per-pack increase in the tax on cigarettes, which has led to a significant decrease in smoking in the state.

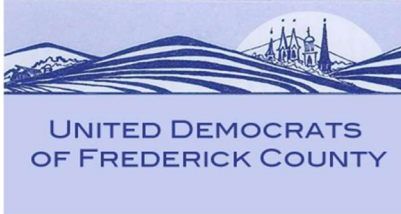
DeMarco started Maryland Health Care for All at the turn of this century and still is at work advocating for increases in health insurance coverage for all Marylanders. After his encouragement, the Maryland General Assembly passed measures to make Maryland a better place in regard to health care, and Maryland businesses have significantly improved health care benefits for their workers.

In 2010, Michael Pertschuk, former chair of the Federal Trade Commission, wrote *The DeMarco Factor*, which is subtitled *Transforming Public Will Into Political Power*. In his book, Pertschuk describes the template that Vinny uses to achieve political success: organize a campaign coalition around a goal; open the conversation with a resolution; have a trial run in one session of the legislature; get candidates during the primary and general election to pledge to support the goal; pressure for legislative action; and hold those who oppose the goal to account for their actions or inactions. Each step of the way, DeMarco is a master at public education and media advocacy. Pertschuk describes DeMarco as "an extraordinarily committed person, a very bright person, and one who knows how to get things done." I call him the perfect blend of an advocate and a strategist.

Every time I run into Vinny, I call him "my hero" because he is. Vinny is ever the optimist and always looks to appeal to an elected official's better nature. Every Facebook warrior should read this book and look to Vinny DeMarco for guidance as to how politics really and should work.



United Democrats of Frederick County-



Our February 8, 2021, meeting was a joint event with the Women’s Democratic League (WDL) on “Moving from Protests to Policy Changes.” Protests are the critical first step to making change, but we must follow that with legislative and policy action to make those changes a reality. Our guests were Akiyyah Hall Billups, Director of Frederick March for Justice, and Gayon Sampson, Community Outreach Advisor at Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Billups spoke about how we are a critical time in history, and we must use our voices from the protests of 2020 to make the changes in our community that we need now. Mr. Sampson spoke about how making policy changes can feel long and overwhelming, but we need to be patient and to use all our resources to keep moving forward. Both speakers stressed of importance of not getting discouraged, since it can feel overwhelming and hopeless at times. We are grateful for leaders like Ms. Billups and Mr. Sampson in our community and their willingness to offer a hand-up to next generation of activists and leaders.

The UDFC Board met on February 3, to discuss our plans for 2021. We have some exciting speakers lined up for future meetings. The schedule will be flexible, but we will strive to maintain a consistent time each month. For our virtual meetings, we have enjoyed partnering with the WDL, the Democratic Central Committee and the Young Democrats for meetings, so we intend to continue this partnership whenever possible. We will continue with virtual meetings for the foreseeable future, since we want everyone to feel safe. The summer picnic (which was cancelled last year), is still part of the discussion, but we are listening to our local leaders and healthcare professionals for guidance.

Our March meeting topic and date have not been finalized, but please watch Facebook and your email for any updates.

Become a member! Dues are \$20 individual or \$35 family. As a reminder, dues are payable in January of each year. You can contact us at UnitedDemsFrederick@yahoo.com, by phone at 240-630-4280, or by mail at P.O. Box 3882, Frederick MD 21705. We’re also on [Facebook](#), so please “like” the page and interact with us there!



Frederick County Democratic Party Podcasts

Be sure to listen in as we discuss all things of interest to local Dems.

Listen on [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#) or on your podcast app. Be sure to follow us too!

Important Note: Remember, that while we have defeated President Trump in the election, Trumpism lives on and will outlast his term in office. We must work to expunge these dangerous beliefs from our politics at the local, state and federal level.

-Gabriel Cassutto



Editor's Corner

Gmail users – Our mail server may cause *The Banner* to be delivered to your email "Promotions" tab instead of your inbox. If you do not receive your monthly edition, please check for it in that tab. If it isn't there, please send me an email and I'll check your subscription. You may also view *The Banner* on our website by clicking [here](#).

Banner Newsletter Ideas?

Send me an email with your ideas, materials, or feedback for consideration.

Hope you enjoyed reading!

Gabriel Cassutto,

gabe.cassutto@gmail.com

or

Central Committee -

info@frederickdemocrats.org



and



with

Frederick County Democrats

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Check us out on YouTube too!



WDL

Women's Democratic League
Frederick County, Maryland



1923-2018

Join us for our Monthly Meeting
Monday, March 15
6:30-8:30 p.m.

**“Supporting Your Sisters
Running For Office”**

*A discussion of public office opportunities in Frederick County in
2021 & 2022 and building a winning team*

Visit our website or Facebook page for more
info and to sign up!

www.wdlfrederick.org

Questions? Email us at wdlfrederick@gmail.com WDLFrederick on Facebook

2021
Summit Western Maryland Democratic
D

Save the Date

The 17th Annual Western Maryland Democratic Summit

September 24 & 25, 2021

Rocky Gap Casino Resort

More Details and Registration Coming Summer 2021!

EMERGE

MARYLAND

Spring Networking Reception

Save the Date!

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 • 7pm

Hosted on a unique virtual networking platform

Keynote Speaker

A'shanti Gholar - President of Emerge America

Featuring remarks from Emerge Maryland Alumnae

Ticket Options:

\$5,000 - Host Sponsor

\$2,500 - Sponsor

\$1,000 - Leader

\$500 - Trailblazer

\$250 - Pioneer

\$100 - Guest

\$75 - Young Professional

*Stay tuned
for more
information!*



www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute

JOIN THE MONTHLY SUSTAINERS

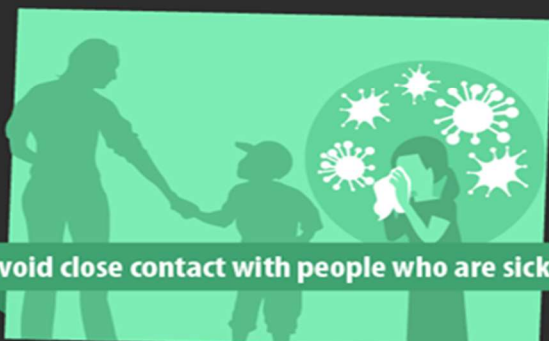
**YOUR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP US KEEP
FREDERICK COUNTY BLUE IN 2021 AND 2022!**



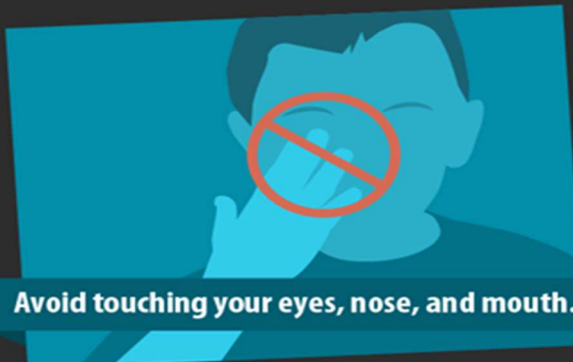
BY AUTHORITY FCDCC TONY SOLTERO, TREASURER

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



For more information: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)