



# The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Thomas Jackson, Treasurer

March 2023

## CHAIR'S CORNER



Chairwoman Mari Lee

A few weeks ago, we accepted the resignation of Central Committee member Thomas Jackson, who recently relocated to Montgomery County. While we'll miss him once the transition of treasurer duties is completed, we're happy for his next chapter. As a result of his resignation, we solicited applicants to fill his seat, and after the conclusion of our interviews, we chose Amanda Stone-Gines. Welcome again, Amanda!

At the end of March, please join us at our first Monocacy Plowman & Fisherman Club ("Plow-Fish") event of the year on Wednesday, 29 March, with Special Guest Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive. Annual Plow-Fish [membership](#) is \$150 (\$140 for Club Blue sustainers) – includes this and two other events later this year for you and a guest, or a single event ticket - \$75 – includes a guest. You'll see an invitation with more details on page 7. We look forward to seeing you there! If you can't join us (or even if you can) and want to contribute in other ways,

consider becoming a member of [Club Blue](#) or a Frederick County Democratic Party [Trustee](#).

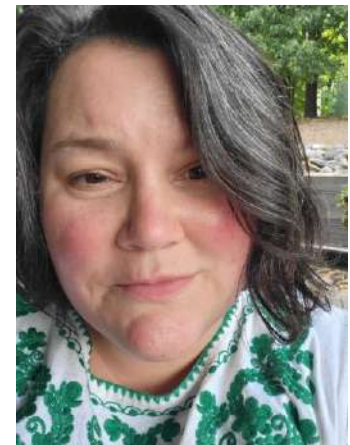
Then in April, we'll return to Rocky Gap, Friday, 21 – Saturday 22 April, for this year's Western Maryland Democratic Summit. We're expecting Maryland's Democratic Party leadership and elected officials; valuable workshops and exhibits on topics of interest to activists, candidates, and political junkies; and networking opportunities that have established the Summit's reputation as a signature event in Maryland politics. Tickets start at \$35 for students and are available [here](#).

The Frederick County Democratic Central Committee congratulates Frederick County resident Guy Djoken on being selected as the new chair of the Maryland Democratic Party's (MDP) Continental African Diversity Leadership Council (DLC). We also congratulate the MDP's new Executive Director, Vincent Harrington, replacing Eva Lewis, now Comptroller Brooke Lierman's state public engagement director. For more information about this DLC or to learn about others, visit [here](#).

If you haven't heard, the Frederick County Board of Elections recently moved from Montevue Lane to Riverside Five, 8490 Progress Drive, Frederick. They have the same hours of operation, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and phone # 301-600-VOTE (8683). Per their website, four local municipalities will hold municipal elections this year: Mt. Airy, Rosemont, Woodsboro, and Thurmont. Separately, Walkersville has an upcoming special election to fill a

vacancy. You can find more details about Walkersville's election [here](#), and [here](#) for the other municipalities.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, 12 March. Don't forget to move your clock ahead one hour Saturday night before bed and replace your smoke detector batteries.



Amanda Stone-Gines, FCDCC member



Don't forget to check the calendar on our web site to keep up with Democratic meetings, candidate events, and more!

<http://www.frederickdemocrats.org/events/calendar>

**SOUTH  
FREDERICK  
COUNTY  
DEMOCRATS**



**South County Dems Hold February Meeting**

The South County Dems held their monthly February meeting on Feb. 18 at Bar-T Ranch Mountainside. Our guest speaker was Joan Arnold. Ms. Arnold is a community development leader skilled in engagement, negotiation, and project management with over 20 years of leadership and executive experience in all aspects of affordable housing development in West Chester County, NY.

She presented a documentary entitled “Traces of the Trade: Tales from the Deep North.” It followed the story of nine descendants of James DeWolfe, of Bristol, Rhode Island, who ran the largest slave trade in the U.S., as they were seeking to gain understanding of their ancestors’ roles in enslaving thousands of Africans in the Caribbean and the United States. The documentary explored their trip from Bristol to Ghana to the Caribbean and back to Bristol as they followed the paths of enslaved Africans before them and emphasized the key role that the North played in furthering slavery, often overlooked. In the process, they gained greater insights into where their family wealth derived and from it their own white privilege which carries forth many generations later. In one especially poignant scene around the dinner table, they discover that all except one had attended Ivy League schools—while not all of those in the film recognized this as a by-product of white privilege, those of us watching certainly did.

