



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: DSCCFC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

February 2024

CHAIR'S CORNER



Chairwoman Mari Lee


Welcome to the first Banner of 2024! The Central Committee is diving right into business with its annual retreat this Saturday, 3 February, where we'll review our bylaws, update our strategic plan, draft our events schedule, prepare for our GOTV (Get Out The Vote) efforts for the election this year, and more. Our next regular meeting, open to the public, will be Tuesday, 20 February; we meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30 PM. You can check our calendar for the most up-to-date information on our meeting locations, local Democratic club meetings, and other upcoming events.

Are you planning to run for office this year or want to be a [delegate](#) to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago? You have until next Friday, 9 February, to declare your candidacy. All Senate or Congressional District 6 candidates must file in person by appointment at the State Board of Elections in Annapolis. All Frederick

County Board of Education candidates or those interested in being a Convention Delegate should file at the local Frederick County Board of Elections, 8490 Progress Way, Suite 300, Frederick. Please direct any questions to the local Elections Office at 301.600.VOTE (8683) or the State Board at 410.269.2840. If you do not run for office, consider being an election judge (aka poll worker). You can get the details on the Frederick County Board of Elections website, including how to apply, compensation, and more.


Over the next few months, the Central Committee will host a few major events. We do not have specific dates yet for most of them; however, we want to put them on your radar. In March, the local Democratic Clubs and Central Committee will cohost a joint forum for Democratic Senate candidates and one for Democratic Congressional District 6 Candidates. On Monday, 29 April, we will host our annual Frederick County Democratic Party Dinner at Dutch's Daughter. Additionally, we will host a "Spring into Action" Volunteer Orientation/Thank You Party and a Listening Session on TBD dates. We'll follow up with more information once everything falls into place for each event.

The Central Committee is looking for office space that we can call home for several months this year during the election or preferably through the general election in 2026. We'd love to hear from you if you know of potential affordable sites with good visibility and parking. You can email us [here](#).



Did you know that in addition to voting for President of the United States in 2024, there are local races on the ballot too, including Board of Education?

Are you thinking about running for office in 2024? We would like to hear from you! Please send us an email at info@frederickdemocrats.org.



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

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





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

Last November Charles Peters died. He was 96. His obituary in the Washington Post on November 26, 2023, was headlined “Founder of muckraking periodical, Washington Monthly.” I have been a long-time subscriber of the Washington Monthly. It was established by Peters in February 1969 and, as the Post reports, “trained a magnifying glass on the federal bureaucracy. The publication was likened at times to a self-appointed inspector general, such was its interest in holding obscure government agencies accountable.” The Post obituary described Peters as “indefatigable and ornery.” Peters was a veteran of Democratic politics in West Virginia and an early supporter of JFK for President. Under Peters’ leadership the Washington Monthly, although without a large number of subscribers, became an influential publication and Peters was able to persuade such able political writers as David Broder, Russell Baker, Hugh Sidey, Murray Kempton, Bill Moyers, Taylor Branch, Jon Meacham, Michael Kinsley, David Ignatius, and Nicholas Lemann to contribute to the magazine. Some of them started as poorly-paid staffers

During my first term as president of the United Democrats of Frederick County, I suggested that the UDFC

sponsor a conference and we did. It was called “The Democratic Party: Where Do We Go from Here” and it was held at Hood College on March 9, 1985. Speakers included Don Hutchinson (Baltimore County Executive), Lorraine Sheehan (Maryland Secretary of State), Michael Barnes (Maryland’s 8th district Congressman), Ben Cardin (Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates), Joe Curran, Jr. (Maryland Lieutenant Governor), Beverly Byron (Maryland’s 6th district Congresswoman), Howard Thomas (chair of the Maryland Democratic Party) and others. The keynote speaker was Democratic Congressman David McCurdy, from Oklahoma. I was an avid reader of Peters’ publication, so in searching for a nationally known luncheon speaker, I thought of Charles Peters. After a cold call to his office in Washington, he surprisingly agreed to be our luncheon speaker.

The first conference was so successful that the UDFC sponsored additional conferences in 1987, 1990, 1991, and 1995. The 1987 conference was called “Capturing the White House in ‘88” and featured Congressman Dick Gebhardt from Missouri as the keynote speaker and repeat appearances from Don Hutchinson, Beverly Byron, Joe Curran as well as Congressman Tom McMillen, and Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. The 3rd conference, in 1990 was held at Frederick Community College and focused on local issues, and the theme was “Planning for Growth – A Regional Perspective.” The 4th and final conference in 1995 was again at Hood College, and theme was “Maryland Democrats: Crafting A Winning Message for the 1990s.” I cannot locate the program from that conference, so I cannot recall who the speakers were.

