

Type to enter text



NEWSLETTER

Coming to You from the Left Side of the House and the Senate



DCWC Officers

2020-2021

Executive Board

- Thomas Butler, *President*
- Vicky Wallace, *Vice-President*
- Larry Batis, *Secretary*
- Jan Nissen-Hawkins, *Treasurer*

Members-at-Large

- Tim Tarr
- Francis Fox
- Tom Weiland
- Rosie Bean, *PR/Communications*
- Harriet Batis, *Ways and Means*
- Tim Tarr, *Ways and Means*
- Gwen Lehman, *Editor*
- DCWC Newsletter*

BLUE WAVE WELCOME TO OCEAN CITY

On September 4, Joe Biden Delegate Patty Lockett sponsored a Democratic *Blue Wave* in support of the Biden/Harris ticket. The “WAVE” welcomed visitors to Ocean City for Labor Day Weekend 2020 with signs and t-shirts and sincere waves from along the Route 50 corridor into town. The event was attended by members of all of the Democratic clubs of Worcester County, Moms Demand Action of Worcester County, and Eastern Shore for Biden. A *Blue Wave Welcome* will be held every Friday until the election from 3 to 5 pm at the Park and Ride in West Ocean City. Come join in and bring your sign!



A Message from Your President

Tom Butler, President, DCWC



Greetings fellow Democrats:

Club events update.

There has been a lot of talk in the press and elsewhere in regards to voting and especially early voting. The club has arranged to have Ms. Kay Hickman, a member of the Worcester County Board of Elections and also a strong Democrat, attend our next meeting to discuss voting in Worcester County. She will be able to answer all your concerns and questions. Our meeting is Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 pm. Again this month the meeting will be virtual. If you are not a club member and would like to attend, please email me (thomasebutler11@mediacombb.net) and I will send you the Zoom invitation.

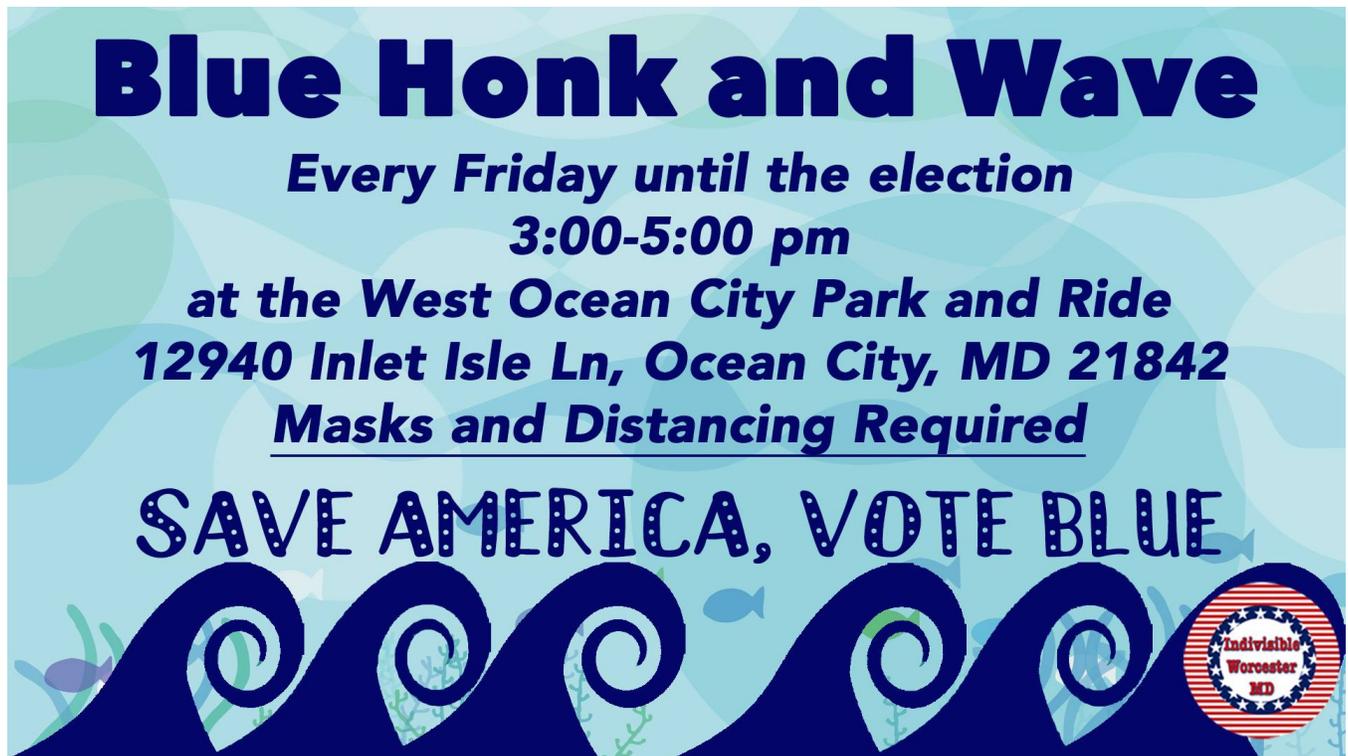
On Friday, September 4th, Worcester County Democrats held a very successful **Blue Wave for Biden** at the West Ocean City Park and Ride. Around 30 Dems were there holding signs and waving at the motorists, with a lot of honking, thumbs up and waving back as cars passed. It was so successful that Indivisible Worcester MD is going to continue a **Blue Honk and Wave** every Friday until the election. Look for the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter. Come join in with fellow Dems and show your support for this incredibly important election. Speaking of that, stop in at the Democratic Center in Snow Hill located at N. Washington St. and E. Green St. to pick up a sign, bumper sticker, or just stop in to talk.