The discussion that followed demonstrated our appreciation for the film and our ability to be further enlightened by having viewed it.

- Melanie Galloway, Co-chair,  
South County Dems

**Homelessness Topic for South County Dems March Meeting**

In keeping with South County Dems’ theme this year of “Serving the Underserved,” their March 18 meeting will focus on ways to address our community’s housing challenges. Meetings are held on third Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. at Bar-T Ranch Mountainside, 2914 Roderick Rd, Frederick. All are welcome. In recognition of the free use of the facility, an optional donation can be made to:

Bar-T Mountainside Environmental and Education Center, 2914 Roderick Road, Frederick, 21704.

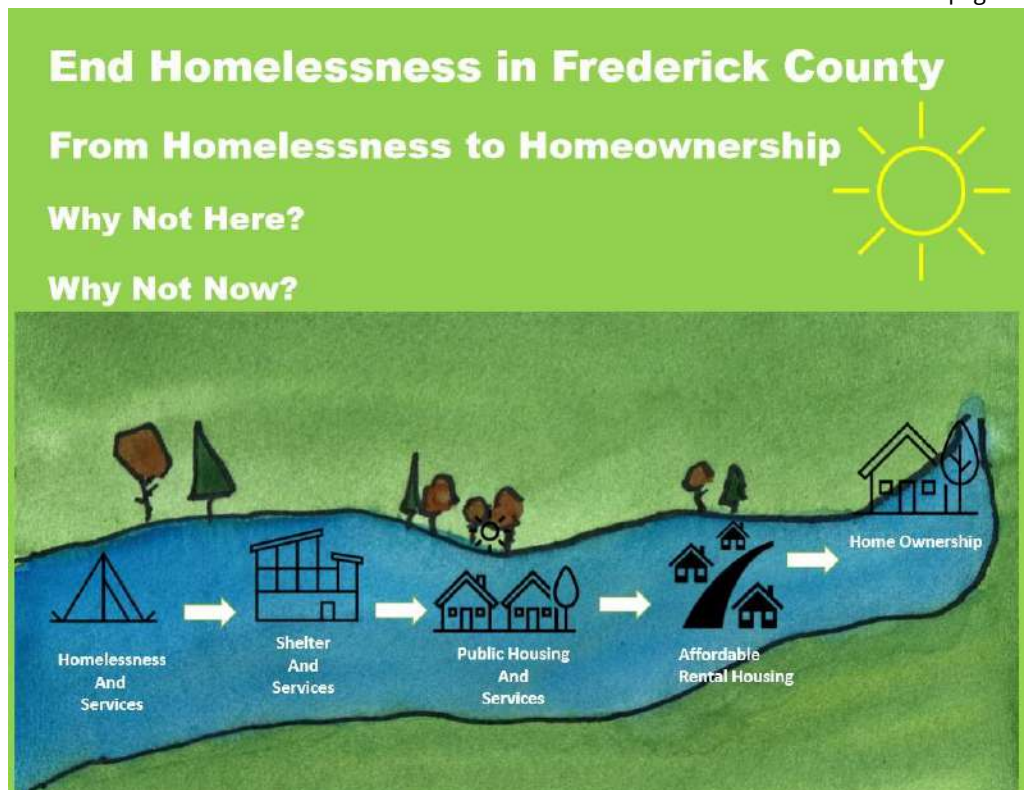
The speaker for the meeting will be Ann Ryan, who is leading a newly formed task force to end homelessness and increase affordable

housing in Frederick County. Ann is the Director of Family Services for the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick. She has been on the front lines of housing and human services for many years. As the director of a transitional shelter for homeless women in Washington, D.C., the director of Advocates for Homeless Families in Frederick, and her current role with the housing authority, she has seen first-hand the impact of failed policy for those living on the margins. She is grateful to work with other committed and inspired people to build a model in our own community that leaves no one unhoused, uneducated, or unemployed. She holds a master’s degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

