

democrat noun

dem·o·crat | \ 'de-mə-'krat \

1. of, relating to, or favoring democracy - democratic elections, a democratic government
2. one who practices social equality
3. capitalized : a member of the Democratic party of the U.S.
4. relating to, appealing to, or available to the broad masses of the people

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April 2020

UNITY & COMMUNITY DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 8693, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71910

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and visit our Website - www.hsvdemocrats.com

Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village, serving our community for over twenty years



Moving Forward

From the Pen of the President,

Jane Browning

Thank you for entrusting me with the office of President of the Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village in this critical year, 2020. It is a humbling prospect to lead this organization in doing our part in this most important election of our lifetime. At risk is our American democracy, even our precious Mother Earth. For us and for all Democrats, 2020 is quite literally do or die.

When I first wrote those words on February 2, the world we were facing was grim enough. Today, our life and death struggle is shockingly present. Our world has turned upside down and

the ultimate outcome can hardly be imagined. It will be far from the normal we used to know.

As I shelter in place, I've been reading Erik Larsen's new book, *The Splendid and the Vile* which details Winston Churchill's first year as Prime Minister. This was the period of the Blitz in which over 50,000 people in England were killed and twice as many severely injured over a nine-month period under the onslaught of perpetual bombing raids by Hitler's Luftwaffe. How did the British people survive this trauma and suffering? Because of LEADERSHIP. The fearless example and eloquent exhortations of Winston Churchill brought out the courage of his people to overcome their fears and prevail.

In America's time of suffering and need, where is the leadership we crave? Not in this White House! It is up to each and every one of us as Democrats to work as hard as we can to bring true leadership back into our government. With the world at a standstill, the challenge of this year's election is enormous.

The uncertainties of the primary season are resolved in the presumptive candidacy of former Vice President Joe Biden, a man of experience, character, and great empathy. Senator Bernie Sanders will continue to campaign for his progressive policies but is dedicated to ultimately unifying the party in victory.

Our job here is to concentrate on Hot Springs Village, which has a unique double impact by spanning both Garland and Saline Counties. Our Club can highlight, support and vote for good Democrats in local races and our local Democrats who are running for state and Federal office.

The Democratic Club has a PAC or Political Action Committee that pools funds for the purpose of contributing to state and local Democratic candidates. To maximize that support from our Club, we need to maximize our fund-raising efforts. Our annual "FunRaiser" dinner-dance has been cancelled. In lieu of a single night of fun together, the Club has sent

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100%

*Dedicated to turning
Arkansas blue in 2020*

- Raising wages, closing the wealth gap, strengthening Social Security
- Lowering health care costs; ensuring all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care; stabilizing Medicare and Medicaid

Moving Forward

Continued from page 1

you a solicitation by e-blast. If you didn't get it, got into your spam file and pull it out. If you didn't respond to it with a donation, pull it back up and send in a contribution! We will be sending it around again, in case you missed it altogether!

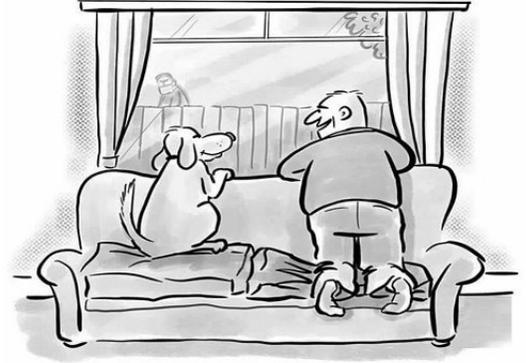
Keep your eyes on our Facebook page and website. We will be launching video communications from candidates, and interviews on how to register to vote and vote by absentee ballots by mail.

There is a tremendous amount of work to be done to achieve the promise of 2020. In

our Club, the work gets done through our committee structure. Are you skilled in fund-raising? Are you passionate about legislative action? Are you a gifted writer? A great organizer? A people person eager to recruit new members? We have a job for you!! Contact me directly: browning.jane54@gmail.com to state your interests, and I will assign you to the committee of your dreams!

I'm putting it on the line as your President. Now it's your turn. 2020 or Bust!

Respectfully, Jane Browning, President



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house"

Together, we are the Democratic Party.

We are fighting for a better, fairer, and brighter future for every American:

rolling up our sleeves, empowering grassroots voters, and organizing everywhere to take our country back.

The Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village

is asking you to join us in the fight!

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, this year's Democratic Club **Fun' Raiser** dinner and dance has been cancelled. The annual Fun' Raiser has been the primary way the Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village generated funds for our yearly activities and operations while allowing us to financially contribute to Democratic candidates.

Last year's event set a new record for the Club by netting \$7000. This is the most important election of our lifetime, therefore, we are asking for your generous contributions. Backing our Democratic candidates, up and down the ballot, is more crucial this year than ever before!



We are asking you to consider donating last year's ticket price of \$40. Also, if you can, consider adding another \$20-\$200 that you might have spent at the silent auction. With no event expenses, every penny you send will go to support the Club and Democratic candidates.

To make a donation, please go to:
<http://www.hsvdemocrats.com/hsv-donate.html>

Or mail checks to:

Democratic Club of HSV

PO Box 8693

Hot Springs Village, AR 71910

Stand strong, stay safe, and support the return of Democrats to every office in America!