The efforts of the U.D.F.C. in sponsoring conferences may have something to do with the fact that the Maryland Democratic Party (MDP) had a state conference in December 1987 entitled “Maryland Democrats Working Together” at the University of

Maryland Baltimore County. I was on the planning committee for that conference, and it featured a host of Democratic party luminaries, including William Donald Schaefer, Louis Goldstein, Barbara Mikulski, Peter Franchot, Tom McMillen, Maggi McIntosh, Clarence Blount, Kurt Schmoke, Paul Sarbanes, Cas Taylor, Parris Glendening, Mike Miller, Beverly Byron, Steny Hoyer, and many others. In 2000 the MDP held another conference in Prince George’s County with the title “A Call to Organize” which featured a keynote address from National Democratic Party Chair Roy Romer and included Steny Hoyer, Taylor Branch, Celinda Lake, Fred Yang, and MDP Chair Peter Krauser.

For the past twenty years, the Western Maryland Democratic Caucus has filled the void in regard to conferences by sponsoring the Western Maryland Democratic Summit.

On January 1 of this year, we lost a wonderful public servant and an especially nice person with the passing of Marcia Hall. Marcia, a librarian by trade, was an enthusiastic reader, walker, and doer of good. She was active in the League of Women Voters and the U.D.F.C. She was elected to the Frederick City Board of Aldermen (that word, hopefully, will soon change) in 2001 and re-elected in 2005. On the Board of Aldermen, she brought to the table her inciteful intelligence, good common sense, and commitment to doing the right thing. I enjoyed going door-to-door with her in 2005 when we were both running for the Board of Aldermen (she finished first and I finished 8th!). She and her husband, Jerry Quance, moved from Frederick, first to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and then to Kansas City to be near family. She will be missed for her bright smile and exuberance.

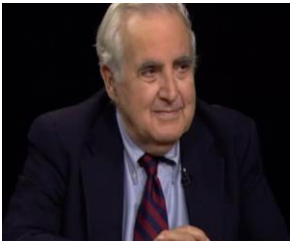
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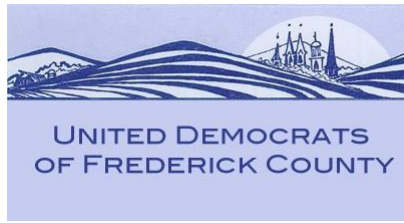
Marcia Hall and Maggi Hays at the Democratic tent at the Fair with Kathleen Kennedy Townsend in 2021 when Marcia first ran for Alderman.



Marcia's campaign postcard when she ran for reelection in 2005.



Charles Peters – Charlie Rose



UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

Hello Frederick Democrats!

The United Dems had the first meeting of the year at Café 611 on Monday, January 8, 2024. We were happy to welcome Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor to join us for the evening. The Mayor brought us up to date with ongoing projects and reminded us that Frederick County continues to be a desirable destination for people to come and stay. We are the fastest growing county in Maryland! This has placed heavy demands on our educational system and as a result a large part of our budget is going to education. Mayor O'Connor was very disappointed about the proposed transportation budget cuts from the state that will affect Frederick County, especially cuts to the project to widen and improve safety in the US 15 corridor. The proposed cuts will be a challenge to the progress of that project. There was a Q & A session following the talk, then a UDFC Business meeting.

Our next UDFC meeting will be held at Café 611 on Monday, February 5th, 2024 at 611 North Market Street in downtown Frederick. The doors open at 6 PM, and our business meeting starts at 7 PM. Members and guests are welcome to purchase food and beverages during the 6-7 PM social hour. The guest speaker for the evening is still pending!

Voter Registration efforts continue in Frederick County- with voter registration opportunities at Frederick Community College, Hood College, as well as many local events. Watch your

emails for updates on these events and how to sign up and help people get registered!

The combined Democratic Clubs will be partnering with our Frederick Democratic Central Committee to do forums for the US Senate candidates and the Congressional District 6 candidates during March. The details will be coming from Mari Lee and the Central Committee as soon as they are available.

Take care and stay safe!