The Ways and Means committee just completed a successful autumn flower sale of almost 200 mums of various colors. If you missed it, there will be another flower sale in the spring. Watch for it.

Health Care

Last month the newsletter carried information about Healthcare in the Maryland Democratic Platform. This month you will find a synopsis of the Democratic Platform that was presented during the DNC Convention.

Be healthy, stay safe.



SYNOPSIS DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

The Democratic Party approved the new party platform during the convention in August. It is a comprehensive set of policies on the most important issues of our time. The primary focus is on the COVID 19 pandemic, the Economy, Healthcare, Climate crisis, and Criminal justice reforms. The Democrats will fight for and repair the soul of this Nation. Americans believe that diversity is our greatest strength.

- **COVID 19 Pandemic:** the coronavirus pandemic is every American’s concern and responding to this crisis is the top concern. The Democrats support more aid to state and local governments for testing and contact tracing; free testing and treatment for everyone; free vaccines when they become available; expanded paid sick leave; family leave; and unemployment insurance to help workers affected by this health crisis. **“Democrats will rejoin and fully resource the WHO.”**
- **Healthcare:** **“The Democrats believe we need to protect, strengthen, and build upon our bedrock health care programs, including the Affordable Care Act.”** Democrats desire to bring down cost of prescription drugs and reduce healthcare costs and protect and strengthen Medicare.

- **Economy:** Democrats support raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2026; invest in infrastructure including high-speed rail. They will work to modernize ports, locks, and dam systems and freight infrastructures. They want to improve broadband access to diminish the digital divide between rural and municipal areas. Democrats support and encourage homeownership by increasing affordable housing and by giving a \$15,000 tax credit to first-time home buyers. To improve/upgrade the country's electrical grid, the goal is to add 500 million solar panels and 60,000 wind turbines. **“Democrats reject every effort to cut, privatize, or weaken Social Security.”** Democrats want to rewrite the rules that have undermined a workers' ability to advocate for themselves. They want to prioritize passing the PRO ACT restoring workers' rights. They will strengthen whistleblower and anti-retaliation protections.
- **Education:** Democrats support making public colleges and universities tuition-free for students whose families earn less than \$125,000 and support making community colleges and trade schools tuition free for all students. Democrats want to ban for-profit private schools from receiving federal funding. Democrats will make major investments in quality, affordable child care.
- **Criminal Justice and Racial justice:** Democrats support broad changes to federal sentencing guidelines, drug laws and a "national standard governing the use of force" such as chokeholds. They will establish 'no knock' warrant standards. They want to eliminate cash bail. Decriminalizing marijuana and legalizing it for medical use are key in reform actions. They believe that decriminalizing marijuana for recreational use should be left up to the states. **“Democrats believe that weapons of war have no place on our streets.”**
- **Foreign Policy:** Democrats still believe in a two-state solution for the Palestinian /Israeli conflict. Jerusalem should remain the capital of Israel. **“Democrats are committed to a durable and inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan.”** They will end support for Saudi-led war on Yemen. **“Democrats will revitalize the power and purpose of American diplomacy.”** Seeing the world as it is today, **“we will reinvent our alliances, partnerships and international institutions to meet common challenges and... advance mutual priorities.”**

