



# NEWSLETTER

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



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# Reorganizing, Refreshing, Renewing.

*Join fellow Democrats in Reconvening the Worcester County Democratic Club with Energy and Resolve in this Time of Crisis, a Time that Demands Resistance, Commitment, and Dedication to the Ideals and Principles of Democracy on which Our Nation was built.*

The Democratic Club of Worcester County is “rebooting” after a brief hiatus. Now, more than ever, we need the voices of citizens who are registered Democrats, registered Independents who lean Democratic, and disillusioned Republicans to join a chorus of voices speaking up and out on behalf of our beleaguered nation and Constitution. In a time of crisis, it is imperative that organizations form, exist, and flourish in the effort it will take to overcome voter suppression, gerrymandering, constant assaults on the free press, court-packing, blatant lying and corruption, the stealing of elections and power, the steady erosion of the middle class and the ceaseless redistribution of wealth to the top 10%, maybe 1%, already the wealthiest in the land.

It is in such times of existential threats to the health and security of not only the United States, but the world, that we need to find ways to come together to actively fight against the degradation of what was once the model democracy for the world. These are loud voices we are fighting against. We must be louder, bolder, and more relentless if we are to save ourselves and this country not only from the medical pandemic the world is facing, but from the pandemic of populism that threatens us as well. Join us and celebrate democracy while fighting for it.

## Officers 2020-2021

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

*Executive Board*  
Rosie Bean, *Communications*  
Harriet Batis & Tim Tarr,  
*Ways and Means*  
Gwen Lehman, *Editor*  
*DCWC Newsletter*



# A Message from Your President

Tom Butler, President, DCWC



Greetings valued Democrat:

Certainly we are in unprecedented times. The novel coronavirus pandemic has crippled this country as nothing in our lifetimes. I sincerely hope that everyone is healthy and safe sheltered in place and when out and about taking the recommended safety procedures of social distancing, wearing face masks and gloves, and using disinfectants on surfaces you may have touched. My expectation is that even if the Governor begins to open up the state, until there is much more COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and procedures to isolate, we will need the use of safety procedures for a protracted period of time.

Please let me introduce myself for those who may not know me, my name is Tom Butler. I am the president of the board. I am a retired federal employee having spent my career of 43 years at NASA. I am also on the Worcester County Democratic Central Committee (DCCWC) and am a past president of the Democratic Club of Worcester County (DCWC). I am pleased to introduce the rest of the board and committee chairs: Vicky Wallace is Vice-President, Jan Nissen-Hawkins is Treasurer, Larry Batis is Secretary, and Tom Wieland, Frank Fox, and Don Grace are At-Large Board Members. I am very lucky that every one of these folks is a seasoned board member. Our committee chairs are: Harriet Batis and Charles (Tim) Tarr are Ways & Means, Rosie Bean is Communications, and Gwen Lehman is Newsletter.

Your club is in the process of rebuilding. Over the last couple of years, membership has declined, but with this new board we are committed to reenergizing the club. To that end, we are working to increase membership. If you have not already, you should receive a membership letter from Vicky. Please help us by sending in your dues and membership form and be sure to include your email address and cell phone number.

In the current situation, rebuilding has not been easy. Our planned Dunes Manor candidate forum had to be cancelled and the general meetings are postponed. Like many other organizations, the Board has had and will continue to have virtual meetings. We are attempting to establish a virtual candidate forum. Concerning our general meeting, we are working on general meetings for May and June and there is every likelihood that one or both of these will also be virtual. There will be more information on these forthcoming.

I hope you enjoy our Newsletter and find it entertaining and informative. If you have any suggestions for an article or an article to submit, please send it to Gwen Lehman at [gwenlehman@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenlehman@yahoo.com).

Be healthy and safe.

Tom Butler  
DCWC President

## JOIN US ONLINE MAY 28 AT 7 PM FIRST EVER VIRTUAL MEETING OF DCWC



The Democratic Club of Worcester County will hold its first virtual general meeting on Thursday, May 28th at 7 pm. DCWC will be welcoming Jake Burdett as the evening's speaker. Jake is a progressive activist and president of The Salisbury College Democrats. The meeting will be via ZOOM. ZOOM dial-in information will follow shortly and may be accessed on our website.



