

# NEWSLETTER

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

## CHANGE IN DATE

**NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING MOVED TO 11/18**



The Democratic Club of Worcester County’s General Membership meetings are regularly held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November General Membership meeting has been moved to the third Thursday, November 18th. The meeting time is 6:00 p.m.

The speakers joining us for the November meeting are representatives of Diakonia. A local non-profit, Diakonia is the only homeless shelter in Worcester County. An outstanding organization, Diakonia provides temporary housing, food assistance, and clothing for homeless families and for military veterans.

A business meeting will follow. Please join us as DCWC strives to grow its membership while working for a better tomorrow by planning strategies that will help achieve Democratic victories in county, state, and national elections. We look forward to seeing you there.

### DCWC Officers

2021-2022

#### Executive Board

Vicky Wallace, *President*

Tim Tarr, *Vice-President*

Larry Batis, *Secretary*

Jan Nissen-Hawkins, *Treasurer*

Tom Butler, *Acting Treasurer*

#### Members-at-Large

Francis Fox

Tom Weiland

Harriet Batis

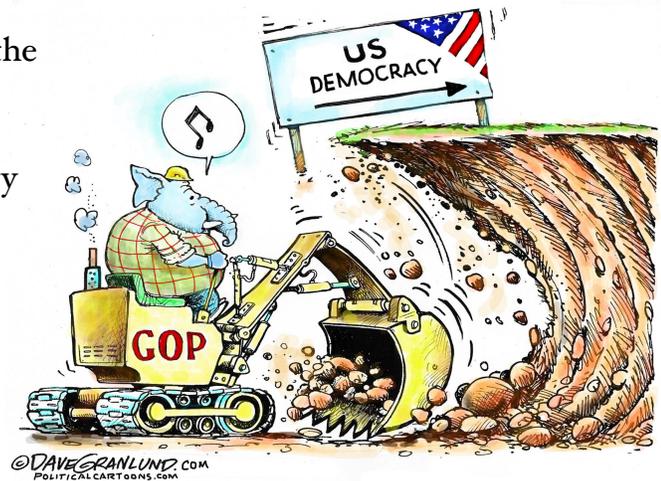


Harriet Batis, *Ways and Means*

Tim Tarr, *Ways and Means*

Gwen Lehman,

*Editor DCWC Newsletter*





# A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I want to express my thanks to all of you who have joined one of the local Democratic Clubs, each of which is working to support election victories for Democratic candidates locally, statewide, and in the nation. There is much work to be done. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, as you visit with family and friends, take a moment to reflect on what a great country this is, how much we have to be thankful for, and how much work still needs to be done to protect our democracy, to ensure its stability long into the future, and to guarantee equal justice under the law for all people regardless of race, creed, gender or gender identity, religion, ethnicity, or social status.

I hope you will join us for our November general membership meeting on Thursday, November 18, one week before Thanksgiving. The meeting will be held in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Our guest speakers will be representatives from Diakonia, a local non-profit serving the needs of the homeless in our community.

## DIAKONIA

Located at 12747 Old Bridge Road in West Ocean City, Diakonia is a non-profit dedicated to providing emergency shelter, food, SNAP food stamp application assistance, outreach, rapid rehousing, and veterans' services.

You can support Diakonia's mission by shopping at the Diakonia Thrift Store located at 12507 Sunset Avenue, also in West Ocean City.



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# POLICE MISCONDUCT

By Steve Cohen

The underlying offense being lied about is oftentimes less serious than the covering lie which results in a worse disciplinary penalty.

In *King v. Erikson*, 89 F.3d 1575 (D.C. Cir., 1996) which was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and resulted in *LaChance v. Erikson*, 522 U.S. 262 (1998) the Supreme Court held that a government agency can take adverse administrative action against an employee because the employee made false statements in response to an underlying charge of misconduct.

