DONKEY TRACKS

SEPTEMBER, 2023

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Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

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ShaRhonda Ramos Corresponding Secretary

Mary Ella Holloway Recording Secretary

Ida Gaines Inspirationalist



DEMOCA

FOUNDED IN 1955

Celebrating 67 Year

We Are All Kanaka Maoli



A Message from the President

Hello!

I have been a volunteer in many different industries. Despite there being huge differences in their cause, there are several things they all had in common: the work is never done, there is never enough money, and there are never enough volunteers.

I've been thinking a lot about this work that we do, and how much effort we put into it. I'm starting to realize that I'm not going to be able to fix everything there is to fix before the end of my life. I know that sounds like I'm joking, but I'm really not. I've been doing public service my entire life and I think I thought we would have the world be all better when it came our time to go.

With the wisdom that comes with age and a few tough luck lessons along the way, I'm more pragmatic and circumspect today. Today I know this:

- No matter how much sense it makes, some systems do not want to be changed.
- No matter how right it is, some systems will fight to the death to not be changed.
- Some characteristics of bad human behavior are engraved in our DNA. We have only to look at some of the battles humans have been fighting since the beginning of time.
- When you can't convert, you say god bless and move on.
- We can only do as much as we can do.

Some professions make room for self-care and regeneration; politics is not one of them, but I think it should. The physical and emotional toil this work takes on us is real. Instead, most of us wear our fatigue as a badge of honor.

Please don't do that to yourself.

Take today to schedule some "me" time and do whatever makes you feel rested and happy. You deserve it.

Marla Turner, President Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



Women's Democratic Club of Clark County presents

Updates & Innovation from the Clark County School District



featuring

Tod Story Chief Communications Officer



Astrid Silva UNIFY Program Director

September 14, 2023 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Location: Bahama Breeze 375 Hughes Center Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89169

Get tickets <u>here</u> <u>https://bit.ly/3rMwvsf</u>

Current members wishing to pay at the door may RSVP to info@womensdemo.com

All others please pay online

Members - \$30 Non-Members - \$40



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Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

pollight

"The Balance of Justice"

2023

Lifetime Achievement Award Rachakonda Prabhu, M.D.

in

Bonnie Bryan Award Barbara and Mike Aupperle

Spotlight Awards: NV Supreme Court Justices Linda Bell Elissa Cadish, Judge Nancy Allf, Judge Karen Bennett-Haron (ret), Judge Carolyn Ellsworth (ret), Judge Tierra Jones, Judge Joanna Kishner, Judge Gloria Sturman, Judge Valorie Vega (ret), Judge Ann Zimmerman

Westgate Hotel and Casino 3000 Paradise Rd SATURDÁY 6 PM October 14, 2023

BIT.LY/3CYRLE

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

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Honoring:

Lifetime Achievement Award Rachakonda Prabhu, M.D.

Bonnie Bryan Award Barbara and Mike Aupperle

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Spotlight Awards

- Nevada Supreme Court Justice Linda Bell, Seat A
- Nevada Supreme Court Justice Elissa Cadish, Seat C
- Judge Nancy Allf, Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept 27
- Judge Karen Bennett-Haron, Las Vegas Justice Court Justice Of The Peace, Dept 7 (retired)
- Judge Carolyn Ellsworth, Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept 5 (retired)
- Judge Tierra Jones, Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept 10
- Judge Joanna Kishner, Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept 31
- Judge Gloria Sturman, Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept 26
- Judge Valorie Vega, Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept 2 (retired)

IT.LY/3CYRLEP

• Judge Ann Zimmerman, Department 8 of the Las Vegas Township Justice Court

Westgate Hotel and Casino 3000 Paradise Rd SATURDAY| 6 PM October 14, 2023 Women's Democratic Club of Clark County spent Saturday morning, August 26th working in support of *Ne-vada Dems Weekend of Service*. Some of our members (including Assemblywomen Shondra Summers Armstrong and Venecia Considine and ShaRhonda Ramos) were joined by members of Team Rosen and other community members in a beautification project at the Obodo Community Farm. Another group of members, Marla Turner, Dawn Dudas, Daniel Dudas, Amy Ferreira and Judy Klein were at the Gentlemen's Choice Club with other community volunteers to paint rocks for the garden! A fun time was had by all!



