

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB of MANATEE COUNTY

DWCManatee.com

June 2011



TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011, 11.30am

BRADENTON COUNTRY CLUB

4646 Ninth Avenue West

Luncheon: \$15.00

Guest Speaker

KEITH FITZGERALD

Keith and Angela Fitzgerald have been Sarasota residents since 1994. Keith was an educator for dyslexic children until his present job as a New College professor. He has a PhD in political science and has studied politics his whole life. As we all know, he was our friend in Tallahassee. The Representatives in Tallahassee miss him greatly and so do we.

Keith will be an asset in Tally if things straighten out after redistricting.

Please reserve with Phyllis Virzi (795-7608) at least one week before. Luncheon choice:

Chicken salad Croissant with curry and grapes

or

Grilled Vegetable Wrap

NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Meetings, Speakers and Events

TUESDAY, July 12, DWC Breakfast at the Beach,
10 am, Manatee Public Beach Café

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, Annual Equity Luncheon
honoring women's right to vote, Hyatt Regency Sarasota,
11am-1:30pm. DWC usually has an exhibit table and a
luncheon table. Invitations go out in early July.

CHECK OUT THE DEC WEBSITE:
www.manateecountydemocrats.com for various activities.

CLUB OFFICERS/LEADERS

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Jeanne Yeagle, Web Master

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YOU DID IT!

**We SURPASSED OUR GOAL
of 200 pounds! We are up to
208 pounds. Please keep on
bringing food donations to
our monthly meetings.**

**Thanks to all of you, someone's
life is better! (And let's remember baby items, too)**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 2011

Well, another season has almost finished and we will have the honor and pleasure of listening to our wonderful Representative Keith Fitzgerald.

He has been missed in Tallahassee and we hope he decides to run again because we know what the Republicans have done to this state.

These past two weeks Sue Spitz and I attended the awards programs for our scholarship winners: Gail Mullins, from Palmetto High School, our \$1,000 winner received many other awards; Hannah Morse, our \$500 winner from Southeast High School, received only our award and she was very happy to have someone from the DWC in attendance.

At this time, Sue Spitz will be going to Manatee High School for Karen Salemi on May 26. Karen is the child whose parents are both blind.

I actually got some applause at Southeast High School when Manatee Democratic Women's Club was announced.

I hope we will see each other at our breakfast on the beach on Tuesday, July 12, at 10 am. Francine will be the hostess. (941-778-3444)

I will be making calls to find a nominating committee for upcoming elections. If you would like to be the program chair for two years, please call me.

Marydine Lamb will be our new leader for phone calling beginning in January. A new secretary is needed along with the treasurer, unless Jean will stay with me. Of course, I would love to have a new president.

Patty

*Membership applications and money go
to:*

Judy Drake
1905 Marilyn Avenue
Bradenton, FL 34207

The GOP Juggernaut
by Myra Jones

By now it's obvious that the GOP has absolutely no interest in saving money or reducing the deficit. They really want to destroy all the social legislation passed by Democrats during the 20th Century. They have attacked Medicare, Medicaid, the New Universal Health Care Plan, Public Education, Public unions, and all kinds of human/civil rights, while lowering taxes on the wealthy and killing any regulation or oversight on corporations.

The main aim of the GOP is and always has been to destroy Democracy, while shouting patriotic rhetoric in hopes that we won't notice. Lately they have been openly ignoring the well documented wishes of the majority of Americans. We want higher taxes on the wealthy, an end to the war in Afghanistan, single payer national health care, and help for the victims of the financial disaster, not its perpetrators.

In a May 15 Op Ed piece in the *Herald*, our Democratic County Chair, Richard O'Brien, summarized what this means at the state level. Disaster for Floridians! But equal disaster on the national level. The GOP is well organized and has unlimited funding at both state and national level.

FOX TV is a central administrator of the GOP strategy. A May 13 article in Consortium News.com ("How Fox News Outfoxes Americans," by Danny Schechter) explains how:

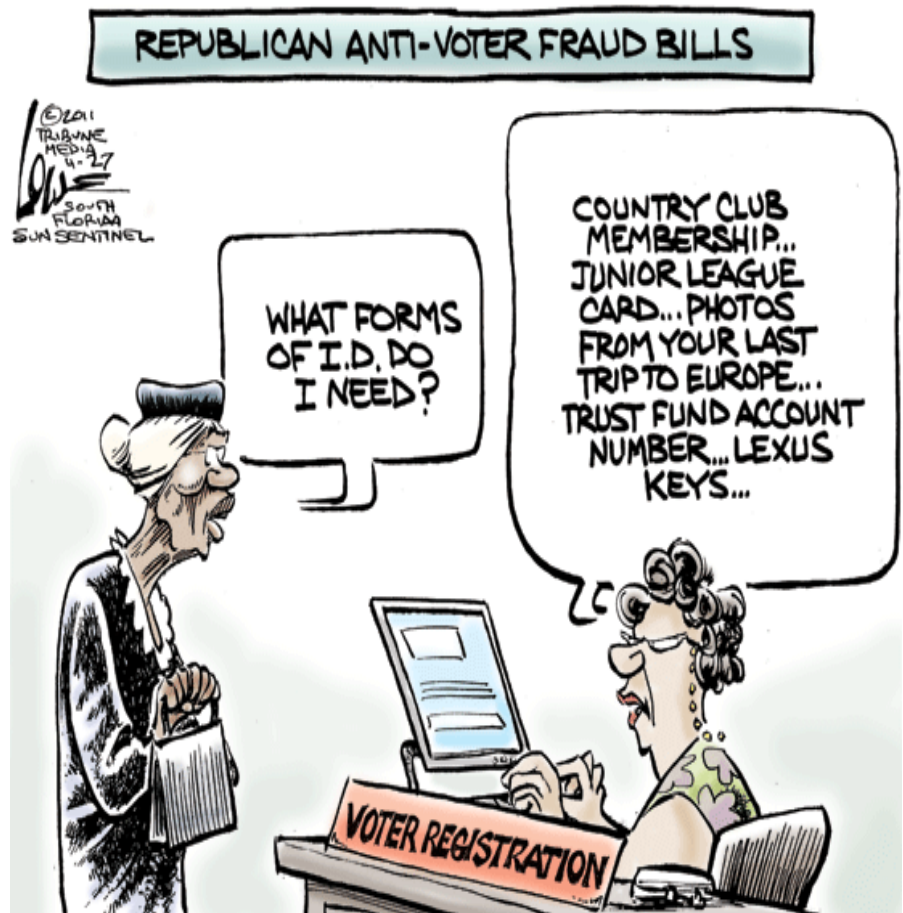
Republican propaganda often deals with "wedge" issues, which are loaded with emotion rather than fact. They are first broken down into simpler points, by the people who control GOP aims and strategy-- Corporations and corporate-funded think tanks. Talking points are geared toward increasing partisanship and heightening polarization and conflict. Points are presented with sarcasm and contempt, so that the Opposition (us) is always not only wrong but stupid and naive.

FOX pretends to be populist while promoting views that are in reality reactionary. No issue is too small to exploit--as with the birther "controversy" and the recent dither about rap poet Common being invited to perform at the White House. They aren't handicapped by any need to tell the truth.

FOX fans believe what their celebrity pundits tell them, and after the pundits scatter a barrage of metaphor and misinformation, the facts are no longer important. For example, "socialism" is a code word that means "bad." FOX viewers will reject anything called "socialist" even when they have no idea how something is socialistic or even what socialism is. Thus, as Schechter says, "FOX plays a cruel and deceptive game that appears to be informative when it's not, presided over by professional actors...."

The good news--and there is good news--is that the Republicans may have gone too far. As the federal House Republicans voted, almost unanimously to end Medicare as we know it, the state Republican-controlled legislatures mounted an all out attack on the middle class through public unions, education, and voting rights, among other things. Citizens all over the country have been showing their outrage, and some have even signed recall petitions against Republican legislators. We can't do that in Florida, yet, but we can keep the outrage active, and we can organize to fight the opposition wherever they mislead people with their lies--in the press on TV, in town halls and at the ballot box. We have a good chance to take our government back in the next election, if we work together.

Which one of our founding fathers said that "we must indeed all hang together or most assuredly we shall all hang separately"?



By Chan Lowe

Democratic Women's Club of Manatee

DWCManatee.com

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"You never find yourself until you tell the truth"

Pearl Bailey

Member News:

Get Well:

JEAN LEWIS

Miss You at Meetings:

JUDEE JOHNSON

BARBARA TOMSIK

FAY MURPHY

CONTACT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

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Barack Obama (D) 202/456-1414 (switchboard)

www.whitehouse.gov 202/456-1111 (comments)

US Senators

Marco Rubio (R) 202-224-3041 813/977-6450 (Tampa)

Bill Nelson (D) 202/224-5274 813/225-7040

billnelson.senate.gov

US Representatives

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castor.house.gov

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www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor/

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Ray Pilon (R-Distr. 69) 850-488-7754, 941-955-8077

Ray.pilon@myflorida.gov

June Highlights in US Women's History

- **June 1, 1993** - Connie Chung becomes the second woman to co-anchor the evening news, 17 years after Barbara Walters became the first in 1976
- **June 9, 1949** - Georgia Neese Clark confirmed as the first woman treasurer of the United States
- **June 10, 1963** - Equal Pay Act enacted: "To prohibit discrimination on account of sex in the payment of wages by employers engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce." (PL 88-38)
- **June 11, 1913** - Women in Illinois celebrate passage of a state woman suffrage bill allowing women to vote in presidential elections
- **June 17, 1873** - Susan B. Anthony's trial started for illegally voting in Rochester, New York on November 5, 1872
- **June 18, 1983** - Dr. Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space
- **June 20, 1921** - Alice Robertson (R-Oklahoma) becomes the first woman to chair the House of Representatives
- **June 23, 1972** - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, President Nixon signs one of the most important legislative initiatives passed for women and girls since women won the vote in 1920. This legislation guarantees equal access and equal opportunity for females and males in almost all aspects of our educational systems.
- **June 25, 1903** - Madame Marie Curie announces her discovery of radium