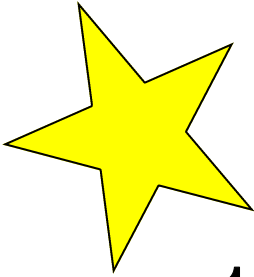


DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB of MANATEE COUNTY

DWCManatee.com December 2011



NEWSLETTER

DWC Holiday Party
TUESDAY, December 13th, 11:30 AM
at Renaissance on Ninth
1816 Ninth Street West
 \$20 per person

Menu Choices

- Vegetarian Lasagna in Tomato Sauce *or*
- Tilapia Mediterranean Baked White Fish
with tomatoes, onions, olives, and spices *or*
- Stuffed Pork Tenderloin stuffed with
savory apples, bread and nut dressing

All meals include
 Green beans almandine and Roasted red potatoes,
 Salad, Rolls and butter, Tea/coffee
 And Chocolate mousse

Reserve your place with Phyllis Virzi (795-7608) by November 30th

BRING A GIFT FOR HEALTHY START:

Pick a gift of clothing (an outfit) for a newborn girl or boy. Wrap the gift, marking it for a girl or boy and marking the clothing size on the package. We as a club have supported Healthy Start for over 16 years. Thank you all for helping where it is needed.



Call Phyllis Virzi
795-7608
by November 30th

Music/Entertainment
by Jennie in a
return engagement!

BRING your
friends and
lovers

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO ALL from
your DWC BOARD



Upcoming Meetings, Speakers and Events

Tuesday, December 13 DWC Holiday Party at Renaissance on Ninth, 11 :30 AM lunch, music entertainment. Bring gift for newborns (for distribution by Healthy Start); bring canned/non-perishable foods for Our Daily Bread.

CHECK OUT THE DEC WEBSITE

manateecountydemocrats.com for other Democratic events and meetings.



Wow!

Our November DWC food donation to Our Daily Bread was 42 pounds, a record high! Thank you to everyone! Our total this year so far is 95 pounds.

~~ Brenda Katz

CLUB OFFICERS/LEADERS

Pat Benson President	758-4610 pattybenson43@gmail.com
1st VP (Programs)	POSITION AVAILABLE
Judy Drake, 2nd VP (Membership)	753-2132 jpdtd@tampabay.rr.com
Mary Bass Linda Crawford Recording Secretaries	748-8536 marygbass@gmail.com 739-8250 lobstaluva@gmail.com
Shirley Snyder, Corresponding Secretary	798-9882 srs2918@yahoo.com
Jean Lewis Treasurer	351-6568 JeanLewis55@verizon.net

COMMITTEES

By-laws	Sue Dickie, chair 761-4098 suzannedickie@tampabay.rr.com
Fund raising	Pat Benson 758-4610 pattybenson43@gmail.com
Hospitality/Calling Candidate Search	Phyllis Virzi 795-7608 Vicki Waters 753-9741 vwaters@earthlink.net
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Publicity Chair	POSITION AVAILABLE
Web Master	Jeanne Yeagle
Newsletter Editors	Meg Newcomer 739-9779 megnewcome@aol.com Myra Jones 755-6091 mjones672@tampabay.rr.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE December 2011

Our November meeting was well attended by our DWC members and friends. Kelly Kirschner was quite informative concerning his Unidosnow organization. Kelly was called to Washington on that Thursday and will be emailing about what happened with his visit. From what I hear, he is doing a wonderful job with moving the organization along the path of knowledge.

Redistricting is again in the headlines. Watch the local papers as to what is happening in our county with redistricting.

The Supreme Court is in the process of hearing the Florida case for and against Voter Suppression. Many Republicans do not think there is anything wrong with the act.

When you go to vote, you can use any form of ID that has your picture on it such as a bank card, military ID, student ID, public assistance ID, retirement center ID, US Passport or the usual motor vehicle ID. You do not have to tell them your address since that is personal information.

I would like to thank the 125- 150 people who showed up to the Voter Suppression Forum on Thursday, November 10. It was so informative that the black community would like us to do it north of the river. We also had ABC, Channel 7, at our Rally downtown. I again would like to thank the backbone of our club: Mary Duda, Suzanne Dickie, Linda Crawford, Mary Bass, Lois Congdon, Jeanne Yeagle, Nancy Hartley, Carol Graves and her husband, and from the DEC: Larry Jennis, Bill McGrath, Kristine Ryan, Phil Hoshue and any I may have forgotten. We had about 40 people. In all we had a successful gathering and speakers.

Now we must continue to push forward.

