



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Thomas Jackson, Treasurer

April 2023

CHAIR'S CORNER



Chairwoman Mari Lee

Happy April Fool's Day! Starting today, we'll resume our monthly presence at First Saturday in downtown Frederick. Stop by our table from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the corner of West Patrick and Market Street to register to vote, pick up Party literature, or say hello (or all three!)

For the last four or more years, the Central Committee has held its monthly meeting on the third Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. Recently, we voted to move our meetings to the third Tuesday; the time remains unchanged.

A few nights ago, we held our first Monocacy Plowman & Fisherman Club ("Plow-Fish") event of the year with Special Guest Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive. We appreciate Mr. Ball for taking time to come and talk with Plow-Fish members and guests, and Stephen & Alexis Slater for serving as our host and welcoming us into their home. We also thank everyone who supported this event. Please save the

date of Wednesday, 30 August for our next Plow-Fish. More details will be provided closer to the event.

Who's ready for happy hour?! Join Frederick Democrats as we kickoff our monthly happy hours this Wednesday, 12 April, at Casa Rico, 6:00 – 8:00. They have lots of drink and food specials that night and will also extend Happy Hour until 7pm for us. We will be in the bar dining area which accommodates about 25 people.

As a reminder, 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](#).

Lastly, we ask you to please save the date of Monday, 12 June for our annual Democratic Party gala. See the Save the Date announcement on page 8. We will announce more details, including guest speaker, ticket price and sponsorship opportunities soon.



The Rest Of the Story



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

February was Black History Month. Belatedly, I thought I would devote this month's column to the role that Black citizens have had in Frederick County politics (Note: I'm not sure what is the most appropriate language to use - Blacks, African-Americans, or People of Color - so in this column, for consistency, I am going to use "Black"). It's not surprising that the first Black politicians of note in recent Frederick County history were Republicans. The Republican Party was founded, in part, to support the abolition of slavery and most of the leaders of the South, who supported the resurrection known as the Civil War, were Democrats. After the Civil War most free Blacks and newly-freed former slaves gravitated toward the Republican Party. The rise of Jim Crow and segregation after the war were largely supported

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Democratic politicians. Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, very prominent Blacks after the Civil War, were associated with the Republican Party. Republican President Theodore Roosevelt was criticized by many for inviting Booker T. Washington to the White House. Many Black citizens in Frederick County remembered that it was Roger Brooke Taney who wrote the infamous Dred Scott decision. Before becoming a Supreme Court Justice, Taney was Attorney General and Secretary of the Treasury, appointed by President Andrew Jackson, one of the leaders of the Democratic Party.

Things began to change in the 20th Century as the great migration of southern Blacks into the northern cities occurred. The Democratic Party gradually became identified with the cause of civil rights for Black citizens as a result of Eleanor Roosevelt's strong advocacy for civil rights, Hubert Humphrey's courageous advocacy for a civil rights platform at the 1948 Democratic Convention causing a walkout of the southern Democrats, President Truman's integration of the Army, Senator John F. Kennedy's famous call to Coretta King in 1960 when her husband was in the Birmingham jail, Lyndon Johnson's support for civil rights legislation as a Senator and later as President, and Richard Nixon's insidious "Southern Strategy."

Nevertheless, in Frederick County, some Blacks continued to identify with the Republican Party. William "Bill" Lee, a respected educator, community, and political leader recalled in "Here Lies Jim Crow" by Fraser Smith, the seminal book on Maryland and race, what bigotry was like in Frederick:

"While growing up in Frederick, he had learned where he could go, where he couldn't go, and how he would be received. Blacks could not be treated in the nearby whites-only hospital. Black gatherings to celebrate Emancipation Day could be held only if there was white supervision. Public

parks, department stores, and restaurants were for whites only. Change came slowly. Personal leadership at every level was critical for epochal change. The people may be chafed raw by a system such as Jim Crow, but the survival instinct makes them properly suspicious of mere gesture. Bravery, insight, passion – and success – are necessary to make the risk worth taking, to show us that we can overcome."