State Democratic Party and Our Community





Enlightened Self-Interest and the Common Good

©Carol Chesnut

I've been thinking a lot about the corruption at the heart of our government, evident in revelations about the Supreme Court Justices taking huge bribes, the ravages of our military and security systems by Donald Trump and his MAGA enablers, the massive economic payments his son-in-law received from OPEC dictators when Trump put him in charge of Asian economic affairs, how gerrymandering essentially put Majorie Taylor Green in charge of the House of Representatives when she is a font of conspiracy theory disinformation and stupid science-denying destructive policies, the buying of the legislatures by corporate CEOs and Billionaires enabled by the mind-blowing expense of our elections, and the lies promulgated 24/7 by mega-bucks media moguls to protect their essentially stealing control from the people of our nation. And I am disgusted and dismayed by the whole stinking morass! It is hard for me to believe anyone still extolls Republicans and their depredations! They have such overwhelming "selfinterest" and such a total lack of *enlightenment*!

So how did we wind up in this mess? The Founding Fathers did not write an inclusive Constitution for our newly hatched nation. Women, slaves, Native Americans, and those who owned no property were excluded from voting for our government.

But their notion of "Civic Virtue" was one which for many years led to a polity that was more and more inclusive. For them, Civic Virtue meant being committed to the well-being of society as a whole and not to narrow self-interest. They knew that without that commitment, we would lapse into authoritarian rule when their intention was a government of, by, and for "the people". To be sure, the original definition of who those people were was restricted, but with the good of the nation as a polestar, over time it became more and more democratic. As Martin Luther King said, quoting Theodore Parker's sermons, "The arc of moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

But the fabric of society and civilization has been raveled by a secularism which embraces science enough to doubt religious teachings, while denying scientific proofs that human life needs cooperative compassionate communities to survive. The universe seems less moral.

In 1893 Abraham Lincoln said, "We find ourselves under the government of a system of political institutions, conducting more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty, than any of which the history of former times tells us. We, when mounting the stage of existence, found ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or establishment of them-they are the legacy bequeathed to us by a once hardy, and patriotic, but now lamented and departed, race of ancestors". He later stated that it was a "moral covenant linking past and future".

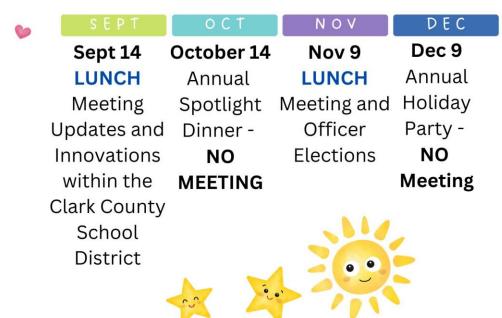
It was this moral covenant that gave America its ideals and identity, and it centered on the common good. The common good requires a commitment to one another, a set of moral civic responsibilities which demand that we strengthen and uphold our democracy to provide each other with equal political and legal rights, and to provide as even a playing field to each citizen as we can practically manage to produce. It requires public civic education, a commitment to truth and evidence-based policies, and sacrifice for the common good. These are the essential duties of citizenship.

The philosophy of Ayan Rand extolling the "virtue" of extreme selfishness and the "trickle-down" economic theory that derived from it have taken hold of puerile minds and hearts among economists and politicians of the MAGA-right wing and fascist yearnings for a "strongman" dictatorship which, with abundant proof to the contrary notwithstanding, they claim will benefit everyone, have done such damage to the notion of Public Good that it may have been fatally injured. It may be too late to resuscitate it.

But let us hope that by cleaning up this corruption, adhering to the Rule of Law (which demands equal treatment for each of us under our legal system), and by enacting and enforcing ethical standards, we can revive our National Moral Compass, and bring the **enlightenment** that continued human well-being demands! It is a commanding public duty and a compelling public interest to do so! Good luck and good lives are my fervent wishes for us all!







NEW MEMBERSHIP-2023

January Nicole Bhat Jennifer Brown Forrest Darby Francine Green Stephanie Alvendia	February Cecia Alvarado	March Marbella Alfonzo Blanca Ortiz Sabrina Torres	April Honey Borla Anthony Doyle Estifania Esparza Sharifa Wahab Kevin Wong
May Joel Enriquez Olivia Enriquez Kai Huffman Chloe Moore Emilia "Amy" Nicolas Harriet Reitman-Goldstein	June Edith Cardiff John Delibos	July Teresa Crawford Mary Hickey Iris Revels Brenda Smith-Braam	August Leaha Crawford



My dream for my life started when I was in the Fourth Grade. I wanted to be a lawyer when I grew up. That all started because our neighbor was an Attorney and he was my hero! He even took me to court so I could see what lawyers did! I was enthralled! I could help save the world!