Speak Up And Be Heard!

Looking for something to do while social distancing? How about sending that letter to the editor you have been wanting to write? How about emailing your Congressman and letting him/her know what you think about the job they are doing? Maybe a phone call to the Governor's office would make a difference - if not in policy, at least in how you feel? You might not think anyone is listening, but they do take note of the numbers and in election years, numbers count!

Here are some phone numbers, addresses and emails that can help you get started:

Senator John Boozman (R)
WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4843

Senator Tom Cotton (R)
WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2353

Representative Bruce Westerman (R)
Representative for Arkansas's 4th Congressional District
WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
209 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3772
Fax: (202) 225-1314

Governor Asa Hutchinson (R)
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 682-2345

Senator Bill Sample (R)
2340 N. Hwy. 7, Hot Springs, 71909
501-624-3445
Bill.Sample@senate.ar.gov

President Donald Trump (R)
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Send a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper:

The Saline Courier

Email letters to: news@bentoncourier.com
or mail to:
321 N Market St, Benton, AR 72015

Saline(Benton) Courier Letter to the Editor Policy: The Saline Courier prefers typewritten or emailed letters not more than 250 words in length. Please provide name, daytime phone and address for verification. Letters are checked for libelous and/or vulgar language and may be edited for length or content. Writers are limited to one letter per calendar month.

We cannot accept form letters in support of or against any candidate for public office.

The Sentinel-Record

Submit your letter online at: <https://www.hotsr.com/contact/letters/>
or mail to:
300 Spring St, Hot Springs, AR 71901

Regular submission guidelines apply when submitting a letter to the editor. Submissions cannot exceed 500 words and must include an address and phone number for verification purposes.

Hot Springs Village Voice

Email letters to: news@hsvvoice.com.
or mail to:
3576 N. Highway 7, Hot Springs Village,
AR 71909

All submissions must follow the guidelines printed in the Voice.

2020

HSVDC Board of Directors

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1st Vice-President - Linda Ragsdale
2nd Vice-President - Peggy McCoy
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Treasurer - Mary Adams

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Fundraising - Linda Ragsdale
Catering - Nancy Baumgartner

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Michael Dryhurst
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THE ISSUES - DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

<https://democrats.org/where-we-stand/the-issues/>

Every four years, the Democratic Party puts together our party platform, the ideas and beliefs that govern our party as a whole.

What follows is a selection of issues from our 2016 platform — our most progressive platform in our party's history and a declaration of how we plan to move America forward. Democrats believe that cooperation is better than conflict, unity is better than division, empowerment is better than resentment, and bridges are better than walls.

VOTING RIGHTS

"The Democratic Party was founded on the promise of an expanded democracy... Democrats believe we must make it easier to vote, not harder."

EDUCATION

"Democrats know that every child, no matter who they are, how much their families earn, or where they live, should have access to a high-quality education, from preschool through high school and beyond."

ENVIRONMENT

"Democrats believe that climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children's health and futures, and that Americans deserve the jobs and security that come from becoming the clean energy superpower of the 21st century."

HEALTH CARE

"Democrats have been fighting to secure universal health care for the American people for generations, and we are proud to be the party that passed Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act."

IMMIGRATION REFORM

"Democrats believe immigration is not just a problem to be solved, it is a defining aspect of the American character and our shared history."

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

"We are committed to doing everything we can to build a full-employment economy, where everyone has a job that pays enough to raise a family and live in dignity with a sense of purpose."

NATIONAL SECURITY

"American leadership is essential to keeping us safe and our economy growing in the years ahead."

PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE

"With 33,000 Americans dying every year, Democrats believe that we must finally take sensible action to address gun violence."

RETIREMENT SECURITY

"Seniors should not have to choose between putting food on the table, keeping a roof over their heads, or buying the medication that they need to stay healthy."

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"Democrats value American innovation and believe it is one of our country's great strengths."

VOTING RIGHTS

"The Democratic Party was founded on the promise of an expanded democracy... Democrats believe we must make it easier to vote, not harder."



Eleanor Roosevelt's Pink Clouds on Angel Food Cake Recipe

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees - Bake time 30 to 35 minutes - Bake in Tube Pan

Sift flour at least 2 times and set aside.

Beat egg whites with beater until foamy.

Add cream of tartar and 1 cup of sugar gradually to the egg whites (you are not using the flour yet). Continue beating until egg whites stand up in peaks.

Add almond flavoring. Sift remaining 1/2 cup of sugar with salt and add flour and very gradually fold into egg whites

Whipped Cream and Strawberries (Pink Clouds) Topping

- 1 pint strawberries
- 1/2 pint heavy cream, whipped
- 1/2 cup sugar

Crush berries with sugar. Let stand 30 minutes. Carefully fold berries into whipped cream. Spoon on top of Angel Food cake.



Regarding the COVID-19 Outbreak:

First and foremost, we want to thank our community. We value your safety and health and want to take the necessary precautions regarding the Coronavirus. We want to convey the procedures we are undertaking in operation of the programs at the Jackson House.

We do not want anyone to be compromised. Please stay home and remain calm during this crisis. If you need anything, please call us at 501-623-4048 and our dedicated staff will do our best to see you receive assistance.