Democrats believe our military is the most effective fighting force in the world. The armed forces must transform to meet the 21st Century challenges that include technology from cyber to space.
- **Climate Change:** The Party established strong goals of eliminating carbon pollution from power plants by 2035 and achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for all new buildings by 2030 and net zero gas emissions by 2050. **“Democrats will immediately rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement.”** They will recommit to the Green Climate Fund, protect our oceans, and seek science-based approaches to the crisis in the Arctic region.

Other:

- ❖ Democrats support statehood for Washington D.C.
- ❖ Democrats support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- ❖ The party wants to end for-profit detention centers.
- ❖ They want to “prioritize investments in more effective and cost- efficient community-based alternatives to detention.”
- ❖ “Our armed forces are stronger when we treat our service members, veterans, and families with the dignity they have earned. Democrats believe that the world’s best fighting force and its veterans deserve the world’s best healthcare.” Our military families must be taken care of, no family should struggle to pay their bills, access healthcare, housing, or child care.



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dear Friends of the Democratic Club of Worcester County:

This is an invitation to become a member of the Democratic Club of Worcester County. Memberships are available for \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a couple. If you join now, DCWC will extend your membership through December 31, 2021. **TWO YEARS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE.** Members who have already purchased their 2020 membership will also have membership extended through December 31, 2021.

Print this page of the newsletter, fill in the form below and mail it along with your check to the DCWC, P.O. Box 1664, Berlin, Maryland, 21811. If you are not sure you have paid your 2020 membership fee, contact Jan Nissen-Hawkins at redhatmum6@gmail.com.

DCWC regularly meets in the Assateague Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 for coffee and conversation. The meeting begins at 7:00. Currently, our meetings are being held via Zoom. For more information contact thomasebutler11@mediacombb.net.

Stay safe, thank you for your support, stay on top of the news, and mask-up!

2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY**

The Democratic Club of Worcester County is organized to unite Democrats across the county.

Your Name _____

Your Primary Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DUES: \$15 Single \$25 Family Make checks payable to DCWC.

Print this form and send with your check to: DCWC, P.O. 1664, Berlin, MD 21811

DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE or DEM PAC

What You Can Do Starting NOW

Every Thursday, except September 24th, until the election on November 3rd, join POST CARD PARTIES via ZOOM! A recurring meeting, use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84703515665>. The meeting ID is 847 0351 5665. Help write and mail postcards on behalf of Democratic candidates. Easy to do. Effective and fun.

BLUE WAVE FOR BIDEN. Every Friday until the election, join your fellow Dems at the Route 50 West OC Park 'n Ride! Wear blue and bring a sign.



Have Your Own Voting Plan in Place

Early Voting in Person or Voting by Mail-in Ballot

Election Day Voting In-person

If voting in person, wear a mask, bring hand sanitizer, be patient, do not be intimidated by Republican “poll watchers” if they appear. If you are told that you are not on the voter roll, ask for a provisional ballot, which you are entitled to, but vote!



District 1 in Maryland needs a U.S. Congressperson to represent the people's interests and bring integrity back to the Maryland 1st District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Vote Blue! Vote Mia!