In my senior year of High School I got so close. I received a scholarship to the University of San Francisco (USF), Night Division to study Pre-Law and I knew I was on the way!

Then reality set in. I had a huge responsibility of being the oldest of, the imminent arrival of the ninth child. I, of course, had become the second in command, the second Mom! So, the question, "How would I be able to handle my responsibilities at home and keep up my studies in order to satisfy the required grades of my scholarship". Then it happened, I received a marriage proposal from my then current boyfriend, my escape!

One of our wedding gifts, a retail/wholesale business based in Honolulu, Hawaii gifted by my one of My Dad's cousins! We flew out the day after our wedding, and a few weeks after the end of my first semester of school! Hawaii was a long commute to USF!

What next? Plan B!

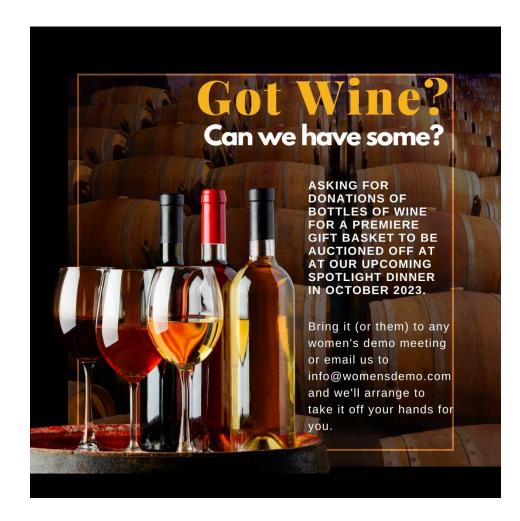
Reality started to really set in! I was working six days a week, right up until the day, I delivered my first child, a son. Then we attempted to survive an economic disaster, a dock strike, a disaster for Hawaii! This necessitated a move back to the Mainland, Fresno, California to be precise, again not a quick commute to USF, and then in quick order three more children (a total of four kids in five years) another monkey wrench in my life plan to study the Law.

Fast forward to 2023. I now look back to my Fourth Grade dream, a dream to study to become a (famous, of course) Attorne, and I see what is happening in this Country! Too many Lawyers are being indicted on so many charges, so serious that it could upend this Democracy that we have cherished! It's stunning and made me wonder if I had been naive about what I had considered a glorious profession and which I had dreamed about for so many years. The answer," No, absolutely not"!!

I have known, in my personal and professional worlds, too many attorneys who are honest and raise the bar (pun intended) for morality and ethics! You all know them, also, and are honoring so many of these Attorneys, all women at an event. Women like Judges Nancy Allf and Gloria Sturman, outstanding examples of what I had dreamed of becoming. They are stellar as are the rest of the honorees!

I hope they represent the kind of Attorney I would have been if those Fourth Grade dreams had come to be!





Heather Cox Richardson

From Letters from an American

The wildfires that raced across Maui, Hawaii, on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 8 and 9, driven by high winds across land that had been suffering a drought, have fed a familiar political narrative.

That firestorm roared into the 13,000-person town of Lahaina, killing a confirmed 114 people, with more than 1,000 still unaccounted for. It is the deadliest fire in modern U.S. history. While local officials had warned that such a fire was likely, emergency systems were either understaffed or unprepared, or failed for other reasons. Figuring out exactly what happened and why, mourning the dead and injured, and rebuilding, will take years.

President Joe Biden received notice of a brush fire on August 8 as part of his "daily extreme weather memo," and over the next two days received additional briefings.

"Jill and I send our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones in the wildfires in Maui, and our prayers are with those who have seen their homes, businesses, and communities destroyed. We are grateful to the brave firefighters and first responders who continue to run toward danger, putting themselves in harm's way to save lives," President Biden said in a statement on August 9. He explained that he had ordered all federal assets on the island to help with the response, including the U.S. Coast Guard and the Navy's 3rd Fleet, as well as the Department of Transportation to coordinate commercial airlines for evacuation.

The next day, August 10, Biden began a speech about the PACT Act in Salt Lake City by saying: "[L]ook, before I begin, I want to say a word about the devastating wildfires that have claimed at least 36 lives in Maui, in Hawaii. [W]e have just approved a major disaster declaration...for Hawaii, which will get aid into the hands of the people... desperately needing help now. [A]nyone who's lost a loved one, whose home has been damaged or destroyed is going to get help immediately."