**Jake Burdett** President of The Salisbury College Democrats & Progressive Activist Jake is a 22-year-old recently-graduated Political Science Major and Economics minor from Salisbury University. While Jake is originally from Howard County, he quickly got involved with local Democratic Party & Progressive politics on the Eastern Shore after transferring here in 2017. He now serves as Co-President of the Salisbury University College Democrats, as well as VP of the MD College Democrats. Jake also briefly served as Vice Chair of the Wicomico County Democratic Central Committee, where he was the youngest elected Central Committee member in the state. Some of you may have met Jake through his work in 2018 in Worcester County as campaign manager of Dr. Kirkland Hall, who was running for State Delegate at the time. Most recently, Jake served as the Secretary for Maryland for Bernie Sanders throughout the 2020 campaign. Jake is currently running in the Maryland primary as a delegate for the Sanders campaign in MD District 1. Jake is involved with The Maryland Progressive Healthcare Coalition, pressuring house majority whip Rep. Steny Hoyer to support Rep. Pramila Jayapal's new COVID-19 response bill. Jake plans to continue his activism in order to bring young people into the Democratic Party and to push for progressive legislation and ideals for a better future through policies like Medicare for All & A Green New Deal.

## DCWC TO HOST VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUM

\*\*\* May 23 at 7 pm on ZOOM \*\*\*

The two candidates currently vying for the First District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives Mia Mason and Jennifer Pingley will be join us on Zoom for a virtual candidate forum. The date is Saturday, May 23. The time is 7 pm. The Zoom dial-in for this event will be published through the DCWC website and will be sent to DCWC members. If you have not joined DCWC or renewed your membership, membership information is included in this newsletter.

# UPDATE: Maryland's Primary Election

by Don Grace

The 2020 presidential primary election originally scheduled for April 28th has been moved to **June 2nd**. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters in Worcester County (approximately 42,000) beginning the week of April 27 with all ballots being in the mail by May 1st. *You do not need to ask for a ballot to receive one.*

Your ballot will be mailed to the address the Board of Elections currently has on file for you. If you want your ballot mailed to another address or to download it, visit the Maryland Board of Elections website, [Absentee Voting page](#). All mailed ballots will include a return envelope and prepaid postage. Completed ballots must be postmarked on or before **Tuesday, June 2, 2020**.

Worcester County voters who prefer to drop off their ballots can do so at designated ballot drop off locations beginning May 21st through June 2nd. Ballot drop off boxes will be located outside Berlin Intermediate School on Franklin Avenue in Berlin and outside the office of the Board of Elections, 200 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill.

There will be in-person voting for voters who cannot vote by mail at Berlin Intermediate School, 309 Franklin Avenue, on June 2 from 7 am until 8 pm. All voters, however, are encouraged to vote by mail in order to reduce the risk of possible exposure to COVID19.

Due to the high volume of calls expected by the Worcester County Board of Elections (WCBOE), the State Board of Elections (SBOE) has hired a call center to begin taking calls to WCBOE on May 1st. They will be able to answer routine questions and will forward pertinent calls to WCBOE. This will allow WCBOE to begin processing returned ballots.

The canvass (counting) of the mail-in ballots can begin on May 21st, as long as at least 500 ballots have been returned. The canvass will be held daily until June 12th, depending on the number of ballots returned and the rate of processing ballots during the canvass. More details will be shared once the SBOE has developed its procedures. The canvass is open to the public and will be live streamed on the internet.

## Maryland June 2nd Primary Vote by Mail

**Your ballot will be mailed to you automatically if you are registered to vote. Make sure your voter registration is up to date.**

### When you get your ballot:

- **Fill it out.**
- **Mail it back.**



Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County, MD. [DWCMD.org](http://DWCMD.org)

**MAIL IN  
YOUR  
BALLOT.  
VOTE &  
VOTE BLUE  
ALL THE  
WAY  
THROUGH!**



# MIA MASON

Democratic candidate for US House of Representatives for Maryland's First Congressional District

Mia Mason is a 20-year military veteran, who has served in the Navy, Army, and DC National Guard. Mia served with moral courage, honor, and commitment by working to protect her fellow soldiers from danger. Mia completed her military career by serving in the DC National Guard.

