



THE

M

D

C

Promoting progressive values since 1956
www.metrodems.org

MAY 2018

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

mark your Calendar

May 9 – MDC meeting
Making Retirement Security Real for Everyone

May 9 – an MDC soiree
See Soiree, page three for details

May 23 – MDC meeting
Emerge Washington – Recruiting and Training Democratic Women to Run for Office

Karen Besserman, executive director of Emerge Washington

June 10 – A Chautauqua Afternoon
Noon – 5 pm at the home of Ann and Tony Martin, 3618 SW Orchard. See page four for more information.

June 13 – MDC meeting
On the 2018 elections

Ron Dotzauer, co-founder and chief executive officer of Strategies 360 and renowned political campaign consultant.

June 27 – MDC meeting
Primary endorsement proceedings led by MDC Vice President Jack Whisner.

July 11 – MDC meeting
Initiative 940 and Police Use of Deadly Force; the Inside Story of How Police and the Community Finally Came Together.

Representative Roger Goodman, chair of house committee on public safety and MDC member.

August 22 – MDC meeting
Housing in Seattle: Will the Grand Bargain Actually Produce More Affordable Housing?

Roger Valdez, director of Seattle For Growth, and Sarajane Siegfriedt, a 25-year low-income housing advocate and MDC member.

Sep 26 – MDC meeting
General endorsement proceedings led by MDC Vice President Jack Whisner

MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30 pm, the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St unless otherwise noted.



Jane Sisk, right, offers her thoughts on financing Initiative 1600 at the April 25 meeting of the MDC. Shown on her right is Charles Davis.

Felleman explains Port's green goals

The Port of Seattle Commission has created a 2018 Energy and Sustainability Committee, Port Commissioner Fred Felleman told the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its April 11 meeting. The role of the committee, co-chaired by Mr Felleman and Commissioner Ryan Calkins, is to further the goal of the Port's Century Agenda's to "be the greenest and most energy-efficient Port in North America."

The specific priorities of the committee, Mr Felleman explained, are advancing the use of sustainable aviation fuels, launching an aquatic carbon sequestration pilot program with the University of Washington, establishing a sustainable evaluation framework for project reviews, and updating the Port's environmental awards.

Mr Felleman, an environmental professional who was first elected to the Port Commission in 2015, stressed that the Port is striving to be a good neighbor and to be seen as a "contributor to the common good." He is a member of the MDC.



I-1600 would save \$9 billion annually

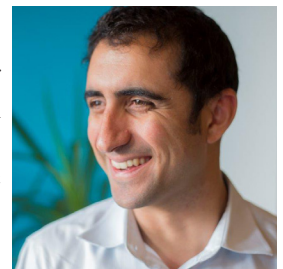
How we would transition from current healthcare insurance practices to universal healthcare is not entirely clear, Sara So told the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle during her April 25 presentation on Initiative 1600. The organization she represents, Whole Washington, has drafted this initiative for universal healthcare for Washington residents and is in the process of gathering signatures to get it on the November ballot. Ms So is vice chair of Whole Washington's initiative writing committee.

The funding mechanism, which has been devised by a noted economist, Ms So said, will save the state over \$9 billion annually.

At the end of the presentation, a motion was made to adopt an edited version of a template resolution endorsing the initiative. The resolution will be distributed to members prior to the next meeting (May 9), when a vote will be taken.

Walkinshaw to be keynote speaker

Brady Walkinshaw will deliver the keynote speech at the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's fifth annual Chautauqua Afternoon, June 10. A former state legislator, he is chief executive officer of Grist, a leading national environmental media organization based in Seattle.



Brady Walkinshaw

Seattle City Councilmember Debora Juarez and MDC Vice President Jack Whisner will serve as masters of ceremonies at the event.

The event takes place noon – 5 pm at 3718 SW Orchard St, Seattle. See page 4 for more information on A Chautauqua Afternoon.



Letter to the editor

- taxing investments as a funding strategy for I-1600

Dear editor

This is a followup to the discussion, at the April 25 meeting, of the financing proposed in Initiative 1600.