He explained the moves the administration had already made and promised, "I just got off the phone, before I got here, for a long conversation with Governor Josh Green this morning and let him know I'm going to make sure the state has everything it needs from the federal government to recover.... In the meantime, our prayers are with the people of Hawaii, but not just our prayers—every asset we have will be available to them. And we've seen—they've seen their home, their business destroyed, and some have lost loved ones. And it's not over yet."

On that day, August 10, Biden signed a disaster declaration, saying that a major disaster existed in Hawaii, and ordered federal aid to the state to supplement state and local recovery efforts. Federal funding helps with temporary housing and home repairs, some property losses, debris removal, and hazard mitigation.

By August 15, almost 500 federal personnel had been deployed to Maui, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had provided 50,000 meals, 75,000 liters of water, 5,000 cots, and 10,000 blankets and shelter supplies to six shelters run by the American Red Cross and Maui County for survivors who couldn't go home. FEMA had also approved Critical Needs Assistance (CNA), which provides a one-time payment of \$700 per household to those without housing to replace vital items like medication on an emergency basis.

The Small Business Administration had begun making low-interest federal disaster loans available to Hawaii businesses and nonprofit organizations. The Department of Agriculture approved Hawaii's request for extra Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a public health emergency retroactive to August 8, which gave Medicare and Medicaid greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs for beneficiaries, then deployed disaster response personnel to Hawaii.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was on the island clearing roads, stabilizing the electrical grid, and working with the Environmental Protection Agency to remove hazardous waste. The U.S. Forest Service Incident Management Teams and Wildfire Liaisons worked with state officials to put the fires out and prevent flare ups, while the U.S. Fire Administration was working to support local firefighters. The Department of Defense was moving supplies across the state.

On August 17, Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida and Republic of Korea (ROK) president Yoon Suk Yeol arrived for Friday's historic trilateral summit at Camp David, and Biden fell publicly silent about Maui. Promptly, the right wing insisted that he had done nothing for Hawaii. In fact, public documents suggest Biden was speaking daily with state officials in Hawaii and increasing the federal response there. By August 19 there were more than 1,000 federal personnel on the ground. "We've offered whatever support the governor needs," General Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said.

Whether or not you agree with the level of response the Biden administration has provided to those suffering in the fires, the pattern of using the media to establish a narrative that the administration is ignoring Americans when it clearly is not is almost exactly what happened with the East Palestine, Ohio, railway disaster in February 2023. Then, pro-Russian accounts promptly began to argue that the Biden administration was ignoring a disaster at home—when emergency personnel were on the ground immediately—in order to fund Ukraine's war against Russia's invasion. Now, behavioral scientist Caroline Orr Bueno, a specialist in disinformation, noted that the X (Twitter) account that seeded the "Hawaii, not Ukraine" narrative was created just last month and that accounts associated with both Russia and China are amplifying the narrative that Biden has neglected Maui. It seems telling that the same right-wing "independent journalist" who went to East Palestine has flown into Maui to attack Biden's response, showing up on Trump ally Steve Bannon's "War Room."

Indeed, one of Biden's strongest suits is his foreign policy initiatives, and as Republican presidential candidates have virtually nothing to offer on that front, some Republicans seem to be trying to use the Maui fire as a way to undercut Biden's foreign policy triumphs. Increasingly, they are turning against aid to Ukraine as they back former president Trump, who boasted on Friday that he was "the apple of [Russian president Vladimir Putin's] eye. Supporting Ukraine in its battle against Putin's authoritarianism has been a key aspect of Biden's attempt to protect democracy at home and around the world, and as the 2024 election approaches, House Republicans, at least, are reluctant to continue funding that effort.

Today the extremist House Freedom Caucus released a list of what it demands before it will agree even to a short-term measure to fund the government this fall; Ukraine funding is one of the things to which they object.

Today the president and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visited Maui, where after seeing the devastation, President Biden said that "the country grieves with you, stands with you, and we'll do everything possible to help you recover, rebuild, and respect culture and traditions when the rebuilding takes place." He promised that we will "rebuild the way the people of Maui want to build."

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) said, "We in Hawaii have been through hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions but we have never seen such a robust federal response. Thank you."