**What Can Dems Do?**

Following Ann’s presentation and discussion about homelessness, the second part of the March meeting will

Continued on the next page



Pictured here is a diagram that Ann Ryan will talk about, showing a path from homelessness to home ownership.

turn to a focus on deep canvassing in South County, which consists of two districts. District 2 in southeast Frederick County remains red, although it is increasingly bluer. District 1 in southwest Frederick County has been voting blue, but just by a squeak. The idea of deep canvassing is to reach out to neighborhoods where there may be many underserved potential voters. By listening deeply to their concerns, Dems can more readily meet their slogan of “Dems Deliver,” while constituents, if they feel heard, will be more likely to vote blue when the next election season begins.

A number of volunteers are working to identify target neighborhoods and develop survey questions to prepare for springtime canvassing. The more volunteers who join this effort, the more voters can be reached. Others are welcome to work with this group, either to support the South County effort, or to extend it elsewhere in the county. If interested, contact Annette Breiling at 818-422-6208, or [annette.breiling@gmail.com](mailto:annette.breiling@gmail.com).

- Annette Breiling, Co-chair, South County Dems



*The Rest Of the Story*



Tom Slater, Frederick County Democratic Central Committee  
Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

**The Francis Scott Key Hotel, President Biden and recent losses:**

...When we held our last Monocacy Plowman-Fisherman event at the old FSK Hotel in December, some people were asking about the history of the FSK Hotel. The hotel opened in January of 1923, replacing the City Hotel which had operated in that location from 1780 until 1918. The hotel, when it opened in 1923, had 205 guest rooms with 150 baths and cost \$1 million to build with 1,200 citizens of Frederick purchasing stock to finance the building. In 1965, the building was sold to Loyola Federal Savings and Loan, with a branch of the bank located on the first floor. Artist R. McGill Mackall was commissioned by the bank to paint a lobby mural depicting the bombardment of Ft. McHenry.

In October of 1972, Norman Todd, the owner of a steel manufacturing firm in Point of Rocks, bought the hotel and made extensive renovations. The advent of malls and chain hotels outside of downtown Frederick led to a decline in business, and in September of 1975, the Homewood Retirement Center of Williamsport purchased the property at public auction for \$360,000 and converted it into a retirement home. In January of 2000, after the building of Homewood at Crumland Farms, Homewood sold the original hotel property for between \$700,000 and \$2 million, and the upper floors were converted into 54 luxury one- and two-bedroom apartments.

The most notable employee of the hotel was chef Ted Semler, who worked there from 1928 until 1975. The hotel was a gathering place for many organizations and wedding receptions, and the dining room was recognized as one of the best places to eat in Frederick. The Frederick Democratic Party held many Jefferson-Jackson Day dinners. When I was the Frederick County coordinator for the re-election campaign of U.S. Senator Joseph D.

Tydings in 1970, our first organization meeting was held at the FSK Hotel.

In 1943, because of travel restrictions associated with the war, major league baseball teams were ordered by Commissioner Landis to find spring training locations north of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers. After first holding their spring training in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1944 and 1945, the Philadelphia Athletics choose to hold spring training in Frederick, Maryland at McCurdy Field, and the FSK Hotel became the team hotel. Since 1944 marked Athletics owner and manager Connie Mack’s 50<sup>th</sup> year in baseball, a special testimonial dinner sponsored by the Frederick Lions Club was held at the FSK hotel. 250 people attended the banquet, and attendance was limited to members of the Frederick Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. Washington Senators’ Manager Ossie Bluege and Hall of Famers “Chief” Bender and Al Simmons attended. The most popular spring training game occurred when the Athletics played the New York Yankees at McCurdy field on April 6, 1944. Frederick businesses and county government offices closed early, and absenteeism increased in the public schools that day. The Athletics beat the mighty Yankees 9-1. The Yankee team stayed at the FSK hotel that night, and a banquet was held to honor the Athletics and the Yankees with Democratic Governor Herbert R. O’Conor in attendance. (Much of this information is taken from “Remembering the Francis Scott Key Hotel,” by Julie Summers Walker, special to the Frederick News-Post, March 26, 1999, and “When ‘Big League’ Ball Came to Frederick” by Chris Haugh, August 4, 2016.)