Our lunch program will remain open. We will serve lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 as always. All staff making and serving lunch will wear protective gear.

All other services through the interview process will remain open as well, however, we will operate differently. We will not have any face to face interviews. All interviews will be conducted by phone.

We will continue to provide pantry services. All groceries will be distributed with no human contact. All staff serving in the pantry will wear protective gear.

Our Thrift Stores will be closed and we are evaluating the necessity of having them open.

Thank you for your continued support with the evolving situation, We are taking the necessary steps to minimize the potential for COVID-19 exposure among our staff and to contribute to the overall public health in our community.

The majority of client services are available to permanent community members of Garland County. The Food Pantry, which provides food, including baby food and formula, is available to individuals or families in emergency cases.

Food is provided to Jackson House through community can and dry goods pantry drives. Private, civic, and church donations also contribute to the Jackson House pantry. Referrals from the Department of Human Services, burnout referrals from the Red Cross, and referrals from other sources are accepted.



The Democratic Club Support for the Jackson House:

The Democratic Club of HSV has supported Jackson House in the past by donating leftover food from Club events. Their work to provide lunches to those in need during this pandemic is work that we want to support, so the Democratic Club Board unanimously voted on Monday, to donate \$100 to help Jackson House purchase groceries.

The Jackson House has seen an increase of 50% with requests for grocery distribution since the school and business closings.

Although they welcome food donations, they can leverage cash donations to purchase even more groceries than you as an individual might be able to buy. Also, with a cash donation, you will not have to go to the grocery store or leave your residence.

Donate Online

You can make a secure donation online today with a debit or credit card. To make a donation online: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=TjTxoPJZU3bw1oCfppzNys3NukM0_pN UQyfOzvx8S2itbkccTeQs5ei7TtbzJmBkeP1LNm&country.x=US&locale.x=US. PayPal processes our online donations, if you make a donation online, PayPal will appear on your credit card statement.

Donate by Mail

To send a donation via mail using a credit card, check or money order: print this form http://www.jacksonhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Donation_Form_for_Mail_or_Fax.pdf and mail it with your donation to the address listed below. Make checks or money orders payable to Eleanor Klugh Jackson House for Crisis Intervention. Please call (501) 623-4048 if you would like us to mail you the form.

Community Crisis Intervention Service, Inc.
Eleanor Klugh Jackson House
705 Malvern Avenue,
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Fax Your Credit Card Donation

To send a donation via fax using a credit card: print this form http://www.jacksonhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Donation_Form_for_Mail_or_Fax.pdf and fax it to:

Attention: Development
Fax #: (501) 624-6705

Donate Over the Phone

To make a donation over the phone using a credit card: please call (501) 623-4048.

HONORARIUM AND MEMORIAM Honor Someone Special with a Donation

Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, or a special event of someone special with a gift in their honor to Jackson House. We will send an acknowledgement of your gift to the person you honored without disclosing the amount of your donation. http://www.jacksonhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/donation_form_honorarium_memorium.pdf

Donate in Memory of Someone Special

Consider memorializing someone special by making a gift in their name to Jackson House. We will send an acknowledgement to the family of the person you memorialized without disclosing the amount of your donation amount. http://www.jacksonhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/donation_form_honorarium_memorium.pdf



Meet The New President

by Nancy Baumgartner

2020 has arrived and politically, the air is full of energy with a feeling of urgency for many voters. The Democratic Club of Hot Spring Village has a new board who will lead our club through what will be VERY INTERESTING year on the political stage. The new president and leader of our all-female board is Jane Browning, who will be serving a two year term. So, without further ado I present the woman, the professional, and her journey through politics.

Jane's political awareness began in Nebraska during the summer of her high school sophomore year. It was 1964 and Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona was seeking the Republican Party nomination for President of the United States to challenge incumbent Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson. Jane's father was a quiet man who spent his entire career as an IRS accountant and her mother was an outgoing person and a musician and they were both Republicans. On the other hand, Jane was living in Macon, France as a foreign exchange student. She attended a residential high school, living away from her family in Nebraska and their daily influence. It was her first time in Europe and she embraced the European culture. She loved the history and she embraced the politics. Europeans, or at least the French, were vocal with their opinions and politics was no exception. The people she spoke with thought candidate Goldwater was a raving lunatic due to his aggressive tactics to prevent the spread of communism including the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam. This resonated with Jane.

Following Jane's life-changing and eye-opening trip to Europe, she returned to high school in Nebraska. The Nebraska high school she attended was diverse with approximately 1/3 Jewish, 1/3 Black, and 1/3 Caucasian enrollment. Many of Jane's friends gravitated to the left as did she. When she landed in Mr. Bitzes Social Studies class, she was convinced that his political leanings were the ideas of a "raging hack and radical right-wing conservative". Needless to say, they did not see eye to eye. She proudly maintained a passive aggressive attitude towards his class and his teaching by regularly sleeping in class. However, her naps didn't seem to affect her grade, because she remained an "A" student.

After graduating High School in 1966, Jane attended Northwestern University in Illinois. Jane, her roommate, Millicent, and other sorority sisters protested Vietnam, worked on the McGovern campaign, and addressed the college administration on the need for black studies.