Notes:

https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2023/08/hawaii-wildfires-timeline-maui-lahalina-dg/index.html https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/08/10/president-joseph-r-biden-jr-approves-hawaii-disaster-declaration-3/. https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/09/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-wildfires.html https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/09/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-wildfires-in-hawaii/ https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2023-08-10/biden-activates-military-to-battle-maui-fires https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/10/statement-from-national-security-council-spokesperson-adrienne-watson-on-the-status-of-unjustly-detained-americans-in-iran/ https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/10/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-one-year-anniversary-of-the-pact-act-salt-lake-city-ut/ https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/08/10/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-one-year-anniversary-of-the-pact-act-salt-lake-city-ut/ https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/08/17/fema-maui-response-lahaina-fires-biden/ https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/08/17/fema-maui-response-lahaina-fires-biden/ https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-claims-hes-the-putin-whisperer-i-was-the-apple-of-his-eye

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https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/08/21/remarks-by-president-biden-paying-respects-to-the-lives-lost-in-maui-and-reaffirming-his-commitment-to-supporting-residents/

Twitter (X):

RVAwonk/status/1693361801352605746

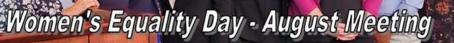
RVAwonk/status/1693255476769681612

mattyglesias/status/1693267979130094054

RonFilipkowski/status/1693248630763700536

Victorshi2020/status/1693803766078664829







Zipporah Nixon and Jonah Smith Recipients of the Renee Diamond Scholarship





200







What a way to end the month of August! We all witnessed the 45th President of the United States indicted in Federal and State courts! For the first time, in the history of our Country, a president has a mug shot and has been arrested four (4) times and the last required a Two Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$200,000.00) bond, in the state of Georgia!

For those of us that watched the Republican debate, not an easy task for any Democrat, we witnessed the most incredible clown show. Every candidate, with the exception of Christy and Hutchinson, will support, if found guilty, the 45th president for 2024! This just cannot be the United States of America! Who would ever support a man that burned the Constitution's words, orchestrated an insurrection against the very government he led, exposed top secret documents, like a kid in a candy store, and then was found liable for sexual abuse and defamation? The four (4) criminal indictments are federal and the two (2) are indictments from New York and Georgia! Obviously.

The debate also revealed the Republican Party's gut wrenching persistence to proceed, state by state, to remove a women's right to reproductive health. While they argued over six (6) weeks or fifteen (15) weeks, they showed no understanding on the issue and they then had the gall to say Democrats are for full term birth abortions! That's when I left my chair! Oh, let's not even talk about rape or incest or the health of the mother, there are no exceptions. I'm so tired of Republicans think their job is deciding healthcare for women! I'm tired on their invasive agenda to turn the clock back a hundred (100) years and for whatever time I have left, I will make it my personal mission to work against any Republican or Independent, in Republican cloth, and make sure no one I love or know does the same! I am so done!!!

As Nevadans, we have been fortunate to have a Democratic majority in our State Legislature. Let's not take for granted what that means for all of us. This upcoming 2024 election cycle with be messy, ugly, and very dirty. So, let's all pledge to work hard for Democratic candidate(s), no matter what they are running for, and do the grunt work, walk, make phone calls, give financial support, if possible, and become part of the process. We are all needed.

As we celebrate women in the judiciary at our Saturday, October 14th Spotlight Dinner, let's not forget all the women that came before them, whose shoulders they sit on, today, and support these honorees with our attendance. Member tickets are One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125.00), One hundred percent (100%) of our proceeds go to candidates in the 2024 election cycle. Please go to our website and pay online at <u>www.womensdemo.com</u> or send your check to WDC, PO Box 759, Las Vegas, NV 89125.

We need your spare bottles of wine for our Silent Auction! Please bring a bottle to our September meeting or leave a message to make arrangements to pick up wine at <u>womensdemoclarkcounty@gmail.com</u>.





WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



First Name	Last Name	Date		
Address				
City	State	Zip Code		
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Work Phone		
Fax	Email			
Facebook		Twitter		
Instagram		Date of Birth		
I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes [] (0nly a registered Democrat can be a member)				
Pa	General Membership: \$35 Annual Dues Paid E st WDC Presidents and Current Students: \$15Annual I Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund Donation: Paid By:	Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []		
I am interested in participating on the following Committees: (you will be notified if there are vacancies available) Ambassador Committee [] Candidate Donation Distribution Committee [] Communications/Media []				

Thank You For Joining WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY PO Box 759 Las Vegas, NV 89125 (702) 551-4963 womensdemo.com FB - Women's Democratic Club of Clark County Email - womensdemoclarkcounty@gmail.com