After leaving the military, Mia started working with Advocacy Groups and has worked to advance the Civil Rights of all. She has opposed the discriminatory policies of President Trump, including being a speaker at the 2018 Women's March in Washington, DC. Mia has chosen to take the next step in her journey by helping others door to door. Her driving force is to do good, provide proper representation, and restore equity with equality. She has always served others and looks to serve the people of Maryland next.

## POSITION STATEMENT

I have served my community as a nurse since 2008. I have worked hospital pediatrics to adult ICU, critical care transport, observation services, school nursing and occupational health. . . . Being a nurse gives me a unique perspective on many social problems. You can always expect that health and safety will be my first concerns with any legislation I consider. I will fight to preserve the basic human rights to clean air and clean water. I will fight to keep and strengthen institutions that protect the average person such as EPA and trade unions. I vow never to put the interests of business over the health and safety of people.

In the end, I'm just a normal person . . . trying to solve the problems of everyday people. I do that best by drawing from my core as a nurse and an advocate. The only difference between my advocacy yesterday and my advocacy today, is that my patient population now encompasses the entirety of Maryland's First Congressional District.

I look forward to serving by your side.



# Jennifer Pingley, RN

Democratic candidate for US House of Representatives for Maryland's First Congressional District

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Dear Friends of the Democratic Club of Worcester County:

As a new member of the Board of Directors of the DCWC, I am asking for your help to get our club up and running again. As past, and hopefully, future members, we are asking that you take this opportunity to renew your membership. Memberships are available for \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a couple. 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 have it extended through December 31, 2021 as well. Mail your check to the DCWC, Post Office 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](mailto:redhatmum6@gmail.com).

Remember, we still meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 for coffee and conversation. Our program/speaker begins at 7:00. We hope to see you at our next meeting, maybe May. Our Newsletter is expected to hit the streets by mid-May. Check your email for your copy.

Because of the in-home quarantine, the DCWC had to cancel all its activities, including the District One Candidate Forum at the Dunes, our March and April General meetings and our speakers. All Democratic Clubs have suspended activities which have been used to fundraise for the upcoming election. June 2nd is the rescheduled primary election. At this time, our next DCWC scheduled fund raiser is the Labor Day Picnic. The Spirit of the Party Breakfast, sponsored by the Democratic Central Committee, is scheduled for October 17 in Snow Hill. We will share information as it becomes available.

Stay safe and thank you for your support.

Vicky Wallace,  
Vice President, DCWC  
410-208-2969/[Vick1947@aol.com](mailto:Vick1947@aol.com)

2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER 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

# TRUMP AND HIS ASSAULT ON THE CONSTITUTION

By Steve Cohen

President Donald Trump has threatened to do something no president has ever done: formally adjourn Congress—that is, end Congress’s current session and force it into a recess—for the express purpose of installing his own people in federal jobs (possibly even judgeships) without having to follow the normal process of Senate confirmation. Doing so would subvert America’s constitutional design.

Begin with the Declaration of Independence. One of the complaints leveled against King George III was that he had “dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly.” Having witnessed that abuse, the Framers did not give a president the power to force Congress into recess whenever he wants. Instead, as Alexander Hamilton explained in [Federalist No. 69](#), “the President can only adjourn the national legislature in the single case of disagreement about the time of adjournment.” The Constitution grants the president the power to adjourn Congress only in the narrow, tie-breaking circumstance when the House and the Senate themselves disagree on the “time of adjournment.” There is no such disagreement at this time.

At a recent briefing, President Trump made an assertion that likely would have surprised the framers of the U.S. Constitution: that as president, his authority is “total” and that he has the power to order states — which have told businesses to close and people to remain at home to limit the spread of the coronavirus — to reopen. “When somebody’s the president of the United States, the authority is total,” he said.

“Trump has no authority to ease social distancing, or to open schools or private businesses,” said Kathleen Bergin, a professor at Cornell Law School. “These are matters for states to decide under their power to promote public health and welfare, a power guaranteed by the [10th Amendment](#) to the Constitution. Despite what he claims, no president has absolute authority over domestic policy, and he certainly has no power to override the type of measures that have been taken across the country that have proved successful in flattening the curve. It’s so plain and obvious it’s not even debatable,” Bergin added.

