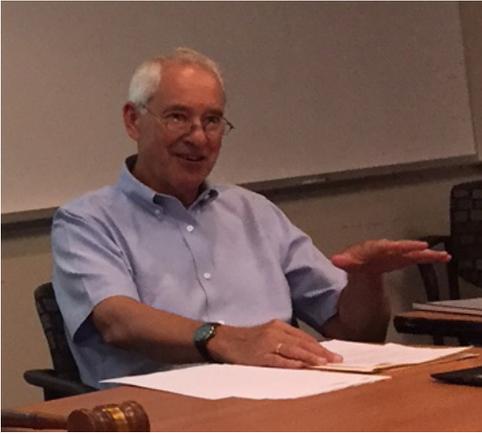




Spitzer speaks on impeachment and incapacity



Hugh Spitzer

“Impeachment is not a criminal proceeding; it is a political proceeding,” said constitutional law expert Hugh Spitzer at the August 8 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle where he was invited to speak on “Impeachment and Its Alternative (Incapacity).” There is no judge or jury, he added.

The House of Representatives impeaches and the Senate tries impeachment, Mr Spitzer explained, and a judgment does not extend beyond removal from office. Charges may include treason, bribery and high crimes and misdemeanors as per Article 1 Section 2 of the US Constitution.

Mr Spitzer also described the other route

for removing a president from office: removal for incapacity.

MDC member Joan Burton summarizes here Mr Spitzer’s brief history of impeachment and the process of removal from office for incapacity.

The process: the House Judiciary Committee takes evidence and recommends articles of impeachment to the full house. Grounds may be treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors. In order to be convicted, there must be two witnesses or subject must admit his guilt.

One early authority said the impeachable crime may be whatever a majority consensus believes it to be at a given moment.

Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution states, “Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or, in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.” In the 14th century King Edward III impeached Baron William Latimer for corruption, but then pardoned him in 1376. In 1386, Michael de la Pole, Chancellor, was impeached for embezzlement and treason. He escaped to France. The Earl of Strafford was impeached for subverting laws, while he claimed he was only carrying out the king’s instructions. But he was beheaded anyway.

In 1833 Harvard law professor and Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story wrote on impeachment as it respects injuries to the society in its character. Professor Charles Black in 1974 said impeachment may be warranted if there is extreme activism, subversion or corruption of the governmental process and/or the action is seen as plainly wrong by the ordinary citizen. For a time in the 19th century maladministration was considered grounds for impeachment, but was later withdrawn as being an ambiguous charge.

President Andrew Johnson was impeached for firing the Secretary of War

Seattle needs more low income housing

“We need to go back to neighborhood planning,” said Roger Valdez, at the August 8 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Mr Valdez, director of Seattle for Growth, and Sarajane Siegfriedt, low income housing advocate, were speaking on “Will the Grand Bargain Actually Produce More Affordable Housing?”

Three years ago some developers, and officials from the Seattle mayor’s office and the Seattle City Council’s housing affordability committee (HALA) met behind closed doors and forged a “Grand Bargain,” explained Sarajane Siegfriedt. They agreed to what is known as Mandatory Housing

Affordability. The City Council then passed this new “inclusionary zoning” agreement into law. The law requires developers in some neighborhoods to include affordable units in new apartment buildings or pay a fee toward affordable housing instead. Most choose the second option, she added. However, the city has been unable to meet the demand for affordable housing units. What was intended to apply to downtown Seattle and the Lake Union area was then imposed on the 27 neighborhoods in the rest of the city, who had no say in the agreement.

Continued on page 4



Roger Valdez and Sarajane Siegfriedt

Continued on page 2

book review

No Turning Back: Life, Loss, and Hope in Wartime Syria

by Ranua Bouzeid

W.W Norton & Company, New York, 2018

Reviewed by Nelson Dahl

This book is remarkable for its in-depth coverage of the Syrian War. Ms Abouzeid, an award winning international journalist based in Lebanon, entered Syria countless times, often clandestinely, starting in 2011, to interview people who played a pivotal role in the revolution there. These interviews produced hundreds of thousands of words, from which she selected those from a handful of exceptionally reliable sources. Her intimate profiles of these people allow the reader to follow the events of the next several years in great detail.

They became involved in the tangle of ideologies and allegiances that made up the Syrian conflict. Through their struggles, the reader is able to experience the many confusing horrors that are often left out of the mainstream media. We see the loss of life and destruction of property suffered by ordinary citizens and follow them as they flee the country. We even experience the brutal torture inflicted in President Assad's prisons, often in gory detail.