...Despite bad polling, Joe Biden is on an incredible roll. I suspect that most of the negativity is associated with his age, a legitimate and rational concern. The past few weeks, however, have been fantastic. Biden demonstrated great courage and resolve in traveling

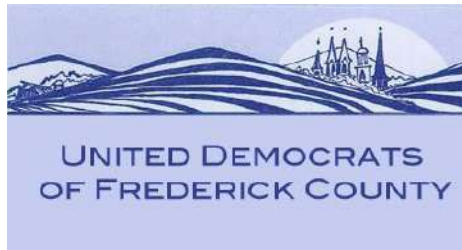
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to Kiev without the cocoon of protection usually accorded U.S. presidents, and his speech in Warsaw, Poland, was strong and powerful - as was his State of the Union speech. His support for Ukraine has been unwavering, and his leadership in keeping together the Western alliance has been masterful. While a president cannot take credit for everything that happens in the economy, he usually gets blamed when things go wrong. In the last 6 months annual inflation has fallen to the lowest annual inflation rate in more than a year. The GDP grew at 2.9% last quarter. Real wages are higher than they were seven months ago. 10.5 million new businesses have been created in the last two years. 517,000 new jobs were added in January. The country has the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years. In the next few months, the enormous impact of the bipartisan 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will begin to be felt. Keep it up, President Biden!

...It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Phillip Bresee at age 55. Phil left us too soon. He had an impressive career as an advocate for recycling and solid waste management in Frederick County and other locales, but I remember him most as an eager and active Democrat volunteering to assist the Young Democrats of Frederick, the Democratic State Central Committee, and the United Democrats of Frederick County.

We have also lost Pete Callas, Irwin Hoffman, Bob Forder, J. Thomas Benfield, and Kay Sheiss. Callas and Hoffman both had distinguished careers, and both were long-time members of the Maryland House of Delegates from Washington County, Hoffman from 1963 to 1983 and Callas from 1983 to 1994. Both were in their 90s when they died. Bob Forder (89) was a distinguished psychologist and educator, who got a kick out of wearing a sign that read "Sue Hecht's Husband" when he attended events with his wife. Tom Benfield was an active Democratic leader in Point of

Rocks. Kay Sheiss (71), while not identified with politics, was a powerhouse organizer with regard to philanthropic activities including reviving downtown Frederick, the Jeanne Bussard Center, Maryland School for the Deaf Foundation, Federated Charities, Citizens Care and Montevue, the Advocates for the Aging, and the Community Foundation of Frederick.



## UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

We have two guest presenters who are joining us at our meeting on Monday, March 6. Our First guest will be in recognition of Women's History month; Diane Fink Executive Director of Emerge Maryland since 2012. Emerge is described as "a political powerhouse" and has become the fastest growing organization dedicated to helping women attain public office in our state. Ms. Fink will share the history of the group and talk about their challenges and successes. The second speaker will be Brad Young, who served on the Frederick Board of Education for twelve years, including time as president of the board. He was elected as an at-large Council member in 2022 and elected president of the County Council Dec. 5, 2022. Brad will offer some insight about the new county council as it works together to move forward and continues to serve Frederick. Kudos to our program chair, Gary Magnuson, for arranging another great program for us!

### Membership and Dues:

We welcome new members to join us! Annual dues can be paid in person by

cash or check at this time, \$20 for individual dues, or \$35 for family. You may also drop a check in the mail to: **UDFC Treasurer P.O. Box 3882 Frederick MD 21705.** Our online PayPal account is not available yet.

**February meeting:** UDFC held the February 6th meeting at Café 611, and it was co-hosted with WDL. We had two guest speakers during the evening. The first was Pat Murray, senior advisor to County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. Pat discussed what brought him to join Jessica's team here in Frederick, and how the team is working together to reach out to the Frederick Community, develop relationships, and assist with making a smooth transition. Our second presenter was Mrs. Joyce Harris, a retired teacher from Prince George's County who lives in Howard County. Joyce delivered an inspiring dramatization of Harriet Tubman in honor of African American History Month (Note: photo). Joyce also presented at the Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville in late February.