- Maureen Grayzeck
President, UDFC



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK COUNTY

We held our Christmas Party and Club Elections on December 17. The members of the Executive Board are as follows:

- President - Shelly Beaird-Francois
- Secretary - Lois Jarman/Heatherly Hodges
- Treasurer - Samanta Van Rens
- Communications Director - Tammy O'Connor

Board Members: Maureen Grayzeck and Tami McNulty.

We will be resuming our regularly scheduled monthly meetings this month. Please join us on Monday,

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February 19th at Café 611 in Frederick at 7:00 pm. Doors will open at 6:00 pm for social time. Alderman, Kelly Russell will be the guest speaker. She will be discussing transportation issues in the county.

- Shelly Beaird-Francois, President, WDL



Delegate Karen Simpson

Greetings from Annapolis! Only 10 weeks left in the 2024 legislative session. We dropped 6 bills, had our first hearing, are preparing for the other five, and are hard at work in the Judiciary Committee making a difference for you.

Please stop by our office If you are in Annapolis between now and April 8, or send us a message if you need help.

Delegate Karen Simpson

Low House Office Building, Room 221
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401
e-mail: karen.simpson@house.state.md.us

(410) 841-3436, (301) 858-3436
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3436 (toll free)

Summary of Bills:

City of Frederick – Assignment of Offenders to Road Work – Repeal

HB *** is a repeal of a 1917 Jim Crow law that took effect in Frederick in 1957 and

is still on the books. As the law currently reads, it allows the courts and law enforcement to require those who are considered a “vagrant” to do roadwork in Frederick City or County. This is an outdated, archaic practice in Frederick where we believe these community members need assistance in areas such as housing, food stability, and job opportunities as opposed to forced labor. We hope this bill will be supported by our Frederick Delegation.

[HB 311 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver’s Licenses](#)

The purpose of HB 311 is to establish due process for the suspension of driver’s licenses due to child support arrearage. HB 311 seeks to reduce the number of inappropriate suspensions while ensuring that the decision is appropriate and useful in serving the best interest of the child. We want parents to keep working so they can continue to support their children.

To read more about HB 311 and watch the livestream, please click [HERE](#).

[HB 482 - Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation](#)

HB 482 outlines that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board covers the cost of certain examinations and services in cases of nonfatal strangulation. This allows qualified healthcare providers to be reimbursed for immediate care and follow-up services up until 16 days after the alleged crime. This legislation also protects health care providers who are caring for victims of child sexual abuse from persecution by law due to failing to receive guardian consent to treat the child’s injuries.

To read HB 482 and watch the livestream, please click [HERE](#).

[HB 62 - State Employee Rights and Protections - Personnel Actions and Harassment - Investigation of Complaints](#)

The purpose of HB 62 is to increase the amount of time for an investigation and written decision to be issued regarding complaints alleging discrimination or harassment by a State employer. This legislation allows for additional time to be granted to the investigation, only if the alleging employee has given their written permission to do so.

To read more about HB 62 and watch the livestream, please click [HERE](#).

[HB 406 - Marriage - Confidential Communication - Criminal Charge](#)

HB 406 establishes that an individual, who is an alleged victim of their spouse and is bringing criminal charges against said spouse, is allowed to disclose confidential communication between them if relevant to the criminal charges. However, this legislation also states that an individual may not be compelled to testify about confidential communications between themselves and their spouse that occurred during their marriage. It is a choice to empower victims of intimate partner violence.

To read more about HB 406 and watch the livestream, please click [HERE](#).

[HB 445 - Minors Convicted as Adults - Transfer to Juvenile Court](#)

HB 445 allows the court to transfer the sentencing of a minor as an adult back to juvenile court under specific circumstances. This decision is made if the person in which the minor committed a crime against is found by

Continued on the next page

clear and convincing evidence to have committed a sex crime or trafficking crime against said minor. Once they have determined this, the court has the discretion to move the minor back to juvenile court to be sentenced.

To read more about HB 445 and watch the livestream, please click [HERE](#).

[HB 274 - Intercepted Communications - Penalty](#)

HB 274 reclassifies the charge of intercepting and disclosing any wire, oral, or electronic communications from a felony charge to a misdemeanor charge. Most people have smartphones that can record video. Many don't realize they need explicit permission to record someone else. And victims of violence shouldn't risk further harm by asking their perpetrators for permission before recording a crime. This legislation imposes a less severe punishment than the current felony charge.