The first elected Blacks in Frederick County were Republican educators Claude Delauter and Bill Lee, who served on the Frederick City Board of Aldermen in the 1970's and into the early 1990s. The first Black appointed to the Frederick County Board of Education was Republican Maynard Hurd, who was appointed in the 1960s. The first Black person elected to a Central Committee was Howard Whims who was elected to the Republican State Central Committee. Sherman Mason ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic State Central Committee in 1970. Black dentist Dr. V. Gladstone Thompson ran an independent campaign for Frederick City Alderman in 1969.

Black Democrats, in the 1960s and beyond, were active behind the scenes and included George Dredden, who was involved in the creation of the Community Action Agency, as well as controversies associated with it in the 1960s and 1970s. He also served for a long time on the Frederick Human Relations Commission. Dredden, in addition was the owner of a newspaper in Frederick that catered to the Black community. The editor of "The County Globe" was Earleen Thornton, who also served as a member of the Board of Education and the Board of Election Supervisors. William Barnes, Daryl Boffman, Jay Mason, Jason Johnson, and Earl Robbins were appointed to or elected to serve on the Frederick County Board of Education. The Frederick NAACP, under the leadership of Lord Nickens, Sherman Mason, Seavon Gordon, Charlene Edmunds, Guy

Djoken, Willie Mahone, and others, is non-partisan but the leadership has, for the most part, been Democratic. Dr. Ulysses Bourne, Warren Dorsey, Ruth and Bernard Brown, Shirley Snowden, Gary Rollins, Charles Poindexter, Earl Robbins and many others have worked outside of elective office to better the community.

William "Puck" Hall was the first Black Democrat elected to office in Frederick City in the late 1990s and served as a strong leader in Frederick City for many years. Before that Gary Hughes unsuccessfully ran for Mayor of Frederick in 1993. Rodney Pulliam, a rising star who worked on Capitol Hill and was a minister, won the Democratic primary for Aldermen in 2001 but lost in the general election. On March 23, 2002 Rodney and his three boys were tragically killed in a rear-end car accident. In 2002 Kim Dine was appointed Frederick City police chief, and Jesse Goode, Jr. became Frederick City's first park policeman. Derek Shackelford currently serves as a member of the Board of Aldermen, and Roger Wilson also served on the Board of Aldermen. John Funderburk, Kim Williams, Antonio Bowens, and Willie Mahone have unsuccessfully run for office in Frederick City. Gayon Sampson currently serves as Chief of Staff to Mayor Michael O'Connor.

In 2022 Kavonte Duckett had the distinction of becoming the first Black elected to a Frederick County office, other than Daryl Boffman and Jay Mason being elected to the non-partisan Board of Education, when he won election as a County Council member in 2022. Hopefully Duckett will be the first of many. Before Kavonte, Mary Lee, Dwaine Robbins, Earl Robbins, and Daryl Boffman had run unsuccessfully for County Office.

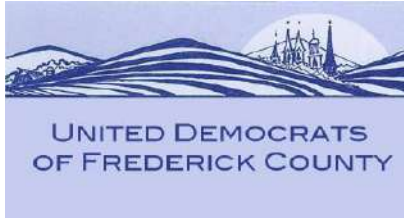
Blacks who have served on the Democratic State Central Committee include Shelia Leatherbury, Denise Hall Brown, James Hall, Derek Shackelford,

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Angela Spencer, Cindy Taylor, Michael Sowell, Dr. William Reid, Antonio Bowens, Shelly Beaird-Francois, Gayon Sampson and our current chair, Mari Lee. The United Democrats of Frederick County (U.D.F.C.) was established in 1981 so as to have a Democratic Club in Frederick County that would be open to all Democrats, including Blacks. The U.D.F.C. has been supported by many Blacks, including George Dredden, Chris Tyree, Gary Hughes, Don Staggers, Rotimi Olokodana, Mike Sowell, and Mari Lee, as well as many current members. Black special guests for the Monocacy Plowman and Fisherman Club have included Kurk Schmoke, Ron Brown, Anthony Brown, Rushern Baker, Kweisi Mfume, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Donna Edwards, Vera Hall, Wes Moore, and later this month, Calvin Ball. Congresspersons Elijah Cummings, Donna Edwards, and Stephanie Tubbs-Jones as well as Yvette Lewis and Anthony Brown, have been speakers at the Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Day dinners or Galas. Vera Hall and Dr. Alvin Thornton have spoken at conferences sponsored by the U.D.F.C.