In July, 2019, President Trump [said he believes](#) the U.S. Constitution gives him “the right to do whatever I want as president.” On Constitution Day, students learn otherwise. Students who study the Constitution learn that [Article II, Section 1](#) does not, in fact, give the president unlimited power. It grants the president “executive power” but also says Congress has oversight responsibilities, including over the office of the presidency, and it details how a president can be removed.

Trump has made scathing remarks about the 229 year-old Constitution, singling out for special scorn its insistence on three branches of government. “The branches thing is maybe the worst part of this deal,” he said. “The first thing we do when we pull out of the Constitution is get rid of two of those branches.”

## Got a Business, A Cause, A Non-Profit You'd Like To Promote? Run a PROMO in our Newsletter!

The Newsletter of the Democratic Club of Worcester County is going to begin running one-quarter page to one-eighth of a page (1/4 - 1/8th) promotions/advertisements for local businesses, charitable causes, and non-profits. If you are a small business owner, have a charitable cause for which you would like to raise funds, are a member of a club seeking members, or are a local non-profit seeking to promote the work that you do for our community, you may send an electronic copy of your promotion/advertisement to [gwenlehman@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenlehman@yahoo.com) for inclusion in our newsletter. When your promotion/ad is run in a monthly newsletter, you will receive an invoice in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for a quarter page promo or \$15 for an 1/8th of a page promo. Payment will then be due to DCWC and sent DCWC, P.O.Box 1664, Berlin, MD 21811.

## FLIP Mission Statement

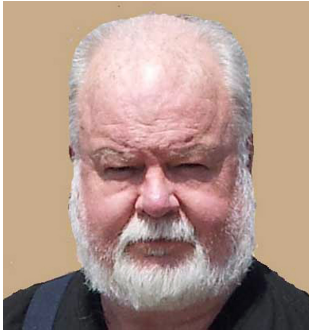
FLIP Is an acronym. What it stands for is Feminist, Liberals, Independents & Progressives. Our goal is to be more than a political group. We want to start a conversation and a movement. FLIP is meant to be a safe haven for Millennials and Generation Zs to have friendly debate and discussion, to be informed of the new and our current political climate, to reflect on how a variety of issues affect our lives, as well as their impact on our local community and country. FLIP intends to be involved in political and environmental activism and protests nationally. FLIP also intends to do community outreach and activism. We want to network with Democratic clubs and political organizations in Worcester and Wicomico counties. FLIP wants to get involved in the upcoming election cycle, which means registering first time voters and the younger generation. FLIP also intends to get involved with campaigning and volunteering for Democratic candidates locally and nationally. Overall, our main mission is to make a positive change, to be a voice for the younger generation, to get them involved in politics, so they are informed on issues. Finally, we want to FLIP THE CONVERSATION!

ELISE ROSE BEAN



#LET'S FLIP THECONVERSATION





# VERIFIABLE

A monthly contribution from JOE BEGGS

*Editor's Note: In a series of four monthly articles, local political commentator Joe Beggs will attempt to answer the question WHY? Why does Trump's "base" think he's so great? Why are Republicans silent when Trump does the inexplicable things he does? Why does Trump get by with open corruption? And most importantly, why do the rich and the huge corporations support him at every turn? The answers make a lot of sense, but they will not come as a "great revelation." We've known it all along.*

## TRUMP'S BASE

If we were able to peer into the minds of a large segment of our adult population during President Obama's 8 years in office, you would see anger and resentment. The only way to understand this state of mind is to do a brief look at its cause.

At least 40% of the citizens of the United States grew up in an all-white environment, or close to it, and those of brown and black extraction there were assumed to be a lower class. In the South, African-Americans had been considered inferior for hundreds of years. The idea of blacks even voting was unheard of until the 20th century. This resulted in a deep-seated cultural racism, which persists to this day.

When Barack Obama was elected President, it was just as depressing to that 40% as it was to the rest of us when Trump was elected. As the base was simmering in resentment during Obama's two terms, so we are furious during Trump's term. The 40% were angry because Obama was black. We are angry because of Trump's immorality and incompetence. Only one of those views is logical.