FOR COPS WHO KILL SPECIAL SUPREME COURT PROTECTION

By Steve Cohen

The U.S. high court's continual refinement of an obscure legal doctrine has made it harder to hold police accountable when accused of using excessive force. A little-known legal doctrine called *qualified immunity* created by the U.S. Supreme Court is meant to protect government employees from frivolous litigation. In recent years it has become highly effective in thousands of lawsuits seeking to hold cops accountable when they are accused of using excessive force.

The legal path that led to qualified immunity started with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1871. Congress declared that every American has the right to sue any public employee who violates their rights.

In the United States, the doctrine of qualified immunity grants government officials performing discretionary functions immunity from civil suits unless the plaintiff shows that the official violated "clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would know."

The modern test for qualified immunity was established in **Harlow v. Fitzgerald**. Prior to *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, the U.S. Supreme Court granted immunity to government officials only if (1) the official believed in good faith that his conduct was lawful and (2) the conduct was objectively reasonable.

The courts use a two-question test to weigh police requests for immunity. The first is whether the evidence shows or convinces a jury that the officer used excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment. The second question is whether the officers should have known they were breaking "clearly established" law, a Supreme Court coinage for a court precedent that had already found similar police actions to have been illegal.

The main challenge for plaintiffs in excessive force cases is to show that police behavior violated a "clearly established" precedent. The Supreme Court has continually reinforced a narrow definition of "clearly established," requiring lower courts to accept as precedent only cases that have detailed circumstances very similar to the case they are weighing.

The increasing frequency of such cases has prompted a growing chorus of criticism from lawyers, legal scholars, civil rights advocates, politicians, and even judges that qualified immunity as applied, is unjust. Spanning the political spectrum, this broad coalition says the doctrine has become a nearly failsafe tool to allow police brutality to go unpunished and to deny victims their constitutional rights.



Mia Mason hosts
FALL KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 30TH
5PM-7PM

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MIA MASON, TREASURER LYAH CAVALLO

Come out and meet Mia at the Blue Heron Landing in Queen Anne’s County on September 30th from 5 to 7 pm. There will be special guest speakers as well as food and beverages. This is a listed in person event and will require face coverings and social distancing. RSVP.



Republicans have won the popular vote in 1 out of the past 7 U.S. presidential elections, and Republican appointees are poised to hold 6 out of the 9 seats on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Josh Eidelson Tweet 5:33 pm Sep. 18, 2020



VERIFIABLE

A monthly contribution by Joe Beggs

Editor's Note: In the last of a series of four monthly articles, local political commentator Joe Beggs will discuss the role of big money in American politics.

LOSING MY VIRGINITY

When I was a young man back in the 70s, living in my first house, I answered a knock on my front door one Saturday afternoon. It was a local politician, door-knocking in the neighborhood. We spoke for about ten minutes, and I remember really liking him. After he left, I wanted to know more about him, so I went to the library to look him up. I don't remember where I looked, but I found a summary of campaign contributions given to candidates. He had accepted \$4,000 from a developer. It seemed like they were trying to buy his voice. I was suddenly curious about his opponent. It really shocked me to discover that his opponent was also given \$4,000 by the same developer. The developer didn't care which candidate won. He wanted to influence both. You can imagine my confusion. I was a young idealist and I was shocked. Sad to say, I lost my "political virginity" at the age of 34.

Since then, having been quite involved in politics at the local and national level, I realize, through those experiences, that politicians are EXTREMELY sensitive to the needs of their political "patrons" because they want their financial support in the next election. They know IF THEY DELIVER for these "patrons," the amount of their financial support may go up. The question must be asked, "How does a **large political contribution** compare to **bribery**?"

Everyone knows it's wrong for a judge to take money to influence a lawsuit or a criminal case. Likewise, it's wrong for a local elected official to take money to steer business to a local contractor. These both qualify as bribery. My question has been (and always will be) how does that differ from large campaign contributions? Here's what bribes and large campaign contributions have in common: **MONEY = INFLUENCE = PROFIT.**

In last month's article, I ended by saying I would be writing about who's spending the "BIG MONEY" and who's taking it. The answer in national politics is easy: the "BIG BOYS" are spending the "BIG BUCKS" and, unfortunately, almost all of the candidates of both parties are taking it to some degree or another. If you're wondering why we all feel helpless in the face of our government, the reason is that politicians are NOT REPRESENTING US. They are representing the interests of BIG MONEY donors who pay well for their services.