To read more about HB 274 and watch the livestream, please click [HERE](#).



Volunteers Needed!



We are looking for volunteers, to help us staff our Democrat Booth at various events, canvassing, and our Get Out the Vote efforts. Please click on the link below for more information and to sign up.

[Volunteer Today](#)



Chad King Wilson Sr. for Board of Education

My name is Chad King Wilson Sr., and I'm running for Frederick County Public Schools Board of Education. As a 17-year veteran educator, I'm passionate about creating a diverse and inclusive learning environment that empowers students and educators alike. I aim to ensure that every student receives a quality education, regardless of background.

I am student-focused, and all decisions should positively affect our students' academic, mental health, and physical well-being.

I am running to ensure our special education programs are fully staffed and equipped with the resources and funding necessary to provide students with special needs with the highest-quality education.

I'm committed to advocating for funding for building improvements to accommodate students in Maryland's fastest-growing county. I also believe in transparency in decision-making and redistricting so that all stakeholders can have their voices heard.

To create an environment conducive to academic achievement, we must ensure that educators are respected and valued as experts in their field. We must provide them with the resources, time, and support necessary to succeed and empower relationship-building to increase academic achievement.

I'm running to create an education system that attracts diverse educators

to work in the communities they live in by ensuring professional level, world-class, compensation, benefits, and respect.

In summary, I'm committed to creating an education system that empowers students and educators alike to achieve their full potential. Together, we can build a better future for all.



George Gluck Candidate for Maryland 6th Congressional District

I will be greeting potential constituents at the Baltimore Coffee & Tea Company ([5209 Presidents Ct, Frederick, MD 21703-8403](#)) on Thursday, February 1st at 3 PM, after substituting for a Frederick County Public School Social Studies teacher. This is the first of several I hope to hold near high schools in Congressional District 6.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



EMERGE Maryland

is dedicated to equity and justice and to achieving representation that reflects the diverse population of our great state.

“There are still many causes worth sacrificing for, so much history yet to be made.”.

MICHELLE OBAMA, FORMER FIRST LADY



www.emergeMARYLAND.org



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

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!



February 2024 At-a-Glance



United Dems of Frederick Co. Holiday Party

Monday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Café 611 located at 611 North Market Street, Frederick

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

Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Women’s Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Café 611 located at 611 North Market Street, Frederick

**Democratic State Central Committee of Frederick Co. (DSSFC)
Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Common Market Community Room,
5728 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick

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

No Meeting

Bar-T Mountainside, 2914 Roderick Rd, Frederick

Get
connected!

and



with

Frederick County Democrats

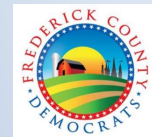
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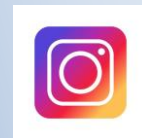
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Check us out on YouTube too!



A LOOK BACK AT FREDERICK DEMS IN THE COMMUNITY IN JANUARY 2024.

Frederick Day in Annapolis



District 3 Night in Annapolis



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

President Joseph Biden and Vice
President Kamala Harris - [Website](#)

**DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES
FOR THE 2024 ELECTION**

U.S. SENATE

Angela Alsobrooks - [Website](#)

Marcellus Crews - [Website](#)

Brian E. Frydenborg - [Website](#)

Scottie J. Griffin - [Email](#)

Robert K. Houton

Steven Henry Seuferer - [Website](#)

David Trone - [Website](#)

Andrew Wildman – [Website](#)



The Democratic State Central Committee of Frederick County does not endorse Democratic candidates in a contested primary election. We encourage you to get to know them and help the campaign of your choice in any way you see fit.

U.S. CONGRESS, DISTRICT 6

April McClain Delaney - [Website](#)

George Gluck - [Website](#)

Geoffrey Grammer - [Website](#)

Ashwani Jain - [Website](#)

Lesley Lopez - [Website](#)

Tekesha Martinez - [Website](#)

Laurie-Ann Sayles - [Website](#)

Destiny Drake West - [Website](#)

Joel Rubin - [Website](#)

Joe Vogel - [Website](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION, FREDERICK COUNTY

Josh Bokee – [Website](#)

Janier Monie – [Website](#)

Cecelia Moore Reidler – [Website](#)

Navin Scarlett - [Website](#)

Angie Vigliotti – [Website](#)

Chad King Wilson, Sr. - [Email](#)