Jane's first job after college was in Denver, Colorado. She worked for the Denver Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) – an organization that was serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Jane Browning

In 1973, Jane met Patricia Schroeder who was the first female US representative from Colorado. She and Jane became friends and Jane worked on Pat's re-election campaign. Schroeder remained in office until 1997 after serving on the original Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families and being a prime motivator behind the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FLMA).

Friendship, work experiences, and politics flowed thru Jane's life every step of the way. In 1974, she began working with ARC of Texas. Her responsibilities included the expansion of the mentoring program, and the acquisition of financing through grants and other government funding programs. The job involved extensive traveling, developing political connections, frequent meetings and phone calls, and lots of

dedication. By 1978 Jane moved to Little Rock working for ARC of Arkansas. She and John bought a home in the Governor's Mansion Historic District. Their son, Paul, was born in 1983 with Down's Syndrome. Jane is clear that this gift of life was a match made in heaven. Her home was in a neighborhood of families who looked out for each other. As her personal, professional and political experiences continued to meld into further adventures, she continued to advocate for those with disabilities. Jane collaborated with her neighbor, Hillary Clinton, for quality childcare for children with disabilities. Jane became a precinct district captain for the re-election of Governor William J. Clinton and was recruited into Bill Clinton's presidential campaign.

Jane, John, and Paul spent twenty-two years in Washington D.C. Jane worked on the President's Committee on Medical Retardation. She became the Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of America, and lobbied the International Committee Correction Association membership to organize halfway houses for individuals coming out of corrections facilities. Jane obtained grant funds for the Re-entry Program and in 2005, the Second Chance Act was passed.

In 2011, the family moved back to Arkansas settling in Hot Springs Village. Jane was retired for six months, until a friend recruited her to work as the Director of Compassion Works for All – a program providing opportunities to people who are incarcerated. Jane developed the local agency from the ground up and three years later, hired a full-time successor. In 2014, The Garland County United Way was struggling and Jane accepted another challenge of development for that organization. During her time there, United Way had expanded to serve several counties with all of it's financial goals being met.

The Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village is fortunate and honored to have Jane Browning as its new President. We look forward to all the things that we can accomplish under her leadership!



Los Angeles, pollution-free. Photo: Gabriel Duarte

Prepare for the Ultimate Gaslighting*

You are not crazy, my friends - written by Julio Vincent Gambuto

*Gaslighting, if you don't know the word, is defined as manipulation into doubting your own sanity; as in, Carl made Mary think she was crazy, even though she clearly caught him cheating. He gaslit her.

Pretty soon, as the country begins to figure out how we "open back up" and move forward, very powerful forces will try to convince us all to get back to normal. (That never happened. What are you talking about?) Billions of dollars will be spent on advertising, messaging, and television and media content to make you feel comfortable again. It will come in the traditional forms — a billboard here, a hundred commercials there — and in new-media forms: a 2020–2021 generation of memes to remind you that what you want again is normalcy. In truth, you want the feeling of normalcy, and we all want it. We want desperately to feel good again, to get back to the routines of life, to not lie in bed at night wondering how we're going to afford our rent and bills, to not wake to an endless scroll of human tragedy on our phones, to have a cup of perfectly brewed coffee and simply leave the house for work. The need for comfort will be real, and it will be strong. And every brand in America will come to your rescue, dear consumer, to help take away that darkness and get life back to the

way it was before the crisis. I urge you to be well aware of what is coming.

For the last hundred years, the multibillion-dollar advertising business has operated based on this cardinal principle: Find the consumer's problem and fix it with your product. When the problem is practical and tactical, the solution is "as seen on TV" and available at Home Depot. Command strips will save me from having to repaint. So will Mr. Clean's Magic Eraser. Elfa shelving will get rid of the mess in my closet. The Ring doorbell will let me see who's on the porch if I can't take my eyes off Netflix. But when the problem is emotional, the fix becomes a new staple in your life, and you become a lifelong loyalist. Coca-Cola makes you: happy. A Mercedes makes you: successful. Taking your family on a Royal Caribbean cruise makes you: special. Smart marketers know how to highlight what brands can do for you to make your life easier. But brilliant marketers know how to rewire your heart. And, make no mistake, the heart is what has been most traumatized this last month. We are, as a society, now vulnerable in a whole new way.

What the trauma has shown us, though, cannot be unseen. A carless Los Angeles

has clear blue skies as pollution has simply stopped. In a quiet New York, you can hear the birds chirp in the middle of Madison Avenue. Coyotes have been spotted on the Golden Gate Bridge. These are the postcard images of what the world might be like if we could find a way to have a less deadly daily effect on the planet. What's not fit for a postcard are the other scenes we have witnessed: a health care system that cannot provide basic protective equipment for its frontline; small businesses — and very large ones — that do not have enough cash to pay their rent or workers, sending over 16 million people to seek unemployment benefits; a government that has so severely damaged the credibility of our media that 300 million people don't know who to listen to for basic facts that can save their lives.