As peaceful protests against the regime grew into armed insurrection, many soldiers and officers defected from the Syrian Army. The Free Syrian Army was formed, mainly from civilians. As the conflict evolved, it grew in complexity. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah sent men to fight alongside Assad, and Russian pilots and advisers became involved. Al-Qaeda smuggled in forces from Iraq and Afghanistan to fight with the rebels but kept to themselves. The US couldn't figure out who to support but in 2012 began to provide financial aid to the Free Syrian Army. Eventually, ISIS entered the country to fight against the regime. It shared similar goals with Al-Qaeda but did not cooperate with them. Their dream was to reestablish the great Islamic caliphate that once spread from Syria throughout the



Nelson Dahl

Middle East until it ended in 1924 with the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

After reading 350 pages filled with chaos and tragedy, what came through most clearly to me was the humanity of the Syrian people. Caught up in the madness around them, having lost loved ones and often their homes, many fled the country but simply wanted to return to their homeland when it was over and rebuild their lives. Above all, it shows the futility of war. In the more recent wars, the civilians are the ones who suffer the most. When is the world going to learn to avoid these senseless conflicts?



New Members

The MDC welcomes new members Donald Scaramastra of Garvey Schubert Barer and the Reverend Courtney Stange-Tregear.



Impeachment continued from page 1

and President Clinton was charged with perjury and obstruction of justice leading to a demand for his impeachment. President Nixon resigned before he could be impeached.

A popular recent charge leading to impeachment is the emoluments clause, which refers to a violation of public benefits and profits by a president.

The 25th Amendment deals with presidential vacancy, due to disability or inability. Removal of a president for inability or incapacity means the vice president then assumes the powers and duties of an acting president. He may later claim to be once again fit to govern. In 1965 Congress rejected a proposal for an independent medical commission to examine a candidate for impeachment for signs of impairment. Might President Reagan have been eligible with early signs of disability in 1987?

Mr Spitzer is a constitutional law expert who teaches various constitutional law courses at the University of Washington School of Law. He joined the law firm of Foster Pepper Law in 1982, retiring in 2016. He also served as Seattle Mayor Charles Royer's legal counsel. The Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys presented him with the prestigious Ernest H. Campbell Award for Excellence in 2016. During his tenure he was consistently ranked by Best Lawyers in America. He has published widely on municipal and constitutional law. He co-authored with Justice Robert Utter *The Washington State Constitution Second Edition*. He graduated Yale University cum laude with special honors, earned his JD from the University of Washington and his LLM from the University of California Berkeley.

Note: There was a question of the identity of the man in the picture with Ronald Reagan in Mr Spitzer's PowerPoint presentation; Mr Spitzer confirms it is indeed James Baker, not Howard Baker.

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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.

Election 2018

upcoming campaign events

Wednesday, September 12

Support Representative Gael Tarleton's campaign for reelection at a South Lake Union Reception with Representative June Robinson, 5:30 – 7 pm at Delta Dental, 400 Fairview Ave N. RSVP liz@bluewavepolitics.com or 206.682.7328.

Saturday, September 15

A reception in support of Dr Kim Schrier for US Representative in the 8th CD, 10:30 am – noon at the home of King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Olympus Lobby, 2801 Western Ave, Seattle. Also, hosting the event are King County Executive Dow Constantine and King County Councilmembers Joe McDermott, Claudia Balducci, Rod Dembowski, Larry Gossett, and Dave Upthegrove. Special guest is James Brown, author of "The Boys in the Boat." Suggested contributions start at \$100.

Tuesday, September 18

Support Representative Gael Tarleton's campaign for reelection at an event for Democrats for an Environmental Majority, 6 pm, at the home of Marianne Tagney and David Jones. RSVP finance@hdcc.org or 206.892.8298.

Friday, September 28

Join Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Tammy Duckworth at 10th Women of Valor Awards, noon, CenturyLink Field. RSVP wov@cantwell.com or 206.682.7328.

Invitation to participate in Schrier campaign

a note from Carole Glickfeld
 "As you know, Dr Kim Schrier in the 8th Congressional District is running against Dino Rossi. Her campaign is very organized, technologically savvy and has really terrific coordinators. The vote total for the three Democratic candidates in the primary exceeded Rossi's total, so we're hopeful that we can turn this district blue. Anne Trevett and I have doorbelled and phoned prospective voters in Issaquah and are creating phone banks in Seattle. If you're in the district you can volunteer by going on the website: drkimschrier.com. If you're willing to do phoning in Seattle, please e-mail me, and I or Anne will be in touch: CLG238@earthlink.net."