Patty

For membership and dues:
Judy Drake (753-2132)
1905 Marilyn Avenue
Bradenton, Fl 34207

Don't Have a *Merry* Christmas This Year--*Have a Happy One*

by *Myra Jones*

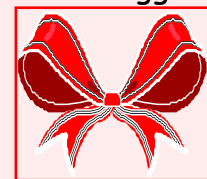


We used to complain because Christmas decorations and Christmas advertising went up at Thanksgiving. This year they went up at Halloween. Why? Because it works! Our media have persuaded us that our happiness demands that we buy loads of Chinese-made gift trinkets and wrap them in Chinese-made wrapping paper. With some industries, the Christmas shopping season brings in more revenue than the rest of the months combined. Recently Arundhati Roy praised the Occupy Movement for making us question some of the capitalistic assumptions that we have been fed--and have accepted for years: The Occupy movement has "reintroduced the right to dream into a system that tried to turn everybody into zombies mesmerized into equating mindless consumerism with happiness and fulfillment." The American Way of Life "has resulted in 400 people in this country owning as much as the bottom half of the population (150 million people)." Let's stop being merely consumers and return to being citizens.

There is a movement afoot this season to stop further enriching Big Business--you know, the people who have caused our troubles in the first place. If you buy Christmas presents, buy from local people, who after all need the money more than The Gap or Sears do. Maybe give a donation to a needy charity in the name of your gift recipient. Goodness knows the local food bank could use some help--and you know any dollars given to them are going to be recirculated in the community. Instead of a purchased gift, give of yourself--a day's worth of housecleaning for a shut in. Six casseroles, to be spaced throughout the year. A potted plant, purchased from a local nursery, that includes planting outside and care for it during its first year. Any gift to a shut-in which entails your spending time with him or her would probably be appreciated more than another bathrobe. How about an "IOU" that provides a visit to a local site--the Big Cat Rescue Shelter, for example, an art museum, a movie.

We know that corporations have only one mandate: to make a profit. Don't expect them to deal ethically with us--they have no ethics. (There are exceptions, but they basically prove the rule). The only thing they respond to is our buying power. and that's how we can hit them where it hurts. So this year, try to buy local. The local businesses are run by our neighbors, and they DIDN'T get any kind of bailout. Remember them this Christmas and forget the Big Guys. Get gift certificates from locally-owned restaurants, stores, service-providers. Find a few more suggestions to stimulate your creativity (on page 5 or insert page).

Our religions all tell us that to make ourselves happy, we should try to make someone else happy. Let's remember that in our gift-giving this year and have ourselves a Happy Christmas!



The Roy quote is from a recent speech printed in The Guardian (not in American news media, naturally): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2011/nov/17/we-are-all-occupiers-arundhati-roy?newsfeed=true>

Democratic Women's Club of Manatee
DWCManatee.com
1705 Roslyn Avenue
Bradenton, FL 34207

Welcome, New Members

Nancy K. Ely, Parrish
Phyllis Boles, Holmes Beach
Eilene Oldwine, Bradenton

Get Well Wishes

George Benson

Is recovering from a heart attack--we are glad to hear he's doing well now.

Sasha Taurke

Has avoided an operation and is taking it easy. We wish him all the best.

Please tell our Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Snyder, if you know of a DWC member who is ill, recovering, or would appreciate a word of comfort or a helping hand. Shirley will send a card, and if appropriate will tell us so we can let you know (via the DWC newsletter) who would welcome a card or call. Contact Shirley at 798-9882 or srs2918@yahoo.com *Thank you.*

CONTACT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President

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

Kathy Castor (D-Distr. 11) 202/225-3376, 813/871-2817
castor.house.gov
Vern Buchanan (R-Distr. 13) 202/225-1564, 941/747-9081
buchanan.house.gov

Governor

Rick Scott (R) 850/488-7146
www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor/

Our Florida Senators

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Mike Bennett (R-Distr. 21) 850/487-5078, 727-6349
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Nancy Detert (R-Distr. 23) 850/487-5081, 941/480-3547
detert.nancy.web@flsenate.gov

Our Florida Representatives

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Manatee-708-8570 darryl.rouson@myfloridahouse.gov

Greg Steube (R-Distr. 67) 850-488-6341, 941/907-2810
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Jim Boyd (R-Distr. 68) 850-488-4086, 941/708-4968,
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Ray Pilon (R-Distr. 69) 850-488-7754, 941-955-8077
Ray.pilon@myfloridahouse.gov



Holidays 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

This Holiday Season join Americans giving the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. Instead of big-store, imported goods, buy local, hand-produced and direct-service gifts that make a difference to all of us. Think nothing can be found that is produced by American hands? How about these:

Everyone needs a haircut or likes to be pampered: give a **gift certificate from your local American hair salon or barber.**

Give a **Gym membership.** It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? **Small, American-owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.**

Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like the **driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.**

Everyone likes a good meal, and who wouldn't like a gift certificate **for dinner at an owner-run restaurant or for half a dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint?**

Remember to keep it local: this isn't about big National chains--this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

You can give an **oil change** for the car, truck or motorcycle, done at a **shop run by the American working guy.** Give Mom the services of a **local cleaning lady for a day.** Give a **computer tune-up,** by some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

Looking for something more personal? **Local crafts people** spin their own wool and knit it into **scarves.** They make **jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.**

Give a friend tickets to a **play or ballet at your hometown theatre.** And buy a couple of tickets for yourself as well.

Instead of buying more decorations for the house, **leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.**

Make this holiday a time of caring about US, about encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. When we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. **THIS** is the new American holiday tradition, a revolution of caring about each other. **Isn't that what we are all about?**