The healthcare system proposed by the initiative would be funded with a 1% income tax and an 8.5% tax on investment products, which presumably means stock portfolios and capital gains. Pension plans and other retirement plans would be exempt.

Lem Howell pointed out that the tax on investment products is double taxation. Another issue is that pension plans are based on stock portfolios. Anyone fortunate enough to have a pension is getting a monthly check based on a portfolio handled by pension fund managers. Monthly income from those effortless, no-brainer portfolios, and everything in those portfolios, would be exempt from the investment tax.

Those not lucky enough to have a pension may still have a stock portfolio to provide retirement income, but that portfolio will require personal management—which requires some effort—and income from that portfolio would be subject to the investment tax.

Lem also pointed out there are different types of retirement plans. Some are “formal” retirement plans, and some are de facto plans. Income from the de facto plans would be subject to the 8.5% tax—on top of the income tax.

If stock portfolios are to be taxed, then stock portfolios from the various retirement plans should be evaluated and taxed just like those in the de facto plans.

An easy way around this “mess” is the income tax—which would tax pension checks and income from de facto plans the same way. I-1600 includes an income tax on all income. The easiest “fix” is to drop the investment tax—which would also eliminate

the problem of double taxation.

On a related note, several weeks ago Maralyn Chase mentioned that she will propose adding stock portfolios and perhaps other assets to home values and levying the property tax on everything under that umbrella—but she would exclude retirement plans. This proposal is fraught with the same problem.

Once again, if stock portfolios are to be taxed, then stock portfolios from the various retirement plans should be evaluated and taxed just like those in the de facto plans. Doing anything else lets those lucky enough to have a pension “off the hook” and taxes those unlucky enough to have to purchase and manage their own stock portfolio. It could even force those without a pension to sell some stock just to pay the taxes.

I believe those with a pension or other retirement plan are often those who have had more income and more stable employment—and these are the folks who would not pay the investment tax. Those without a formal retirement plan would pay the investment tax—which would be yet another regressive tax.

My own situation is an excellent example. One of my high school classmates spent most of his career as state employee and has an excellent pension. He has asked about my income. My answer is always the same: I live on very little money.

I’ve had to create my own “retirement plan”—such as it is. Yet I could be required to pay the investment taxes specified by I-1600 and in Maralyn’s proposed plans—and my classmate, with his excellent retirement income, would be exempt.

The speaker today said the 8.5% investment tax would not affect many people. That’s like telling someone with liposarcoma that we don’t have to worry because liposarcoma doesn’t affect many people. If you are the one with liposarcoma, then it matters.

In closing, I’ll point out that a tax on invest-

Meeting Notes

April 11

Bill Bradburd

Bill Bradburd has resigned from the board of directors. President Eleanor Munro wished him well and said there are now 17 members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle serving on the board, noting that members in good standing who wish to join the board should put forth their name(s).

A Chautauqua Afternoon

Brady Walkinshaw, chief executive officer of Grist (an online-only national environmental media organization), will present the keynote address at the MDC’s fifth annual Chautauqua Afternoon.

Kinder Morgan resolution

Judi Gibbs suggested that the MDC thank Governor Jay Inslee for his opposition to the Kinder Morgan pipeline. Ms Munro suggested that individuals write thank you notes on the MDC notecards and send them to him. She agreed to write a formal thank you on behalf of the MDC.

1125 Harvard Ave E

About a dozen copies of Sam Sperry’s book about Kay Bullitt remain in the MDC inventory. These were given to the MDC by Ms Bullitt and are signed by the author. Ms

- Continued on Page 4 -

ments is not a good idea in parts of the state where employment is volatile—and unemployment is more likely and more frequent.

In those areas, the savings need to be left intact.

Surviving in that economy depends on saving money, either in a bank account or in a stock portfolio, and using those funds to survive periods of unemployment—and I speak from personal experience.