## **Brady list**

In the 1963 case of *Brady v. Maryland* the U.S. Supreme Court placed upon prosecutors an affirmative obligation to disclose to the defense all exculpatory information, otherwise it amounts to a due process violation. The evidence to be disclosed includes statements of witnesses, physical evidence and any evidence that would impeach a prosecution witness.

An officer who has been proved to have lied during a disciplinary investigation, or in any other context, will be placed on a *Brady list* which is then provided to prosecutors. If an officer on the list is scheduled to testify in a case, a prosecutor will be notified by the agency so that the appropriate disclosure can be made. However, despite the half-century since the *Brady* decision the concept of Brady lists is of more recent vintage, dating back only about fifteen years.

In (*United States v. Cummings*, 2011 U.S. Dist LEXIS 43364.) the criminal defendant was not provided information until his scheduled sentencing hearing about a testifying officer's prior disciplinary record for theft and falsification of a police report. None of this information was made available at the trial when it could have been used by defendant's attorney to impeach the testimony of the officer.

The district court, upon the defendant's motion, granted a new trial as to one of the key criminal counts because if the officer's "*misconduct been known to the defense and disclosed to the jury through cross-examination, the jury would have had a reason to doubt [his] credibility and thus his testimony.*" (Continued on page 4.)

# POLICE MISCONDUCT (Continued from page 3.)

Aside from the potential of an appeal of a criminal conviction, individual officers and their agencies can be civilly liable for failure to disclose *Brady* material to the prosecutor. Aggrieved criminal defendants have been granted access to the courts in bringing federal civil rights claims for such failures. Various courts have held that it violates clearly established law to fail to disclose Brady material. (*Newsome v. McCabe*, 256 F.3d 747, 752-3 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir., 2001).

These rules have become more relevant as more cases of police misconduct have been appearing in the courts.



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## HEATHER COX RICHARDSON November 10, 2021

Reprinted from online document published on November 10, 2021

Today, in a joint press conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the U.S. is "concerned by reports of unusual Russian military activity," which it is "monitoring very closely" out of concern that Russia might invade Ukraine again as it did in 2014.

Russia has been building up troops near the border, and Russian leaders have been talking more forcefully about asserting control over Ukraine.

The Biden administration is taking the apparent change in Russia's posture seriously. It has reached out to European allies . . . to share specific information about Russian activities. "The administration is very, very concerned—this is the most concerned I've heard them about Russia in a really, really long time," one diplomat told Natasha Bertrand, Jim Sciutto, and Kylie Atwood of CNN. "I wouldn't underestimate this. They're doing a massive outreach to raise awareness...."

The administration is also trying to deescalate the tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Earlier this month, Biden sent a team of senior U.S. officials, led by CIA Director William J. Burns, to Russia to meet with officials there. After the meeting, Burns called Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky to assure him of U.S. support. The U.S. also made it a point to have Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Dr. Karen Donfried, visit Kyiv "to reaffirm our strategic partnership, the U.S. commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and cooperation to advance Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration."

In his own meeting with Ukraine officials today, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan "emphasized the United States' unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity." The struggle between the U.S. and Russia about Ukraine's future is a proxy war between authoritarianism and democracy.

Ukraine was part of the USSR until the USSR fell apart in 1991. After that, Ukraine remained under the sway of the Russian oligarchs who rose to replace the region's communist leaders, monopolizing formerly publicly held industries as those industries were privatized.

In 2004, a Russian-backed politician, Viktor Yanukovich, appeared to be elected president of Ukraine. But Yanukovich was rumored to have ties to organized crime, and the election was so full of fraud—including the poisoning of a key rival who wanted to break ties with Russia and align Ukraine with Europe—that the government voided the election and called for a do-over. Yanukovich needed a makeover fast, and for that he called on a political consultant with a reputation for making unsavory characters palatable to the media: Paul Manafort, the same man who went on to lead Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

For ten years, from 2004 to 2014, Manafort worked for Yanukovich and his party, trying to make what the U.S. State Department called a party of "mobsters and oligarchs" look legitimate. In 2010, Yanukovich finally won the presidency on a platform of rejecting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), through which Europe and the U.S. joined together to oppose first the USSR, and then the rising threat of Russia. Immediately, Yanukovich turned Ukraine toward Russia. In 2014, after months of popular protests, Ukrainians ousted Yanukovich from power in what is known as the *Revolution of Dignity*. He fled to Russia.