The cat is out of the bag. We, as a nation, have deeply disturbing problems. You're right. That's not news. They are problems we ignore every day, not because we're terrible people or because we don't care about fixing them, but because we don't have time. Sorry, we have other shit to do. The plain truth is that no matter our ethnicity, religion, gender, political party (the list goes on), nor even our socioeconomic status, as Americans we share this: We are busy. We're out and about hustling to make our

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Prepare for the Ultimate Gaslighting*

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own lives work. We have goals to meet and meetings to attend and mortgages to pay — all while the phone is ringing and the laptop is pinging. And when we get home, Crate and Barrel and Louis Vuitton and Andy Cohen make us feel just good enough to get up the next day and do it all over again. It is very easy to close your eyes to a problem when you barely have enough time to close them to sleep. The greatest misconception among us, which causes deep and painful social and political tension every day in this country, is that we somehow don't care about each other. White people don't care about the problems of black America. Men don't care about women's rights. Cops don't care about the communities they serve. Humans don't care about the environment. These couldn't be further from the truth. We do care. We just don't have the time to do anything about it. Maybe that's just me. But maybe it's you, too.

Well, the treadmill you've been on for decades just stopped. Bam! And that feeling you have right now is the same as if you'd been thrown off your Peloton bike and onto the ground: What in the holy fuck just happened? I hope you might consider this: What happened is inexplicably incredible. It's the greatest gift ever unwrapped. Not the deaths, not the virus, but The Great Pause. It is, in a word, profound. Please don't recoil from the bright light beaming through the window. I know it hurts your eyes. It hurts mine, too. But the curtain is wide open. What the crisis has given us is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see ourselves and our country in the plainest of views. At no other time, ever in our lives, have we gotten the opportunity to see what would happen if the world simply stopped. Here it is. We're in it. Stores are closed. Restaurants are empty. Streets and six-lane highways are barren. Even the planet itself is rattling less (true story). And because it is rarer than rare, it has brought to light all of the beautiful and painful truths of how we live. And that feels weird. Really weird. Because it has... never... happened... before. If we want to create a better country and a better world for our kids, and if we want to make sure we are even sustainable as a nation and as a democracy, we have to pay attention to how we feel right now. I cannot speak for you, but I imagine you feel like I do: devastated, depressed, and heartbroken.

And what a perfect time for Best Buy and H&M and Wal-Mart to help me feel normal again. If I could just have the new iPhone in my hand, if I could rest my feet on a pillow of new Nikes, if I could drink a venti blonde vanilla latte or

sip a Diet Coke, then this very dark feeling would go away. You think I'm kidding, that I'm being cute, that I'm denying the very obvious benefits of having a roaring economy. You're right. Our way of life is not without purpose. The economy is not, at its core, evil. Brands and their products create millions of jobs. Like people — and most anything in life — there are brands that are responsible and ethical, and there are others that are not. They are all part of a system that keeps us living long and strong. We have lifted more humans out of poverty through the power of economics than any other civilization in history. Yes, without a doubt, Americanism is a force for good. It is not some villainous plot to wreak havoc and destroy the planet and all our souls along with it. I get it, and I agree. But its flaws have been laid bare for all to see. It doesn't work for everyone. It's responsible for great destruction. It is so unevenly distributed in its benefit that three men own more wealth than 150 million people. Its intentions have been perverted, and the protection it offers has disappeared. In fact, it's been brought to its knees by one pangolin. We have got to do better and find a way to a responsible free market.

Until then, get ready, my friends. What is about to be unleashed on American society will be the greatest campaign ever created to get you to feel normal again. It will come from brands, it will come from government, it will even come from each other, and it will come from the left and from the right. We will do anything, spend anything, believe anything, just so we can take away how horribly uncomfortable all of this feels. And on top of that, just to turn the screw that much more, will be the one effort that's even greater: the all-out blitz to make you believe you never saw what you saw. The air wasn't really cleaner; those images were fake. The hospitals weren't really a war zone; those stories were hyperbole. The numbers were not that high; the press is lying. You didn't see people in masks standing in the rain risking their lives to vote. Not in America. You didn't see the leader of the free world push an unproven miracle drug like a late-night infomercial salesman. That was a crisis update. You didn't see homeless people dead on the street. You didn't see inequality. You didn't see indifference. You didn't see utter failure of leadership and systems.

But you did. You are not crazy, my friends. And so we are about to be gaslit in a truly unprecedented way. It starts with a check for \$1,200 (Don't say I never gave you anything) and then it will be so big that it will be bigly. And it

will be a one-two punch from both big business and the big White House — inextricably intertwined now more than ever and being led by, as our luck would have it, a Marketer in Chief. Business and government are about to band together to knock us unconscious again. It will be funded like no other operation in our lifetimes. It will be fast. It will be furious. And it will be overwhelming. The Great American Return to Normal is coming.

From one citizen to another, I beg of you: take a deep breath, ignore the deafening noise, and think deeply about what you want to put back into your life. This is our chance to define a new version of normal, a rare and truly sacred (yes, sacred) opportunity to get rid of the bullshit and to only bring back what works for us, what makes our lives richer, what makes our kids happier, what makes us truly proud. We get to Marie Kondo the shit out of it all. We care deeply about one another. That is clear. That can be seen in every supportive Facebook post, in every meal dropped off for a neighbor, in every Zoom birthday party. We are a good people. And as a good people, we want to define — on our own terms — what this country looks like in five, 10, 50 years. This is our chance to do that, the biggest one we have ever gotten. And the best one we'll ever get.