~Judi Gibbs



METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors

Executive committee President Eleanor Munro ▪ Vice President Jack Whisner ▪ Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi **Directors** Joanna Cullen ▪ Dan Fievez ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Judi Gibbs ▪ Vinod Goswami ▪ Lem Howell ▪ Mark Marshall ▪ Tyler Mollenkopf ▪ Jayson Morris ▪ Allan Munro ▪ Dr David Rudo ▪ Elizabeth Stanton ▪ Harriet Wasserman ▪ Bert Wyman **Lifetime honored members** Kay Bullitt ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Sen Jeanne Kohl-Welles ▪ Hon Nick Licata

From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

book review

Globalization and its Discontents Revisited

Anti-globalization in the Era of Trump

by Joseph E Stiglitz

WW Norton & Company, New York, 2018

Reviewed by Allan Munro

The author of this book, Joseph Stiglitz, is a Nobel Prize winning economist who served as President Bill Clinton's Chairman of Economic Advisors and also worked as chief economist at the World Bank. He has been a first-hand witness to the economic devastation he describes.

He says globalization has been an engine of growth and prosperity for hundreds of millions of people around the world. However, it has been mismanaged by the economic leaders of developed countries and the three international economic institutions: the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). As a result millions of people in developing countries have been dislocated and impoverished and millions of people in developed countries have been left behind in a condition of stagnation and relative isolation. The economic elites are too greedy and their policies devoid of assistance for the populations left behind. The frustration and anger of those left behind has given rise to movements against immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities, free trade, etc. Hence, Donald Trump, Brexit, and the rise of authoritarian governments in Poland, Hungary and other Eastern European countries.

Much of what has gone wrong is due to the "Washington Consensus" that dominated economic thinking after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Washington Consensus led the IMF and the World Bank to push developing countries to liberalize their currency and trade policies.

Liberalization of currency policies gave rise to crises of short-term loans racing into a developing country, inflating its economy, and the racing back out when exaggerated promises of high returns did not materialize. The Washington Consensus then pushed the developing country to cut government expenditures to pay off debt and to raise interest rates to maintain foreign capital investment just when it should be doing the opposite.

Liberalization of trade policies, among other things, undermined local agriculture and displaced farmers by imports from developed countries that massively subsidize their agricultural sectors.

This phenomenon has led to migration out of the countryside into cities, unemployment and desertification of the land. Political instability, anarchy, and mass migration across continents follow.

Roughly half of this book was written in 2002. The "Revisited" portion was written in 2017. Rereading the 2002 sections discloses how prophetic the author is.

Stiglitz provides detailed policy solutions to the problems created by the Washington Consensus. He also acknowledges changes in attitude by the IMF and the World Bank [Leadership changes such as Christine Lagarde at the IMF explain this.] But the mindset of the US Treasury and the European Union remains austerity-oriented.

I recommend this book as an insightful and thorough handbook on globalization.



Election 2018

upcoming campaign events

May 16

Jeanne Kohl-Welles' Spring Fundraiser and 36th Legislative District Democrats' Silent Auction, 5 – 8 pm, Seattle PI Building, 101 Elliott Ave W #400. Panel discussion on congressional/legislative campaigns, the census and Trump's legal issues:

Jorge Baron – executive director Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Lisa Brown – candidate for Congress, Speaker Frank Chopp, Senator Manka Dhingra, and David McDonald.

Moderator is Sarah Reyneveld. Tickets \$36; sponsorship levels begin at \$100. To RSVP or become a sponsor email info@jeannekohlwelles.com.

Please send information about 2018 campaign events to Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com.

We have a library !

Dear members of the MDC - Many of you who attended the April 11 meeting that the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle were surprised when I mentioned that we have a lending library. A few years ago, Justin Simmons and I asked members to donate political books to this library so they could be easily shared with others. At that time Kay Bullitt was in the process of reducing the number of books in her library, many of which had belonged to Stimson Bullitt and some of which are signed by him. At one point this list appeared on our website. It will soon reappear. Instructions about borrowing books will appear online soon with the catalogue of 62 books.