**Mrs. Joyce Harris as Harriet Tubman**

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting!

- Maureen Grayzeck  
President, UDFC





**WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK COUNTY**

Our March Meeting will be held on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The Location is TBD. The meeting will feature a discussion on Mental Health Resources in Frederick County. Speakers will include staff from the Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Carleah Summers, Executive Director of Andrea's House - the first transitional home for women and children in Frederick County, and Kayte Mathenge, Owner & CEO, Monarch Healthcare LLC - A Drug Rehab Facility.

We will post the meeting location on our [website](#) soon.



**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!

*Shelly Beard-Francois,*  
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 or  
 Central Committee -  
[info@frederickdemocrats.org](mailto:info@frederickdemocrats.org)

# EMERGE

## MARYLAND

CELEBRATING OUR BEST YEAR SO FAR!

### Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Hosted by  
 Kathleen Matthews  
 at her home in Chevy Chase.



5:30 pm – VIP Reception

6:15 pm - 8:00 pm – PARTY!!

March 2023 At-a-Glance



**United Dems of Frederick Co. (UDFC) Monthly Meeting**  
**Monday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

Café 611 located at 611 North Market Street, Frederick

**Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting**  
**Date and location: TBD**

Please check our [calendar](#) for details soon.

**North Frederick Co. Dems (NFCD) Monthly Meet-Up**  
**Saturday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m.**

Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd, Thurmont  
(Please bring a non-perishable item for the area food bank.)

**Young Democrats of Frederick County (YDFC) Monthly Meeting**  
**No Meeting**

**South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Monthly Meet-Up**  
**Saturday, March 18 at 9:00 a.m.**

Bar-T Mountainside, 2914 Roderick Rd, Frederick

**Women's Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting**  
**Monday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.**

Please check our [website](#) soon for the meeting location.

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connected!

and



with

**Frederick County Democrats**

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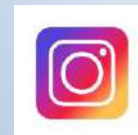
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Click on the icons for a direct connection.

**Check us out on YouTube too!**



Pay online for your annual "Plow-Fish" membership or ticket [here](#).



**THE MONOCACY  
PLOWMAN AND FISHERMAN CLUB**

IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING WITH

**CALVIN BALL**

HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2023**

6:00 TO 7:30 PM

**AT THE HOME OF  
STEPHEN & ALEXIS SLATER**

7900 RUNNYMEADE DR | FREDERICK, MD

**\$150** MEMBERSHIP OR **\$140** FOR CLUB BLUE MEMBERS –  
COVERS THIS AND OUR NEXT TWO EVENTS  
THIS YEAR FOR YOU AND A GUEST

**\$75** SINGLE EVENT TICKET: INCLUDES YOU AND A GUEST

**TICKETS:** PLEASE MAKE CHECK TO FCDSCC  
MAIL TO: P.O BOX 793, FREDERICK, MARYLAND 21705  
WITH "PLOWFISH 2023" ON CHECK'S MEMO LINE.

OR PAY ONLINE: [WWW.FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG](http://WWW.FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG)

**RSVP:** MARI LEE  
[MARI@FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG](mailto:MARI@FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG)

AUTH. FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THOMAS JACKSON, TREASURER

*Congrats!*

**GUY DJOKEN**

Our New Chair of  
The Continental African  
Diversity Leadership  
Council





*Congratulations*



**Vincent Harrington**  
Our new Executive Director of the  
Maryland Democratic Party





**WDL**  
Women's Democratic League  
Frederick County, Maryland

1923-2018

**Join us for our monthly meeting**

Monday, March 20 at 7:00 PM  
Location: TBD

***Mental Health Resources***

*Guest Speakers:*

Staff from the Frederick Mental Health Association  
Carleah Summers, Executive Director, Andrea's House  
Kayte Mathenge, Owner & CEO, Monarch Healthcare, LLC.

*More details to follow*

Visit our website - [www.wdlfrederick.org](http://www.wdlfrederick.org)

Questions? Email us at [wdlfrederick@gmail.com](mailto:wdlfrederick@gmail.com) | WDLFrederick on Facebook