We can do that on a personal scale in our homes, in how we choose to spend our family time on nights and weekends, what we watch, what we listen to, what we eat, and what we choose to spend our dollars on and where. We can do it locally in our communities, in what organizations we support, what truths we tell, and what events we attend. And we can do it nationally in our government, in which leaders we vote in and to whom we give power. If we want cleaner air, we can make it happen. If we want to protect our doctors and nurses from the next virus — and protect all Americans — we can make it happen. If we want our neighbors and friends to earn a dignified income, we can make that happen. If we want millions of kids to be able to eat if suddenly their school is closed, we can make that happen. And, yes, if we just want to live a simpler life, we can make that happen, too. But only if we resist the massive gaslighting that is about to come. It's on its way. Look out.

Julio Vincent Gambuto is a writer/director in NYC and LA. His latest film, "Team Marco," is currently at film festivals worldwide. Learn more and connect at: www.juliovincent.com.



A Message from President Clinton to the Foundation Community: "We will get through this."

As we navigate the many ways COVID-19 is forcing all of us to change how we live, work, and interact with one another, I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I'm thinking about you, your families, and your communities.

I have always believed that our country's strength is our people. We see that every day, in the heroic work of health care workers, first responders, and everyday people reaching out to lend each other a hand. The rest of us must take care of all the workers who are taking care of us and keeping our country going, and our families and loved ones, however we can. I've included an article showing what the Clinton Foundation is doing to help our neighbors in Little Rock.

There are many difficult days ahead, but together we will get through this.

Thanks, as always, for your friendship and support. Keep your spirits up. May we all grow in strength, knowledge, wisdom, and heart.

Bill Clinton

How the Clinton Center is Responding to COVID-19

With deep concern for the health and well-being of Clinton Center visitors, volunteers, and staff, the Clinton Center has suspended operations through April 30, 2020. The Clinton Library's permanent and temporary exhibits, the research room, Clinton Museum Store, and 42 bar and table are closed and all programs have been canceled or postponed.

Meals for Students, Families, and Other Vulnerable Communities

The Clinton Center, World Central Kitchen, and the City of Little Rock have partnered with the Little Rock School District, Pulaski County Special School district, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, and the Central Arkansas Library System to prepare, pack, and distribute meals to those in need. More than 71,000 meals have been distributed in Little Rock and other locations across Pulaski County through April 5.

Sign up to volunteer:

<https://www.volunteermark.com/city-of-little-rock>

Make a contribution to purchase food and supplies

<https://donate.wck.org>

times and locations:

littlerock.gov/covid19



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

"I did my part to change the course of history."

The Democrat Club of Hot Springs Village Campaign Office

Whether a "brick-and-mortar" office, or a "virtual" office, our goals are the same.

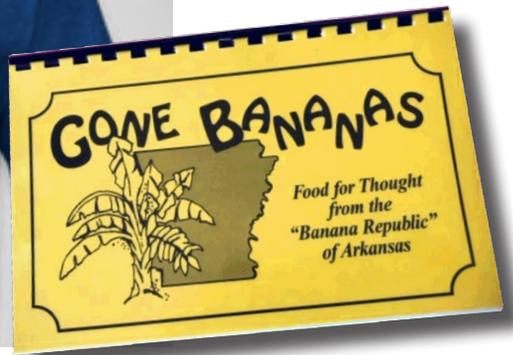
- Positive image of our Democratic Party
- Policy Issues of Party & Candidates
- Voter registration & voting options
- Campaign signs local, state & national candidates

Email Peg McCoy at:
chocolotmccoy@gmail.com
 to volunteer or learn more

We Are Stronger Together - Join Us!



Pandemic got you going bananas? Baking more than usual? Wearing that same t-shirt day after day? Now is your chance to support the Democratic Club, try a new recipe and wear a shirt that basically says "I didn't vote for that guy".



Buy your t-shirt **NOW** and get a **FREE** copy of **GONE BANANAS**
- A cookbook filled with recipes using bananas
Get both for only \$15! (While quantities last)

We offer doorstep - delivery for anyone living in the Village!

Call Nancy Baumgartner at 715-671-3019 or Email her at nancybaum02@gmail.com

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All profits go to the support of the Democratic Club of Hot Springs Village

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Peter & Virginia Trabant
David & Marie Welch
Mary Ann Witcraft
Tim & Barbara Young



Joyce Elliott Kicks Off Her Campaign For U.S. Congress

Elliott pledged to put Arkansas first, “It matters if we have people in Washington who believe we can have a world-class healthcare system and a world-class education system right here in Arkansas. It matters if we have people in Washington who believe in the future of Arkansas. It matters who we have in Washington.”

Elliott is a retired educator from the small town of Willisville in southwest Arkansas. She currently serves in the Arkansas Legislature as a state Senator representing portions of Little Rock. Elliott’s legislative victories have helped improve education and healthcare in communities all across Arkansas.

She has championed public schools and programs to address dyslexia in schools of every size. Elliott has supported making healthcare more affordable and accessible, helping secure healthcare for more than 300,000 working Arkansans. When elected, Elliott will become the first African-American in the state’s history to serve in the United States Congress..

Elliott pledged to run a bold campaign, leaving no stone unturned, “Unlike my opponent, I will hold a town hall in every county in this district.” The Second Congressional District includes Conway, Faulkner, Perry, Pulaski, Saline, Van Buren, and White counties..

