

NEWSLETTER

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



INAUGURATION DAY 2021

How It Felt To Me by Gwen Lehman

After the long period of waiting between early November and mid-January, the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris took place in a fortified capitol on January 20th, 2021. I am certain most of our readers watched the swearing in of a seasoned public servant and the first woman to be elected to the second highest office in the land. In spite of the Covid pandemic and the threat of violence from the radicalized right-wing, the Inaugural Committee produced an inauguration for the ages.

My personal relief at the swearing in of a decent and honorable man and a woman of impeccable credentials who happens to be a woman of color, was so palpable that I will admit to shedding many tears of joy throughout the morning and early afternoon and during the evening inaugural festivities. I have watched Lady Gaga's National Anthem five times on YouTube and have reprinted in this edition of the newsletter the extraordinary words of our very first Youth Poet Laureate that she read so brilliantly at the culmination of the inaugural ceremony. Biden's speech was wonderful - heartfelt, consoling, sincere, but not without the acknowledgement of what we have been through and what we face. Brilliantly choreographed from start to finish, with no over-long speeches or fake patriotism, this inauguration was beautiful to watch. It felt good. It just felt good.

DCWC Officers

2021-2022

Executive Board

Vicky Wallace, *President*

Don Grace, *Vice-President*

Larry Batis, *Secretary*

Jan Nissen-Hawkins, *Treasurer*

Tom Butler, *Acting Treasurer*

Members-at-Large

Tim Tarr

Francis Fox

Tom Weiland

Harriet Batis

Harriet Batis, *Ways and Means*

Tim Tarr, *Ways and Means*

Gwen Lehman,

Editor DCWC Newsletter



Katy Perry during the evening festivities as the celebratory fireworks begin.



A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

Happy New Year to ALL. As the new president of DCWC, I am looking forward to working with the Board of Directors and all of our members to strengthen our club and encourage new membership. How did I get here? Well, I am a past president and vice president of the Democratic Women's Club, a member of the Worcester County Central Committee, and a volunteer for many, many, past presidential, gubernatorial, senatorial, and local campaigns. Ocean Pines has been my home for the last 15 years. My working years were spent in Ellicott City, Md., where my husband, Tom, and I raised two children. Both are wonderful places to live.

With COVID-19, we have been unable to meet face to face. Our general meetings have been on Zoom. I especially look forward to when we can all meet together again at the Ocean Pines Community Center - fourth Thursday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Inoculations for COVID-19 are beginning this weekend in Worcester County. Hopefully, we will all be able to meet in person in the not too distant future. Join us for our January 28th General Meeting via Zoom. We are welcoming Zack Tyndell, mayor of Berlin, as our speaker. He will discuss his plans for the "Greatest Little City."

Be Well.

Vicky Wallace



THE HILL WE CLIMB

When day comes we ask ourselves,
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry,
a sea we must wade
We've braved the belly of the beast
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace
And the norms and notions
of what just is
Isn't always just-ice
And yet the dawn is ours
before we knew it
Somehow we do it
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken
but simply unfinished
We the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny Black girl
descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
can dream of becoming president
only to find herself reciting for one
And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
but that doesn't mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect
We are striving to forge a union with purpose
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and
conditions of man
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us
but what stands before us
We close the divide because we know, to put our future first,
we must first put our differences aside
We lay down our arms
so we can reach out our arms
to one another
We seek harm to none and harmony for all
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew
That even as we hurt, we hoped
That even as we tired, we tried
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious
Not because we will never again know defeat
but because we will never again sow division
Scripture tells us to envision
that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree.