Shortly after Yanukovich's ouster, Russia invaded Ukraine's Crimea and annexed it, prompting the United States and the European Union to impose economic sanctions on Russia itself and also on specific Russian businesses and oligarchs, prohibiting them from doing business in U.S. territories. These sanctions have crippled Russia and frozen the assets of key Russian oligarchs, including Russian president Vladimir Putin. (Con.6)

## HEATHER COX RICHARDSON (Continued from page 5.)

Desperate to get the sanctions lifted, Putin helped get Trump elected, and American policy swung his way as Trump attacked NATO and the European Union, weakened our ties to our traditional European allies, and threatened to withdraw our support for Ukraine.

Now, though, the Biden administration has renewed support for Ukraine and its move toward stronger ties to NATO and the European Union, while it is also cracking down on the cybercrime that has enhanced Russian power.

So, with Germany's Angela Merkel finishing up her career, France's Emmanuel Macron five months out from an election, and Biden trying to deal with an insurrection, it is not a bad time for Putin to test NATO's resolve and see if it will, indeed, hang together against his expansion.

Horrifically, to destabilize the EU and NATO further, Russia and its ally Belarus are weaponizing migrants.

According to Elisabeth Braw, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute who is a specialist on the region, Belarus officials are promising people eager to leave the Middle East that they can move easily from Belarus to Poland or other EU countries. (Belarus is currently running 55 "tourist" flights a week from the Middle East.) Once the migrants arrive in Minsk, officials push them across the borders of neighboring EU countries Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania, which try to force them back, creating a humanitarian crisis in what are now freezing conditions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko are well aware that migrants spark right-wing opposition: Hungary's Viktor Orbán and America's Donald Trump both took power by inflaming fears of migrants. Lukashenko vowed to "flood the EU with migrants and drugs," this May after the outcry when he downed a plane crossing Belarusian territory in order to abduct dissident journalist Roman Protasevich and his girlfriend Sofia Sapega.

"This is not normal asylum seekers, that seek the protection of Europe fleeing war, dictatorship. These are groups of people . . . flown to Minsk, . . . put in buses, . . . escorted by Belarusian police and special forces, pushed to the border and pushed into the European Union," European Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas told CNN . . . "This is not a normal migratory movement. This is a hybrid attack."

Poland is a NATO country, as are . . . Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, and much of this chaos appears to be taking place in a narrow sliver of Poland known as the *Suwalki Gap* that separates Belarus from the Russian territory of Kaliningrad. Mark Hertling, Commanding General of US Army Europe and the Seventh Army from March 2011 to November 2012, tweeted "any misstep by Polish borders forces create the opportunity for Russia to 'defend Russians' in K-grad while marching forces into the Baltic countries of Latvia/Lithuania/Estonia (all NATO members)."

Tonight, Fox News' Tucker Carlson echoed Russian talking points when he asked Representative Mike Turner (R-OH) why the U.S. would side with Ukraine over Russia. Turner noted that Ukraine is a democracy, "Russia is an authoritarian regime," and that America is "for democracy, not for authoritarian regimes." Carlson reiterated his belief, that the U.S. should choose Russia.

The answer to why America should side with Ukraine's democracy instead of Russian authoritarianism came in a recent letter from 52 writers, journalists, artists, activists, and political figures who have dissented from authoritarian regimes. They begged the U.S. to defend our democracy and thus reinforce democracy around the world. "If the world's leading democracy doesn't believe in its own values, why should dictators even bother paying lip service to them? We must defend these principles that inspire advocates of liberty and provide a crucial check on tyrants."