Black Frederick citizens have played a significant role in the history of the Democratic Party in Frederick County and they will continue to do so.

I am sure I have just scratched the surface of the contributions of Frederick County Blacks to the political history of Frederick and have left out many names that should have been included. Most of the above is from memory and not from a thorough search of records. I encourage readers to take advantage of the many resources available for more information on this topic, including the African American Resources Culture and Heritage Society (AARCH).



UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

April Meeting:

UDFC is delighted to welcome Frederick County Council Member At-Large Renee Knapp as our guest speaker on Monday, April 3, 2023. Renee is serving her first term on the council; just elected in November, and sworn in in December. She will discuss her first few months in office and discuss some of the issues important to us here in Frederick. She may also pinpoint some of the challenges facing the new council. The meeting starts at 7 PM at Café 611. The doors open at 6PM so that attendees may gather for social time and enjoy food and beverages if they wish. This is a way for us to thank Café 611 for opening their doors to us for the meeting. The address is 611 North Market Street in downtown Frederick.

March Meeting:

In March UDFC welcomed Brad Young, President of the Frederick County Council, as a guest speaker and he discussed the many ways that he is engaging in the community. He emphasized the importance of focusing on Education in Frederick in order to bring Frederick up to a competitive level state-wide, as well as providing infrastructure to accommodate our growing student population.

We also were very pleased to have Diane Fink, Executive Director of Emerge Maryland, talk to us about the tremendous strides the organization has made in helping women get elected to office across the state of Maryland!

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.

We look forward to seeing you at the UDFC April 3rd meeting at Café 611!

- Maureen Grayzeck
President, UDFC





WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK COUNTY

The WDL held its March Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 19 at Cafe 611. The speakers were Suzi Borg, Director of the Crisis Services Division from the Mental Health Association of Frederick County, Carleah Summers, Director of Andrea's House, and Kayte Mathenge, Owner and CEO of Monarch Healthcare, LLC. They discussed the mental health resources that are available to Fredrick County residents.

The April Meeting will be held on Monday, April 17 at Cafe 611. The topic is still to be determined.

- Shelly Beaird-Francois, President



SOUTH FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATS



South County Dems to meet on Saturday, April 8

Mark your calendars! Instead of third Saturday meetings for the next two months, South County Dems will meet on second Saturdays – April 8 and May 13 – same time (9:00 – 10:30) - and same place – BarT Mountainside at 2914 Roderick Rd in Urbana. The meeting is open to all in the county, not just those who live in south county.

Serving the Underserved will be a continuing theme with Lois Jarman as

this month's speaker. Her focus will be on improving the conditions for incarcerated women in Frederick County. Lois told me she was shocked by the lack of rehabilitative support she witnessed during a relatively brief time she spent in jail following her role in a traffic accident. She is currently devoting her life to bettering the circumstances of women who are released from prison with nowhere to go.

The second part of Saturday's meeting will focus on how we Dems can reach out in upcoming months to canvass folk in underserved areas of south county.

- Annette Breiling and Melanie Galloway, co-chairs



Delegate Ken Kerr

Today is Crossover Day, and you District 3 House Delegation is on a recess and preparing to return to te floor for an evening session. Crossover day this year is March 20, the 70th day of the 90 day legislative session. Today is the day that house bills must pass in the house and senate bills must pass in the senate in order to "cross over" to the other chamber. All bills must pass both chambers to become law. Anything that does not move by midnight, is essentially dead for this year.

The Frederick County Delegation sponsored several bills. About a half-dozen alcohol, bills have been passed that modernize old laws and permit alcohol sales at some entertainment

establishments. The controversial Sheriff Salary bill, SBo462 sponsored by Senator Folden passed the Senate 45-1 with Senator Lewis-Young being the only senator to vote against it. The House version, HB0713, is a Frederick County Delegation bill having received "delegation" support on a party-line vote with District 3 voicing and voting in opposition. As of today, it has not seen any committee action since Del. Ciliberti presented the bill on February 24.