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



Get this on your calendar now!

Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle

Winter Holiday Party 2018

5:30 -7:30 pm

Sunday, December 9

at the historic Colman mansion, home of Marianne Tagney and David Jones
 9343 Fautleroy Way SW



Events of Interest

September 10

A reception with Governor Jay Inslee, 6 – 7:30 pm at the home of Jean Walkinshaw, 1303 E Lynn St to discuss how we can all help Mr Inslee and the state of Washington take on the Trump administration's dangerous agenda and stand up for what we believe in. Hosted by Jean Walkinshaw, Jessyn Farrell, Michah Horwith and Brady Walkinshaw. Suggested contributions start at \$250. RSVP lily@newmanpartners.com or 206.328.2969.

September 23

An open house celebrating the 50th anniversary of Seattle's Freeway Revolt, 3 - 6 pm at the Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave S. The event aims to inform current residents about the citywide movement that helped quash plans for a dense network of freeways in Seattle. Sponsored by several community centers, the event includes a preview of "the Ramps to Nowhere," a freeway revolt documentary.



August correction

The full title of the book reviewed by Judi Gibbs in the August edition of The MDC News is "Beyond the Rebel Girl: Women and the Industrial Workers of the World in the Pacific Northwest, 1905–1924."

Please join us in supporting

Lisa Brown for Congress in the 5th CD



at a reception

Monday, October 16th

from 5-6pm

The Magnolia Room at Columbia Tower

701 5th Avenue, Seattle



mark your Calendar

September 12 - MDC meeting:

On the Upcoming Census

Bruce Chapman, Seattle City Council (1971 – 75), Washington secretary of state (1975 – 81); director of US Census Bureau 91981 – 83), White House staff as deputy assistant to the president (1983 – 85), and founder of the Discovery Institute, a public policy think tank.

Sep 26 – MDC meeting

General endorsement proceedings led by MDC Vice President Jack Whisner.

October 10 - MDC meeting:

Healthcare for all; Challenges and Opportunities.

Bob Crittenden, executive in residence at the Seattle innovation hub Cambia Grove, served as Governor Jay Inslee's special assistant for health reform and senior policy advisor on healthcare, 2013 -2018. He was founding executive director of the Herndon Alliance, a coalition of over 200 organizations nationally doing communications for passage and preservation of the Affordable Care Act.

October 15 – Fundraiser for Lisa Brown

5 – 6 pm; the Magnolia Room at the Columbia Tower.

October 24 - MDC meeting:

The Role of Politics in a Time of Transformation.

David Korten, former professor at Harvard Business School, is an author, activist, engaged citizen, critic of corporate globalization, and student of psychology and behavioral systems.

August

meeting notes

August 8th

Fundraiser

The membership voted to hold a fundraiser for Carolyn Long, candidate for US Representative, 3rd CD. Lem Howell will chair the event committee made up of Pete Francis, Kiku Hayashi, Allan Munro and Eleanor Munro. Time, location and other information will be forthcoming.

Resolution

Dean Fournier moved that the MDC support a resolution to remove four dams on the lower Snake River. The resolution will be emailed to members. Discussion and vote will take place at our August 22 meeting.

November 14 – MDC meeting

Update on Seattle Public Schools

Seattle School Board member Jill Geary

December 9 – annual Winter Holiday Party

5:30 – 7:30 at the home of Maryanne Tagney Jones and David Jones. All are welcome.

December 12 – MDC meeting

Planning for 2019.

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. All are welcome.

August 22

Fundraiser

The membership voted to cancel the fundraiser for Carolyn Long due to lack of response from Ms Long's campaign, and to hold a joint fundraiser instead for Kim Schrier and Lisa Brown, candidates for Representative in the 8th and 5th congressional districts respectively. Lem Howell volunteered to make the necessary arrangements.

Resolution

The motion to support a resolution to remove dams on the Snake River did not carry.



Housing continued from page 1

To be eligible for affordable housing one's income must be less than 60 percent of the median wage, or about \$54,000. That would come out to about \$1,000 a month for a one bedroom unit.

Ms Siegfriedt says she wants to lose the "affordable" designation. By that definition, she says, affordable housing is not affordable. There are many people who don't even make \$1,000 a month. She says Seattle needs more low income housing. At present, she says, there is no inventory of low income housing.

Mr Valdez wants to go back to the drawing board. Most people, he said, can't get into subsidized housing. The neighborhoods, he said, need "to get in a room with people who build housing and find a solution."



Membership renewal date appears on above label

September 2018

METROPOLITAN
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF SEATTLE

Eleanor Munro
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