The examples of this are too numerous to mention, but I am reserving the details of the worst perpetrators for the next article, which will be entitled "BRIBES FROM THE BIG BOYS."

VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

VOTING

Mail-in or Absentee Ballots will be mailed by the end of September, 45 days before the election. Fill out the ballot with a black pen, sign where directed, and immediately mail the ballot in the envelope provided. Attach 2 postage stamps before mailing.

OR

You may choose to place your ballot in a **Drop Box** rather than mailing it. Drop Boxes will be available after October 3 in Worcester County at the Snow Hill Board of Elections, 201 Belt Street, Suite C, and at the Ocean City Convention Center. Drop Boxes will also be located at all Election Day Poll Locations.

In Person early voting begins Monday, October 26 and runs through Monday, November 2 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. In Worcester County, the early voting location is at the Ocean City Convention Center on Coastal Highway at 41st Street.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

You may vote in person at any of the 4 poll locations:

Pocomoke Community Center, 1410 Market Street, Pocomoke

Snow Hill Middle School, 522 Coulbourne Lane, Snow Hill

Stephen Decatur Middle School, 9815 Seahawk Road, Berlin

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, OC

Information courtesy of Indivisible Worcester, Susan Buyer

WORCESTER COUNTY EARLY VOTING SITE

Out of concerns over Covid-19, Worcester County has moved its EARLY VOTING SITE to the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City. Voting will take place in the ballroom, allowing for appropriate social distancing. Early voting begins on Monday, October 26 and runs through Monday, November 2. Polls are open from 7 am until 8 pm.

“An absentee Ballot Application is available from the Worcester County Board of Elections office or online at

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration>.

Absentee ballots must be received by our office on Election Day. The Absentee Ballots are usually available to voters 45 days prior to the election. Please allow ample time for mailing the application and ballot. Additional postage may be required to return your voted ballot by mail.”

Worcester County Board of Elections Website



GERANIUM SALE

Sponsored by the DCWC of Ocean Pines, Maryland



Pre-Order with Pick-up Monday, May 8th, 2021

\$6 per pot. Choose red, white, bright pink, cherry, rose, salmon, lavender, blue, or watermelon.

Send your order to Harriet Batis at 38032 Bayview Circle West, Selbyville, DE 19975

Deadline for orders is May 1, 2021.

Checks should be made payable to DCWC. Thank you!



DUNES MANOR, OCEAN CITY

ELECTION NIGHT

6 TO 9 PM IN THE GENESAR BALLROOM

November 3rd Watch the Returns Party

Sponsored by the Democratic Party of Worcester County

\$20 per person

\$30 per couple

4 to a table

MENU

HARVEST SALAD WITH CHICKEN

\$22 per person

Mixed greens, crisp apples, dried cranberries, candied pecans, blue cheese crumbles topped with marinated chicken breast served with balsamic vinaigrette, rolls and butter

MANOR BEACH BURGER

\$20 per person

8 ounce charbroiled beef burger topped with melted cheddar cheese and served with lettuce, tomato and red onion on a challah roll with kettle potato chips, dill pickle spear, cookies and brownies, coffee, tea, decaf

TURKEY BLT WRAP

\$20 per person

Thinly sliced roasted turkey breast, with crisp bacon, lettuce, tomato and cranberry mayo wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla, with kettle chips, dill pickle spear, cookies and brownies, cookies, coffee, tea, decaf



JOIN FELLOW DEMOCRATS AT THE DUNES MANOR GET-TOGETHER TO WATCH THE RETURNS AS THEY COME IN ON ELECTION NIGHT, NOVEMBER 3rd. BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS. CASH BAR.

OUR DEMOCRACY AT STAKE

Democracy was never meant to be transactional – you give me your vote; I make everything better. It requires an active and informed citizenry. So I am also asking you to believe in your own ability – to embrace your own responsibility as citizens– to make sure that the basic tenets of our democracy endure.