At this point I have had five of my bills pass the house and go over to the senate: HB172 allows athletic trainers to perform dry needling, HB261 requires the state to use lower carbon concrete in state building projects, HB596 expands non-emergency medical transportation, HB702 audits nursing homes to ensure Medicaid funds are used appropriately for patient care and not private equity firm profit, and HB814 extends the program which provides healthcare subsidies for young Marylanders. A few more that may still move are HB703 which creates a Parkinson's Disease registry, and the important parts of HB530 that deals with Forest conservation and will be amended on to Delegate Sara Love's HB723 Forest Preservation and Retention.

This is my first year as chair of the Government Operations and Health Facilities Subcommittee and we have had a busy year with updating procurement laws, government building standards, minority business contracts, open meetings and public information, and perhaps the most important bill of all—designating Maryland Rye as the official state spirit! It has been an adjustment getting used to the extra workload and floor leader responsibility, but I'm getting the hang of it.

We have 20 days to go ending at Midnight on April 10, otherwise known as Sine Die. It's an exhausting and

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exhilarating 90 days and we are all ready for some downtime. See you in April (but after I get some rest first).



State Senator Karen Lewis Young

In just over two weeks we will be adjourning the 2023 legislative session!

Last week we marked "crossover" which is the date by which bills must have passed at least one chamber in order to have a chance of becoming law. I had six bills cross over from the Senate to the House. Please click this link for a list and description of all my bills: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/CrossoverUpdate.html?soid=1132855588299&aid=SLgV8PbaCgk>

I am enjoying my service on the **Education, Energy and the Environment Committee** where I have been able to play a role on drinking water safety, clean energy, and mental health school readiness legislation. Many of these issues remain controversial and lacking funding but the future depends on the progress that we make today.

I am looking forward to providing you with a "favorable report" in May!



Delegate Karen Simpson

It is an incredible honor to serve you. Being your District 3 State Delegate is the best public servant job I have ever had. Thank you.

The days are extremely long and productive during session especially in the Judiciary Committee on which I am honored to serve. I love working with our federal, State, county, and local partners to help our city and county.

We are still in session so I will be brief. Four of the bills I sponsored have crossed over to the Senate. We only have a few days left to get our bills passed. Thankfully, three of my bills were cross-filed with Senator Karen Lewis Young with all three bills passing their respective chambers and therefore have a good chance of being enacted.

[HB309/SB574 – State Employee Rights and Protections – Personnel Actions and Harassment – Complaints](#) HB309 increases the period of time for an applicant or employee to file a complaint alleging certain prohibited personnel actions from 30 days to 1 year; and provides up to 2 years to report harassment complaints. Most victims do not report harassment until they are safe, or if they feel their own experience may prevent someone else from experiencing harm. Workplace harassment is a serious and pervasive problem that affects millions of people across the United States. This is why the State of Maryland is taking proactive steps to address harassment and ensure that all employees are protected. Special shoutout to Majority

Whip Delegate Jazz Lewis for helping move this important legislation.

[HB424/SB481 - State Retirement and Pension System - Nonvested Accounts - Regular Interest](#) This bill provides regular interest on contributions in a nonvested account while the member is active in any other Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. This bill helps the Maryland State Retirement Agency provide the best customer service to our State and local government employees.

[HB174/SB391 Criminal Procedure - Victims of Sexually Assaultive Behavior](#) Standing up to an abuser takes incredible courage. This bill brings healing. This bill stands with victims of sexual violence by requiring the State's Attorney to meet with a sexual assault survivor if the State's Attorney decides not to pursue a case. This bill is the right thing to do.

[HB362 – Intercepted Communications – Penalty](#) HB 362 reclassifies the penalty for recording communications from a felony to a misdemeanor. Most Marylanders would be shocked to learn that it is a felony crime to record someone without their permission. This bill is important to victims of gender violence.