During a news program a few weeks ago, Michael Steele, former chairman of the RNC, in discussing Trump's base, stated, "It's all about payback." In other words, they were saying, "we'll teach you to elect a black man president."

"The base" loves Trump because he's "just like us," namely resentful of all persons who are not white.

Concluding: As long as cultural racism is a political factor, politicians like Donald Trump, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, former Senator and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham will continue to make life miserable for all of us, because Trump's base will come out in droves to vote for them.

**Next month:** *The silence of the Republican Party*

# SAVE THE DATE



# LABOR DAY

## PICNIC

September 7, 2020 12 NOON to 3 PM

White Horse Park, Ocean Pines

**GUEST SPEAKERS - GREAT FOOD - GOOD TIMES**

*Celebrating the Essential Worker*



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### Worcester County Democrats 16th Annual SPIRIT of the PARTY Breakfast

OCTOBER 17, 2020

8:30 AM

Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Department

Meeting Center

4718 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill, MD



PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, FRUIT, JUICE & COFFEE ~ GOOD FOOD, GOOD TIMES, GOOD POLITICS! SEVERAL FEATURED SPEAKERS

\$20 per person for Worcester County Democratic Club members, members of the Democratic Central Committee, and THEIR partners and GUESTS.

\$25 per person for Non-Members of a Worcester County Democratic Club

# It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

One of the worst, and there are so many *worst* things about the current state of affairs in our culture, is how this Administration models, supports, and promotes some of the worst human traits. Let's start with IGNORANCE. That Trump himself is ignorant is only too obvious. His ignorance gives permission to his supporters to not only be as ignorant as he is, but to remain ignorant as well. His debasing of legitimate news sources, his refusal to learn or to listen to experts, his disputes with scientists, his insistence that he knows more than doctors, generals, research scientists, academic scholars, investigators, our own intelligence community, other world leaders, authorities on any subject, all this has raised the level of American anti-intellectualism to new heights. It is almost unfathomable how little he knows, even about the office he holds, and yet his followers love him for it. They can embrace their own ignorance now in ways they'd hardly dreamed possible.

Then there's XENOPHOBIA and its first cousin RACISM. Demonizing and hating *the other*, he's good at it. It seems to thrill him: throwing barbs, hurling insults, blaming. Nothing is ever his fault, and thus by extension, it isn't the fault of his supporters, either. So who should we fault? If we could just keep immigrants out, especially immigrants of color, well, then we'd have a nation we could be proud of. His rhetoric and his policies have emboldened Republican congresspeople along with his supporters to openly display xenophobic and racist attitudes. One result: immigrant children as young as 2 and 3-years old are representing themselves at immigration hearings. American has become okay with that. And there's no longer any shame in openly proclaiming that you are a white supremacist. They hold rallies to let us know they're here. The KKK endorses Trump and he doesn't mind. Our fellow Americans are wallowing in what they see as their new-found freedom to express xenophobic and racist attitudes openly.

And let's not forget RUDENESS, thinly disguised as scorn for *political correctness*. What it actually is, you know, is the hellish freedom to be as rude as you want to anybody who disagrees with you, gets in your way, or whom you personally dislike. The President of the United States, after all, spews vitriol in barrages of tweets and never pays a price for it. Why can't you? 45 has become our Commander-in-Chief of the Petty Grievance & Insult, insults that are at their core saying, "Poor me, why can't I get any respect?" In this atmosphere, nobody can. Thank Trump for that, if you still thank anyone. He's brought out the devil in us and there'll be hell to pay for it. Of course, that hell is already here.

## Mini-Calendar

### May 28

Virtual General Meeting

7:00 pm online

### June 2

MD Primary Election

### September 7

Labor Day Picnic

Noon to 3 White Horse Park, OP

### October 17

Spirit of the Party Breakfast

8:30 AM SH Fire Department

### November 3

General Election

## Tweet of the Month

@realDonaldTrump



The people that know me and know the history of our country say that I am the hardest working President in history. I don't know about that, but I am a hard worker and have probably gotten more done in the first 3 1/2 years than any President in history. The Fake News hates it!