[Continued on page 4]

[Continued from page 3]

And no one shall make them afraid
If we're to live up to our own time
Then victory won't lie in the blade
But in all the bridges we've made
That is the promised glade
The hill we climb
If only we dare
It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit,
it's the past we step into
and how we repair it
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation
rather than share it
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy
And this effort very nearly succeeded
But while democracy can be periodically delayed
it can never be permanently defeated
In this truth
in this faith we trust
For while we have our eyes on the future
history has its eyes on us
This is the era of just redemption
We feared at its inception
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
of such a terrifying hour
but within it we found the power
to author a new chapter
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves
So while once we asked,
how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?
Now we assert
How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?
We will not march back to what was
but move to what shall be
A country that is bruised but whole,
benevolent but bold,
fierce and free
We will not be turned around
or interrupted by intimidation
because we know our inaction and inertia
will be the inheritance of the next generation
Our blunders become their burdens
But one thing is certain:
If we merge mercy with might, and
might with right, then love becomes
our legacy and change our
children's birthright.

[Continued on page 5]

[Continued from page 4]

So let us leave behind a country
Better than the one we were left.
Every breath from my bronze-
pounded chest, we will raise this
wounded world into a wondrous one.
We will rise from the golden hills of
the West.
We will rise from the windswept
Northeast where our forefathers first
realized revolution.
We will rise from the lake-rimmed
cities of the Midwestern states.
We will rise from the sun-baked
South.
We will rebuild, reconcile, and
recover.
And every known nook of our nation
and every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful, will
emerge battered and beautiful.
When day comes, we step out of the
shade of flame and unafraid.
The new dawn balloons as we free it.
For there is always light, if only we're
brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.

~Amanda Gorman, age 22



Two New Senators from Georgia



Jon Ossoff



Reverend Raphael Warnock

Overshadowed by recent events in the nation’s capitol, the victories of Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock should be resoundingly championed by Democrats across the nation and greeted with great cheers and applause. In a state located in the deep South, voters gave a conclusive margin of victory to both Democratic candidates. Their selection by the voters of Georgia to be their state’s representatives in the United States Senate has now given control of the Senate, albeit by the slimmest of margins, to Democrats. Senator Mitch McConnell’s “reign of error” as the Republican majority leader in the Senate came to an end with this double Democratic victory in Georgia.

Thank you to all of those who got out the vote and went out to vote in Georgia.

KEEP THE PRESSURE ON STATE AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO CALL FOR THE RESIGNATION OF FIRST DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN ANDY HARRIS. HE WILL NOT RESIGN DUE TO CONSCIENCE. LIKE THE PRESIDENT FOR WHOM HE IS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN SEDITIONARY BEHAVIOR, HE WILL NEVER ADMIT HE IS WRONG. IT WILL TAKE AN OUTPOURING OF OUTRAGE OVER HIS CONDUCT TO PLACE HIM IN A POSITION THAT LEADERSHIP DECIDES HE CAN NO LONGER SERVE. CALL HIS D.C. OFFICE AT 202.225.5311.

A Letter From an Eastern Shore Retiree

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I are retired and live modestly but comfortably. Like everyone our age, we have bills to pay and medications we need to purchase, but so far we can handle our expenses. Because of the pandemic, we don't go anywhere or spend any money. So when we received our stimulus check, we thought what should we do with this money. We watch television much of the day and have seen long lines of people at food banks. We decided that donating to food banks would be a good way to give back.

What better way to be an American than to help feed our sisters and brothers and their children during this difficult time? This situation isn't going away and will probably get worse. If you've been wondering what to do with a part of your stimulus check, consider the hungry.

Sincerely,

Retired on the Eastern Shore

MARYLAND FOOD BANK - EASTERN SHORE

28500 Owens Branch Road,
Salisbury, MD 21801
410.742.0050

FOOD BANK OF THE EASTERN SHORE

24530 Coastal Boulevard
Tasley, VA 23441
757.787.2557



**MARYLAND
FOOD BANK**



Foodbank
of Southeastern Virginia
and the Eastern Shore

Presidential Pardons

By Steve Cohen

Most Americans understand that a pardon sets aside punishments for a federal criminal conviction, while fewer may realize that the conviction itself remains on the books after the pardon. But what are the limits of presidential pardon power?

Presidential Pardon Power: Interpreting the Constitution

As written in Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the President's power to pardon seems nearly limitless:

“[The President] shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.”