# DCWC HOLIDAY PARTY

*Please join us for an evening of fun.*



Sunday, December 5, 2021 5 to 8 p.m.

Verrazano Room, Dunes Manor Hotel, Ocean City, MD

Cost \$50 per person      Cash Bar

Entertainment Shirley Toms at the piano

MENU CHOICES Include CHICKEN MARSALA, STUFFED FLOUNDER, CENTER CUT SIRLOIN STEAK, and VEGETABLE PRIMAVERA with ASSORTED DESSERTS & COFFEE

## RESERVATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ # OF TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_

CHOICE OF ENTREE: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala                      Stuffed Flounder \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 \_\_\_\_\_ Center Cut Sirloin Steak                      \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Primavera

Amount enclosed equals # of tickets x \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to DCWC and sent, along with this form, to: Harriet Batis

38032 Bayview Circle West  
Selbyville, Delaware 19975

Event sponsored by the Democratic Club of Worcester County.

# MORE THAN SNIPPETS

## NEWS YOU NEED TO SEE GATHERED FROM A FACEBOOK FEED

**Hannah Drake**  
**@HannahDrake628**

**Someone said “imagine your history being so horrible you want to ban people from learning it.”**

**Marinate on that.**

**Happy Native American Heritage Month**

**This is a reminder that Native people are not extinct!**

**We are people recovering from genocide and are still fighting for recognition, rights, our lands, and for the well-being of the Earth.**

**Do not talk about us as past people.**

**We are still here.**

@chakabake



**Political Polls**  
**@Politics\_Polls**

Lowering Medicare prescription drug prices:

Support: 88%

Oppose: 12%

Medicare coverage for dental/eye/hearing

Support: 84%

Oppose: 16%

Paid family and medical leave

Support: 73%

Oppose: 27%

Universal Pre -K for children

Support: 67%

Oppose: 33%

**Only 9% of U.S. dads get paid paternity leave.**

CALLING ON MEMBERS! CALL YOUR  
FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, COLLEAGUES  
TO JOIN US IN THE DCWC!

## **PHONE A FRIEND! INVITE THEM TO JOIN!**

Dear Members & Friends of the Democratic Club of Worcester County:

We are asking you to extend an invitation to your like-minded friends, neighbors, and colleagues throughout Worcester County to join us in the Democratic Club of Worcester County! Along with other local Democratic clubs, the DCWC strives to make a difference in the county, the state, and the nation by engaging in positive political action. Membership dues are \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a couple.

DCWC regularly meets the 4th Thursday of the month. In-person meetings resumed in September. Meetings are held in the Assateague Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bring a mask, social distance, and enjoy the guest speaker. For more information contact President Vicky Wallace at [vick1947@aol.com](mailto:vick1947@aol.com)

If you are already a member, but not sure you have paid your 2022 membership dues, contact Tom Butler at [thomasebutler@mediacombb.net](mailto:thomasebutler@mediacombb.net)

## DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY

The Democratic Club of Worcester County is organized to unite Democrats across the county. DCWC's regular meeting time is the 4th Thursday of every month in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

With the drive to seat more Democrats in our local and state governments and to increase the number of Democrats in the House and Senate, we must work together. Democracy itself is on the line. If you are a member, we ask that you renew your membership now for 2022. Send in your membership application renewal by completing the form below and mailing it, along with your check made out to DCWC. Send to DCWC, P.O. Box 1664, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Dues are fifteen dollars (\$15) for a single membership and twenty-five dollars (\$25) for a family membership.

**PLEASE JOIN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THE EASTERN SHORE!**

### 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Primary Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ (H) Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

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

# VOTE BLUE IN ' 22 WINEGLASSES

DCWC NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS

FOR 14 OUNCE "Vote Blue In' 22" WINEGLASSES



With the original order of our 10 ounce Libby blue wineglasses sold out, the Democratic Club of Worcester County is taking new orders for clear glass wine / water glasses. If you are interested in making a purchase of one or more "Vote Blue in '22" with Democratic donkey image glasses, please fill in the form below. Give me, when the glass is hand delivered, **a check made out to DCWC** (Democratic Club of Worcester County) for a glass at \$ 20.00 each.