I am very hopeful that your district 3 delegation will have much to celebrate when we return in April. Our office is always open; please stop by to see us before we adjourn April 10.

Delegate Karen Simpson
Karen.Simpson@house.state.md.us
 Room 221 Lowe House Office Building
 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
 410.841.3436



Join **CLUBBLUE!** Our sustainers are activists and everyday people who contribute a monthly monetary donation to help the Party sustain its competitiveness in current and future local and statewide elections. Click [here](#) for more details. Donate as little as \$5 a month and let the Frederick County Democrats do all the work!



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>



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,
shelly@frederickdemocrats.org
or
Central Committee -
info@frederickdemocrats.org

April 2023 At-a-Glance



United Dems of Frederick Co. (UDFC) Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Café 611 located at 611 North Market Street, Frederick

South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Monthly Meet-Up

Saturday, April 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Bar-T Mountainside, 2914 Roderick Rd, Frederick

North Frederick Co. Dems (NFCD) Monthly Meet-Up

Saturday, April 8 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

Women’s Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Café 611 located at 611 North Market Street, Frederick

Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting

Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Venue to be determined. Check our calendar for more information:

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



and



with

Frederick County Democrats

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Save The Date!
THE FREDERICK DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Annual Gala



MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023
SOCIAL HOUR | DINNER | PROGRAM
DUTCH'S DAUGHTER
MORE INFO COMING SOON AT FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG

BY AUTHORITY: FCDCC, THOMAS JACKSON, TREASURER

You're invited to join
Women for Jessica
An Evening With
JESSICA FITZWATER
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 27th, 2023 | 6:00-7:30 PM
Hidden Hills Farm & Vineyard
7550 Green Valley Rd, Frederick, MD

Young Professionals: \$40 | Sponsor: \$250
Friend: \$100 | Co-Host: \$500 | Host: \$1,000



RSVP

For more info, please email stephanie@mellingergroup.com

By Authority: Friends of Jessica Fitzwater, Paul Fulcher, Treasurer.

EMERGE MARYLAND

CELEBRATING OUR BEST YEAR SO FAR!

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Hosted by Kathleen Matthews at her home in Chevy Chase.

and

Featuring the Hon. Jessica Fitzwater as our keynote speaker!

Won't you join this impressive host committee?

Champion

Hon. Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Moore

Hon. Johnny Olszewski

Superior

Hon. Chris Van Hollen, Hon. Ben Cardin, Hon. Jamie Raskin,

Hon. Steny Hoyer, Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger, Hon. David Trone, Hon. Kweisi Mfume

Premier

Kathleen Matthews, Hon. Shelly Hettleman, Martha McKenna, Mimi Hassanein,
Karen Darkes, Joan Kleinman, Amanda LaForge, Diane Fink, Mollie Byron, Kim Kratovil,
Abby Hendrix, Elisabeth Sachs, Jen Driban, G.S. Proctor and Associates

Prime

Hon. Jessica Fitzwater, Hon. Brooke Lierman, Stephanie Mellinger, Hon. Kevin Harris,
Melinda Adamczyk, Nia Duggins, Toni Sandridge, Sarah Wolek, Diana Conway,
Rachel Jones, American Federation of Teachers -Baltimore County, Tri-State Printing,
Hon. Katie Fry Hester, Hon. Courtney Watson, Hon. Chao Wu, Hon. Jeff Long

Top-Notch

Hon. Wala Blegay, Maryland NOW, Hon. Bill Ferguson, Hon. Natalie Ziegler,

Linda Norris, Draga Dubick, Kimberly Shiloh, Jeanne Ellinport,

Colleen Wood, Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab, Cynthia Taylor, Eva Lewis,

Hon. Wanika Fisher, Eve Shuman, Maura Dunnigan, Hon. Guy Guzzone,

Hon. Vanessa Atterbeary, Hon. Jen Terrasa, Hon. Pam Guzzone,

Hon. Nicole Williams, Courtney Finklea Green, Michele and Hon. Will Jawando

<https://bit.ly/EMD2023SPRINGFR>



5:30 pm – VIP Reception

6:15 pm - 8:00 pm – Party!