A few highlights:

Warren G Magnuson: and the Shaping of Twentieth-Century America by Shelby Scates: A political history of the scope and influence of the accomplishments of one of Washington's best-known politicians.

A Life in the 20th Century; Innocent Beginnings, 1917-1950 by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr: First volume in Schlesinger's autobiography.

To Be a Politician by Stimson Bullitt: Reflections on what it is to be a politician.

The Goldmark Case: An American Libel Trial by William L Dwyer: The story of the Goldmark trial by counsel for the accused.

Law in America; An Illustrated Celebration by Blair Kauffman and Bonnie Collier: A large coffee-table overview of the history of law in America with elaborate photos and descriptions of famous trials, landmark decisions and related subjects.

John Adams by David McCullough: A biography of our second president.

Rosellini: Immigrant's Son and Progressive Governor by Payton Smith: A political history of Washington's Governor Albert Rosellini.



An MDC soiree – May 9

Join in a conversation about climate change and China featuring environmental lawyer Phil Boxell. Takes place 5:30 – 8 pm at 1125 Harvard Ave E. For more information or to reserve a place email Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com.

- Meeting continued from page 2 -

Munro asked the members what, if anything, they wanted to do with these books. We will continue to make them available at \$25. Proceeds benefit the MDC.

She persisted buttons

Several hundred "She persisted" buttons, honoring Senator Elizabeth Warren remain in the MDC inventory. Ms Munro asked the members what, if anything, they wanted to do with the buttons. It was agreed to keep them and continue to make them available. Ms Munro will continue to bring some to meetings; members can take as many as they wish, donation optional. Proceeds benefit the MDC.

MDC library

Several years ago the MDC acquired books from a number of donors to form a library. Many of them were donated by Kay Bullitt and included books owned by Stimson Bullitt. For a while a list of these books appeared on the website. Ms Munro asked the members what, if anything, they wanted to do with this library. Members indicated they wanted to be reminded of the library in the newsletter. The list of available books will again be posted on the MDC website, metrodem.org.

Resolution – National Guard

Judi Gibbs suggested we pass a resolution asking Governor Jay Inslee to reject any request from President Donald Trump to send Washington National Guard troop to our southern border. No action was taken as no resolution had been drafted. See meeting notes for April 25, below.

April 25

Resolution – Washington National Guard

A motion passed approving a resolution asking Governor Jay Inslee to reject any request from President Donald Trump to send Washington National Guard troops to our southern borders. The resolution had been previously communicated to the membership.

Resolution – Initiative 1600

A motion was made and seconded to adopt a resolution supporting the universal healthcare initiative proposed by Whole Washington. The text of the resolution will be communicated to members and will be voted upon at the May 9 meeting of the MDC.

An MDC soiree

President Eleanor Munro informed members that there were still openings for the MDC soiree May 9.

Upcoming programs and events

Ms Munro reviewed scheduled programs and led a discussion about how to fill the five remaining openings. She reminded members that A Chautauqua Afternoon is scheduled for June 10 and that volunteers are needed to help with timekeeping, food service, sign-in, and set up/clean up. Email her at walkere1@msn.com.

Board bios and photos

She said she would begin posting bios and photos of board members on the MDC website; these need to be sent to her as soon as possible.

Send them to walkere1@msn.com.

A Chautauqua Afternoon

Your opportunity to hear the candidates speak prior to the endorsements

The MDC's fifth annual

Chautauqua Afternoon

noon – 5pm, June 10th

a festive outdoor event
with a bounty of classic picnic
food and beverages

at the home of Ann and Tony Martin
3618 SW Orchard

Optional donation \$25

Sponsorship \$125
Can be purchased online

at metrodem.org or
Send your check to
Eleanor Munro
1925 41st Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98116

Candidates who sponsor are offered a full page in our event program. Contact Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com



Membership renewal date appears on above label

May 2018

METROPOLITAN
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF SEATTLE

Eleanor Munro
1925 41st Ave SW
Seattle WA 98116

Return Service Requested