Provide your name, address both street and Email with your order. Orders will be hand delivered to your doorstep.

**Email your order to Frank Fox at [fox65917@gmail.com](mailto:fox65917@gmail.com) 757-824-4023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Wineglasses: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

I am not conspiracy-minded. Of course I have had days when it seemed the entire universe was conspiring against me, but not literally. I knew the universe didn't even know I was here, so how could it possibly be arranging things simply to piss me off? SO, it is difficult for me to understand those who are not only conspiracy-minded, but conspiracy-minded in the extreme.

Take, for example, the people who showed up in Dallas, Texas, at Dealey Plaza no less, to wait for JFK, Jr. to appear, declare himself a Republican (not to mention not being dead), and announce his candidacy for Vice-President on a ticket with (*ewww, shudder, shudder*) Donal J. Trump in 2024. They waited. And they waited. And when JFK, Jr. remained absent (and still dead after 20 years), they realized, "Oh, he's not coming here. He's going to the Rolling Stones concert, so let's head over there." And so they did. To wait. And wait and wait.

Now, I do understand that there are plenty of people who believe the Rolling Stones have, collectively and individually, some sort of super power. Look at Keith Richards. It is a bit of a stretch, however, to believe the Rolling Stones can resurrect JFK, JR. as easily as "Jumpin' Jack Flash."

All of the above did happen, and fairly recently. Someone, probably on the internet, spread a rumor that turned into a conspiracy theory that JFK, Jr., did not die in a plane crash 20 years ago, but has remained sight unseen for two decades before deciding to reveal himself, and as a changed man, declare himself a newly baptized Republican in order to help re-elect the worst President in the history of the United States.

How do people come to believe such a conspiracy theory, a theory such as that one? Not only to believe it, but to act on that belief?

There have been conspiracies, actual conspiracies, the legal definition of which is: *An agreement between two or more people to commit an illegal act along with an intent to achieve the agreement's goal.* ([www.law.cornell.edu](http://www.law.cornell.edu))

While there is no evidence, none, that JFK, Jr. is alive and well and a Republican (in which case one could hardly say he was 'well'), there is a large trove of evidence of a conspiracy to overthrow the duly elected government of the United States, evidence including personal testimonies, video footage, footage from live TV coverage, insurrectionists' selfies, internet admissions of guilt with lots of bragging and bravado, hotel receipts, confiscated weapons, etc., etc., yet those same believers in outrageous, incredibly bizarre, even fantastical conspiracy theories - Jewish space lasers, baby-

## Mini-Calendar

### Thursday, November 18

DCWC in-person meeting  
Assateague Room, OP Community Center, 6:00 p.m.

Speakers: Reps from Diakonia

### Thursday, December 2

Democratic Women's Luncheon  
Ocean Pines Yacht Club 11 a.m.

### Sunday, December 5

DCWC Holiday Dinner  
Dunes Manor Hotel. 5 - 8 p.m.

### Monday, December 13

DWC PAC Meeting via Zoom  
2 p.m.

eating Dems, a pedophile ring in a non-existent D.C. pizza parlor basement, Bill Gates microchipping us through Covid vaccines, etc. - the rabidly conspiracy-minded do not see the January 6th attack on the Capitol as being in the least conspiratorial when that increasingly looks like an actual legal conspiracy. There is very little hope that new information coming to light everyday - War Room at the Willard Hotel, an admission by Trump indicating he must have been in contact with members of Congress during the siege, his own words praising the insurrectionists' attack, his refusal to call them off, he and his minions delaying a National Guard response, none of that will be sufficient proof of a conspiracy to them. But, somewhere, somehow, sometime soon JFK, Jr. will return, alive and well and join the Republican Party.