Arkansas needs representatives who will vote to make healthcare more affordable and accessible — not someone who votes to take it away and lets costs spiral out of control.

Arkansas’s public education system, including higher education, needs to be strengthened and prioritized — not allowed to lag behind the rest of the country or result in a lifetime of debt.

Arkansas families deserve to be paid a living wage for their hard work and have solid career prospects — not to be disrespected by economic and tax policies designed to maximize benefits for the already-wealthy.



Republican opposition defeats proposal for no-excuse absentee voting in November

Max Brantley, April 9, *The Arkansas Times*

The Joint Budget Committee this morning killed Sen. Joyce Elliott’s proposal to allow no-excuse absentee voting in November.

Elliott said she’d circulated her idea to the governor and others and got no negative feedback. She said it was a common-sense thing to do given the possibility of a continuation of coronavirus in November. Any qualified elector could request a ballot. It would allow voters to vote safely without encountering virus dangers, she said. She noted the recent experience in Wisconsin when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to delay the election and voters gathered in close proximity to cast ballots. “There’s no reason for that to happen here.” She also said this change would be temporary. It would go away Dec. 31.

Elliott said she’d tried to win bipartisan support. But that wasn’t possible. Instead, **Republican Jim Dotson** of Bentonville filed a competing amendment that would allow no-excuse absentees only if the governor still had an emergency declaration in effect. His amendment also said that those who request an absentee ballot would give up a right to vote at the poll. Sometimes people lose their absentee ballots and go to the polls. **Dotson’s** amendment would make that impossible. After Elliott’s proposal was defeated amid fervent **Republican** opposition, he withdrew consideration of his proposal.

Elliott said her bill would give county officials time to plan. “You just don’t up and decide to do this.” If there’s no problem by Nov. 3, “that’s a good thing.” People will just simply go to polls and most won’t get absentee ballots “because it takes effort to get an absentee ballot.”

Republican Sen. Jon Dismang said the measure as written would apply to special location elections between now and the end of the year. He said someone could easily organize to pass a local tax increase through the absentee process.

Republican opposition defeats proposal for no-excuse absentee voting in November

Continued from page 11

Republican Rep. Doug House wondered why the governor couldn't simply extend the proclamation he issued for recent primary runoffs. Elliott said county officials needed to know exactly what they are facing. "This is something the legislature can and should do." He argued the law's allowance of an absentee ballot on account of "illness" doesn't specify WHOSE illness. It could be a family member or someone else, he noted. She said that's a question open to interpretation and it would be better for the legislature to clarify it.

Another Republican said he'd heard of cases where people had mailed an absentee ballot and then tried to vote at the polls. "Tried" is the key, Elliott responded. The records kept on ballots catch this.

Republican Sen. Jason Rapert also challenged the relevance to the fiscal session. "It's an emergency," she said. He said she should have filed a resolution that requires a two-thirds vote and the governor's approval. He questioned a lack of protection for the integrity of the ballot. But there is an ID requirement for absentee ballots just as there is for in-person voting. "It doesn't change any of that," she said. "The same safeguards are in place."

Sen. Will Bond, a Democrat, rose in support of Elliott's measure. He noted that no legislator is being required to prove a reason to vote by proxy in this legislative session. "We're basically allowing it by choice, right?" He said the choice is offering voters the same opportunity legislators are offered or treat them differently.

Sen. Keith Ingram, a Democrat, defended Elliott's idea. In response to unspecified claims of fraud, he noted that people had been prosecuted for trying to vote fraudulent absentee ballots and he responded to other Republican complaints that many legislators had offered amendments that weren't budget issues. He said reputable scientists predicted a second wave from the virus and noted the "disaster" in recent voting in Wisconsin. And as to Dismang's complaint, he wondered why people shouldn't have the opportunity to vote in any election. If there is a second wave, the consideration isn't only voters, Ingram said, but also the poll workers, many of them elderly.

Another Republican, Rep. Justin Boyd, asked what was wrong with letting the governor extend his executive order. Elliott said "we don't know what COVID-19" is going to do. If there's a resurgence in

September, it's too late for county officials to prepare. "It's a part of our democracy we shouldn't take chances with." Putting the responsibility on the governor to decide on the spur of the moment isn't a good idea. "We don't know what's going to happen."

Republican Rep. Sarah Capp raised questions about the additional cost of absentee ballots. Elliott said she didn't have statewide figures, but Pulaski County said it was cost \$125,000 to send a ballot to every single elector. "But they certainly don't expect every single voter is going to ask for an absentee ballot." But if the cost rose, she said the legislature could be asked, and should, provide additional financial help.

Republican Sen. Gary Stubblefield said it was just speculation that the virus might not subside in a couple of months. Republican Rep. Robin Lundstrum asked, "why would we need to do this." She argued that the pandemic could be used as an excuse for an absentee ballot. Otherwise, she said, "they can just mask up and put on gloves and vote." Lundstrum questioned whether it was an appropriate topic for the budget session. She contended mail-in ballots are "fraught" with fraud. Elliott said the military has been voting by mail for years without fraud. "We just don't have that evidence," Elliott said. Elliott also addressed a rumor that the amendment was linked to her congressional candidacy. She said emotionally, "I would have brought this no matter what."