However, the details of the presidential pardon have been fleshed out through the courts and the legacy of former chief executives. Since the Constitution refers to “offences against the United States,” the President's power to pardon is limited to federal offenses only. State governors have similar authority to grant clemency (the broader term for an executive's power to lessen a punishment) to those convicted of state crimes.

The U.S. Supreme Court clarified presidential pardon power in an 1866 case (*Ex Parte Garland*) challenging the pardons of a former Confederate soldier by President Andrew Johnson. In its opinion, the Court stated that this power “extends to every offense known to law, and may be exercised at any time after its commission, either before legal proceedings are taken or during their pendency, or after conviction and judgment.”

Presidents also may issue pre-emptive pardons - or rather, a pardon for any crimes an individual *may have committed* or may have been charged with. For example, President Gerald Ford issued a pardon to outgoing President Richard Nixon even though Nixon had not been charged with any federal crimes at that point.

Additionally, the President may use this power to grant conditional pardons (such as serving a lesser sentence) or commutations; or to grant remissions (returns) of fines or forfeitures and respites (i.e. delaying a sentence.)

Presidential Commutations

As with pardons, commutations are another way a president may grant clemency to a convicted criminal. But unlike pardons, which formally forgive the individual of their crimes and restore what may have been lost through the conviction (such as voting rights or the right to own firearms) a commutation merely ends the individual's sentence. *(Continued on page 9)*

Presidential Pardons *(Continued from page 5.)*

Can Presidents Pardon Themselves?

Whether Presidents may pardon themselves remains a subject of debate among legal scholars, although the Constitution clearly states that they may not pardon “in cases of impeachment.” Still, it also *doesn't* say that presidents can't pardon themselves of federal crimes, although this particular gambit hasn't yet been attempted.

However, applying for and receiving a pardon is itself seen as an admission of guilt. So any attempt by a president to issue and grant a self-pardon would undoubtedly touch off a constitutional crisis and likely lead at a minimum, to impeachment inquiries. Considering the original intent of the Framers, who were weary of tyranny, there would be serious constitutional concerns over the fact that a self-pardon could absolve presidents of criminal liability for either their official or unofficial acts, or even for crimes they may have committed before assuming the presidency.

Presidential Pardon Rules and Procedures

The rules and procedures for seeking and receiving a pardon are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (Title 28, Chapter 1, Part 1). Anyone who wishes to apply for clemency at the federal level must follow the rules and file a petition with the Department of Justice (specifically, the Office of the Pardon Attorney).

The Pardon Attorney and his/her staff review petitions for clemency (either for a pardon or a commutation), conduct investigations, and prepare recommendations for the President. While the guilt or innocence of the petitioner isn't considered (i.e. the conviction stands), the decision to grant clemency generally rests on the following factors:

- Post-conviction conduct, character, and reputation;
- Seriousness of the offense;
- Acceptance of responsibility, remorse and atonement;
- Need for relief; and
- Official recommendations and reports.

Although there are formal procedures and guidelines in place for a presidential pardon or commutation, the President is not bound by these rules and may issue clemency in accordance with the powers granted by the Constitution.

INVITATION TO ATTEND - JOIN US ON JANUARY 28TH

The Democratic Club of Worcester County is inviting you to join us for our January 28 General Membership meeting by Zoom on January 28, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Zack Tyndall, the new Mayor of Berlin.

To join our Zoom Meeting click on

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71177301411?
pwd=U0d6bnpLSnYzN21GcGN1YzIURGRFZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71177301411?pwd=U0d6bnpLSnYzN21GcGN1YzIURGRFZz09)

Meeting ID: 711 7730 1411

Passcode: S0cma5

DCWC Targets Help for Pocomoke Food Program

Dear Members,

It is a new and, hopefully, much better year ahead of us. In 2021, the Board of Directors of the DCWC has targeted our south county neighbors for help with food insecurity. We are teaming up with the Maryland Food Bank and Pocomoke Middle School to donate to their food pantry. The DCWC will donate \$100. We are asking you to help us send more by making a donation of your own. We will include all of your donations, plus DCWC's donation, and send them off to the Maryland Food Bank at Pocomoke Middle School. This is a local initiative and will benefit our friends and neighbors on the Eastern Shore. We look forward to your participation.