Because that's what at stake right now.
Our democracy.

BARAK OBAMA



**FIGHT LIKE DEMOCRACY
ITSELF DEPENDS ON IT,
BECAUSE IT DOES!**

In response to Trump's Mail-In Ballot Fraud Campaign

According to the Heritage Foundation, a Trump ally, in the last 20 years, fraud has corrupted only 0.00006% of mail-in ballots .



It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

I can't believe it. I actually can not believe it. In spite of all the corruption, self-dealing, lying, outright lying, lying again, the gross incompetence, mismanagement, deception, bullying, race-baiting, violence-stoking, the lying, the nepotism, the cronyism, the pay-to-play, did I mention the lying? After all that, I still find myself incredulous that the two men, Chad Wolf and Ken Cuccinelli, running (into the ground) our intelligence services would place the entire United States of America in jeopardy in order to protect a foreign adversary whose mission it is to wreck and to weaken all Western democracies; and to do so to boost the image of, and thus the positive ratings of, a POTUS so egregiously corrupt that the devil must be taking lessons and the Good Lord must have gone into hiding because even He, or She, cannot think of a punishment harsh enough to be worthy of this POTUS' crimes against humanity, not to mention his crimes against the nation he supposedly serves.

So what else are Wolf and Cuccinelli hiding? They're skewing data. Are they compromising foreign civil servants, ambassadors, spies? Are they burying intelligence entirely? Are they putting us all in danger from threats in order to make Trump look better? Do they remember 9/11? Or are 9 and 11 just numbers, meaningless because that's not likely to happen again, so why worry, except about how 45 is feeling today and whether he is likely to give them unpleasant names and rant awhile on national TV about Chad and Ken and maybe mock them even, so what's national security concerns in the face of that?

I have never considered myself heroic in any sense of the word, nor particularly brave. But I have never considered myself a coward either. If I needed to stand up to authority in support of my students, my fellow teachers, or myself, I stood up. I stood up even though at times my legs felt weak and my hands trembled. I stood up. I tried to do my job with integrity, knowing that it would be difficult at times and that I might sometimes fail. I promised myself I would deal openly and honestly with my students in my attempt to gain their trust, even though no one was likely to die because I couldn't get them to understand the difference between an algorithm and a heuristic or because they disagreed with my pedagogy. What Chad and Ken are doing, on the other hand, does not remotely inspire trust, because it could, in actuality, kill us all, not to mention democracy itself.

So, what's next? The National Weather Service can't send out hurricane warnings because they might make Trump look bad? We already know the CDC can no longer be trusted to protect our health, nor the FDA, which is why so few Americans are willing to be the first to take a Covid-19 vaccine. No one trusts it, maybe because trust doesn't matter anymore. It is all about protecting Trump, and thus themselves. You and I? Who are we? American citizens, yes, but there are a ton of us. We've already failed to spare 200,000+. What's a few more?

Mini-Calendar

Monday, September 21

Zoom Democratic Women's Club
General Meeting 10 a.m.
Speaker: Willie Flowers, NAACP

Thursday, September 24

Zoom Worcester County Democratic Club 7
p. m.
Speaker: Kay Hickman
Understanding Voting 2020

Tuesday, September 29

Zoom Presidential Debate Watch Party
8:30 p.m. (DWC)

Wednesday, October 7

Zoom Vice-Presidential Debate Party
8:30 (DWC)

Thursday, October 15

Zoom Presidential Debate Watch Party
8:30 (DWC)

Tuesday, November 3 ELECTION DAY

**THE INCALCULABLE LOSS OF
RUTH BADER GINSBURG
MUST NOT DAMPEN OUR
COMMITMENT TO END THE
SLIDE TOWARD AUTOCRACY
THAT WE FACE AS A NATION.
FRANCE FELL TO THE FORCES
OF HITLER, BUT THERE WAS
ALWAYS A RESISTANCE AND
EVENTUALLY THAT
MOVEMENT OF RESISTANCE
HELPED END HITLER'S
FASCISM AND FREED THEIR
NATION FROM HIS GRASP.**