Her proposal drew only 15 ayes. I'm trying to run down the roll call. But the committee consists of 12 Democrats and 35 Republicans.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson authorized, by emergency executive order, no-excuse absentees during a handful of recent runoff primary elections. Two-thirds of the state allow this, but in Arkansas, you must have a reason — being unavoidably absent or on account of illness.

UPDATE: The governor was asked about no-excuse absentees at his afternoon briefing. He said "we don't know" if there will be an emergency in November. If the crisis continues, he'd be open to waiving the rules to allow no-excuse voting, which is certainly important in case of a virus threat.

Donald Trump has objected to mail voting — which is what absentee voting is — though he voted by mail in the Florida primary. Republicans contend, with little evidence, that mail voting is massively abused. All-mail voting is used in a couple of states. What most Republicans really fear is that more people will vote, particularly poorer people with less access to the polls. They are believed to lean Democratic.

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Who Do You Know?

By Nancy Baumgartner

Linda Ragsdale is the Democratic Club of HSV newly elected 1st Vice President. She is also the chairperson of the **2020 Fun' Raiser**. This is a daunting task requiring organization, communication, listening skills, multi-tasking, patience, a sense of humor... Anyone who personally knows this lady knows she is perfect for the job. For the rest of you, let me introduce this fine woman starting with her move to Hot Springs Village:

Linda moved to Hot Springs Village in 2008 to be closer to and to help care for her parents. Her first job in Arkansas was working for Arkansas Hospice, which she describes as a unique and most challenging experience, that taught her much about life. In 2010, she became director of the Ouachita Children's Center - a nonprofit organization caring for traumatized, sometimes homeless children, in an 18-bed emergency shelter. Linda managed a large staff and budget. She solicited funds at local, state, and national levels that would help care for 300 + youths per year. She retired in 2017.

In 2018, Linda ran for Justice of the Peace in Garland County. She did not win the vote, however, she does not regret her candidacy. To prepare for the job, she frequently attended quorum court and various other meetings to get a sense of the Arkansan culture, politics and issues – a valuable tool. Linda's calling is quite clear: 1) "Advocacy for individuals who cannot speak for themselves". 2) "Educating citizens on their rights and access to the legal system".

As a young child, Linda and her family moved from her birthplace of Waukegan, IL to Atlanta, GA. She was thirteen years old when JFK was assassinated. She remembers John, Jr. saluting his father's coffin and how Jackie carried herself with dignity and strength. Linda also fondly remembers Walter Cronkite – "the most trusted man in America". She remembers his stance on Vietnam. His special report from Vietnam is credited with helping to change national opinion about the war – "a futile conflict with no resolve - get out peacefully". In April 1968, Linda participated in the Martin Luther King funeral March In Atlanta

GA. She was a Senior high school student accompanying her best friend and several teachers. The crowd was large (50,000) and very peaceful. They held hands, they sang "We Shall Overcome" – there were lots of tears. For Linda this was an emotional and powerful life experience.

A Baptist College in Florida was Linda's first experience in higher education. BUT, it was much too structured for this gal. So on to Nashville, Tennessee to attend Peabody College for Teachers - a school affiliated with Vanderbilt University. Then comes a move to Austin, Texas where Linda enrolled in the University of Texas. She got married, moved to San Antonio and enrolled in Saint Mary's University where her husband attended law school.

Then, in 1973 she settled down with husband, Ron, in Andrews, TX - population 12,000. Andrews County is in the Permian basin of west Texas, best known as the "oil patch", a place where "there were more people than trees". The area is flat, treeless, and is known for its frequent sandstorms. Ron starts his law practice while Linda finally completes her

BA in Sociology at UT Permian Basin. Linda became the first director of the Andrews County Mental Health Center, a community-based program that provides help and hope for those with various mental health or emotional challenges. In the 1970's inpatient mental health institutions were closing. The Andrews organization helped patients move back into society, providing psych assessments, medications, and counseling, and began addressing the stigma of mental illness. Linda worked there for 10 years and developed the framework of the rural outreach program.

As life would have it, Linda moves on. She lands in Midland, TX working at the Texas Department of Rehabilitation. Then, finally "back to civilization" as she says, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area where she earns her Master's Degree in Social Work at the University TX Arlington. As a licensed social worker, she accepts a staff position as a "legal advocate" helping battered women in a Fort Worth domestic violence shelter, and becomes a frequent trainer for law enforcement, attorneys, and judges on family violence and victimization. While in Fort Worth, she became active with the Democratic club working on local, state and national levels, and also became a Unitarian Universalist. In 1997, Linda became the director of a county-wide child advocacy agency where she proudly helped obtain Texas' passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). After seven years in that role, she found herself back in the mental health field finishing her TX career as director the Tarrant Co. Mental Health Association.

Linda feels that her life's journey has come full circle. This is a determined individual. Her quest for knowledge and an education is insatiable - six colleges and two degrees. She's not afraid of change - many moves by choice. She has found her forever home. As a volunteer in many area programs, Linda is still pursuing her passion for helping those in need. She is a happy and joyful retiree. And now that you know her, I think that we can agree that we're lucky to have her.



Linda Ragsdale, the Democratic Club of HSV newly-elected 1st Vice President.



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