You may mail your donation to DCWC at Post Office Box 1664, Berlin, Maryland 21811. Your checks should be made payable to Maryland Food Bank. You have always supported our past initiatives and we know you will help us now. Donations are requested by mid-February. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tim Tarr at cttarr@gmail.com or myself at vick1947@aol.com. You may, of course, send a donation at any time directly to the Maryland Food Bank, c/o Pocomoke Middle School, 800 8th Street, Pocomoke, MD 21851.

Thank you,

Vicky

GERANIUM SALE

Sponsored by the DCWC of Ocean Pines, Maryland



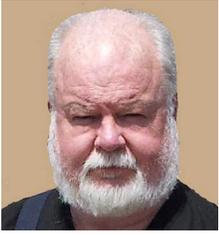
Pre-Order with Pick-up Monday, May 8th, 2021

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

Send your order to DCWC, P.O. Box 1664, Berlin, MD 21811

Deadline for orders is May 1, 2021.

Checks should be made payable to DCWC. Thank you!



VERIFIABLE

A monthly contribution by Joe Beggs

FOUR YEARS OF DESTRUCTION

The Constitution that forms the legal basis of our Government is designed to protect us from threats. Those threats can take many forms, such as sedition, disease, foreign influence, corruption, and terrorism. All Federal Officials responsible for this protection are required to take a solemn oath to protect and defend us. We expect our President, our Cabinet, and our Congress to live by that oath. If they don't protect and defend us, they must be voted out of office. Even if they are not voted out, they **MUST** be held accountable.

Now, suppose these officials **PERFORM** acts of sedition? Suppose they **ALLOW** us to be ravaged by disease? Suppose they **ENCOURAGE** foreign influence or intervention, and allow it to flow unchecked? Suppose they **ARE** corrupt? And worse than all this, suppose they **LIE TO US** every day? What then? If these officials were **DELIBERATE** in these acts, what must we do about it?

It is incumbent on all American citizens to pay attention over these next crucial months as the facts about this former president and his henchmen finally see the light of day.

But there is another, deadlier undercurrent which we will gradually see unfolding: **The silence and complicity of the Republican Party.**

McConnell, McCarthy, Graham, the RNC, the NRA, the big donors, and the big-money PACS, were all acting in unison throughout Trump's four years (and actually 30 years before that!) to undermine Social Security, Medicare, civil rights, voting rights, Obamacare, and regulations designed to protect us against predatory behavior by many unscrupulous corporate actors.

In considering who should be held responsible for the destruction these last four years, it is **NOT JUST TRUMP!** The disaster of 2020 is the responsibility of the Republican Party. Make no mistake about this. You only have to imagine President Obama saying he would "grab them by the p____y," or that dead soldiers were losers, or that Putin was more trustworthy than the CIA, or that John McCain was not a hero.

WE MUST HOLD THE REPUBLICAN PARTY RESPONSIBLE!! Vote these enablers **OUT** in 2022!!

Andy Harris Has to Go

Indivisible has an ongoing effort to support the Maryland Democratic Party and others calling for Harris to resign. If you want to participate in this effort by sending Letters to the Editor to local and state newspapers, contact Mary Anne Whitcomb, marywhitcomb@gmail.com, and she will send you information on how to proceed.

If you want to sign the MD Democratic Party petition, go to [sign this petition to demand his resignation.](#)

ANDY HARRIS, DISTRICT 1 CONGRESSMAN ATTEMPTS TO TAKE GUN INTO CAPITOL

Numerous news outlets including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, and the *Associated Press* are reporting that District 1 Representative Andy Harris, (R-Harford Co.) was stopped trying to take a gun into the Capitol and is now under investigation by the Capitol Police. After setting off the magnetometer, Harris was patted down by security officers. A security officer reported seeing a “firearm” on Harris and shared that information with his superiors. A Huffington Post reporter who covers Congress happened to be nearby and observed Harris talking to a Republican Congressman John Katko (R-New York) as they stood by an elevator. He reportedly asked Katko to take his gun for him. Katko refused.

This comes little more than a week after Harris became aggressive on the floor of the House and reportedly was about to engage in a physical altercation with another House member.

Calls for Harris to resign continue following his vote not to confirm Biden’s electoral college win. This may keep the pressure on just as he has announced he intends a ‘22 run.



After promising voters he would serve only 12 years as testament to his belief that Congress should not be a lifelong gig for its elected representatives, Harris has changed his mind. He will run again in 2022. His main backer is the conservative Club for Growth. Keep the pressure on Harris to resign. He is the only Republican member of the MD delegation.

JUNE 30, 2021- What May Happen

Donald J. Trump has been impeached, convicted and sent to Guantanamo, Cuba, for an undetermined period of time.

Susan Collins has been assigned to make sure Trump has learned his lesson.

Congress has passed legislation to plant climbing roses on 15 miles of wall erected around the nation's capitol.

Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley have been disbarred from Texas and Missouri state bar associations.

Mitch McConnell has been seen with a "moron" signed pinned to his back in the Senate.

Capitol police have been issued stun guns and cattle prods.

Congress has been issued stun guns and cattle prods, along with the gas masks under their desks.

Trump flags and MAGA hats have been banned from D.C. as seditious.

Thousands of rioters have been prosecuted by GOP-appointed judges as a result of the \$50K rewards for identifying them.

Melania Trump now always wears the "I really don't care" jacket.

Psychological tests are now required for all presidential candidates.

Psychological tests are now required for all congressional candidates.

Psychological tests are now required for all federal judges.

Special psychological tests may be required for all those who voted for QAnon House Representatives Greene and Boebert.

It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

The most disturbingly horrific thing for me about recent events in our nation's capitol, and the impeachment hearing that soon followed, is that so many, indeed most, Republicans continue to support President Trump. I have been cycling through anger, outrage, disbelief, sadness, consternation, grief, in no particular order. How anyone can excuse and rationalize and praise and support a man who so obviously and brazenly attempted a *coup d'etat* is beyond me.

But this they continue to do: justify what happened, deflect blame onto others, lie and lie and lie the BIG LIE, in spite of the fact that the man for whom they are engaging in major mental contortions nearly got them killed. And if some of them had been killed, he would not have cared. He wouldn't have cared if they were Republicans or Democrats, new or experienced, old or young. He is unable to care about anyone or anything but himself.

As Representative Liz Cheney summarized, he called them to come to D.C. on January 6. He brought them, he incited them, he instructed them, "he lit the flame." He even lied to them. "I'll be with you," he said. He wasn't with them. He retreated to the safety of the White House and watched, with enthusiasm we are told, as insurrectionists stormed the walls, overcame the barricades, crashed their way into the Capitol Building, attacked Capitol Police officers, broke windows and doors and furniture, stole things, computers, a podium, pissed on the carpets, shit on the floors and smeared it on the walls. And Republicans defend this and the man who demanded it?!

Of course, they say they are NOT defending this. They decry violence, of any sort, and then stand up on the floor of the House and lie and lie and lie again, inciting violence they supposedly deplore. Despicable Jim Jordan can not say that Biden won fairly, not corruptly; that he did not steal anything. He can't say it. He won't say it. And that means the BIG LIE will continue to have big consequences.

The House is filled now with Republicans who are shamefully ill-prepared, deeply unqualified, mentally unfit to hold office in the House of Representatives. Many of these Republicans just today balked at having to walk through a metal detector, whining and complaining and pushing their way past. Rude and boorish, arrogant and entitled, brash and self-centered, they are Trump Spawn. And they are incorrigible enough to be proud of it. We have sunk so low. Like Dorothy Parker, I ask, "What fresh hell is this?"

Mini-Calendar

Thursday, January 28

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker Zach Tyndall, Mayor of Berlin
7 pm via Zoom

Monday, February 8

DCWC Executive Board Meeting
10 AM Via ZOOM

Thursday, February 25

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker, Kathy Phillips, COASTKEEPER
Act for the Bays, 7pm via Zoom

