

# Benton County Dems' World

February, 2018 – Eunice Van Tuyl, Editor

## FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup> MEETING

12:00: Speaker and Business

Lunch before, during or after

Golden Corral in Rogers

2605 W. Pleasant Grove Crossing

## Gladys Tiffany & Patrick Kinnemon

Gladys became the president of OMNI Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology in 2008 when founder Dick Bennett retired. Dick is a faithful member of the Democratic Party and peace advocate who has continued to mentor Gladys. In 2012 she became director when the structure was changed to reflect the changing work of the organization.

OMNI's vision is a culture of peace, an earth restored, and everyone included. They do this by building grassroots leadership and infrastructure for the culture of peace—They start stuff for peace. An example is the talk we'll hear, where academic research is shared with grassroots activists to make their work better. The information pipelines between the grassroots and high-level decision makers are broken in our culture, and people who want to see positive change must constantly reinvent the wheels of communication to accomplish their goals. In a culture of peace, decision makers will cherish those pipelines.

Another example comes from the OMNI group that co-presenter Patrick Kinnemon works with. Fayetteville Citizens Climate Lobby was started as an OMNI environmental project in 2011. They affiliated with the national CCL group and took off so successfully that they have formed their own nonprofit and have gone statewide planting more groups working at the grassroots to create the political will to address climate change. An example of starting stuff for an earth restored.

Gladys and Patrick will present related research that introduces the work of Professors George Lakoff and Jonathan Haidt, whose work addresses the widely different

value systems and resulting miscommunications between liberals and conservatives.

They hope you'll receive useful information to use as we move through the upcoming election cycle.

Tues., Feb. 20 11:30 – 1:00 Western Sizzlin'	Wash. Co. Senior Democrats' Luncheon
Wed., Feb. 21: 9:30 AM	BC Dems' Board Mtg.
Sun., Feb. 25 Rogers	Celeste Williams Meet & Greet
Sun., Feb. 28: 3:00 4074 SW H St. Bentonville	Ozark Indivisible Mtg.
Mon., Feb. 26 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral	BC Dems' Luncheon
Mon., Mar. 12: 6:30 PM Guess Who?	Democratic Party of Benton Co. Mtg.
Fri., Mar. 16 6:30 – 8:30 PM Darr Elementary School 6505 S. Mt. Hebron Rd. Rogers	Bean Supper with John Brummett
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Wed., Mar. 21: 9:30 AM	BC Dems' Board Mtg.
Mon., Mar. 26 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral	BC Dems' Luncheon

## **2018 DUES**

Now is the time to renew your dues for 2018. They are a bargain at \$20.00 per individual or \$30.00 per couple!

Receiving the newsletter via US Mail is an additional \$10.00 per year. Send to: BC Dems P. O. Box 2258 Bentonville, AR 72712-2258

## **President's Message**

Richard Bland

### Lighting a Candle

All my life I've heard the adage "better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." As a child, I assumed it was biblical, probably from the Old Testament. Later I wondered if it might have come from either Ben Franklin or Mark Twain. A bit of recent research indicates that is a paraphrasing of an ancient Chinese proverb.

Most of us Democrats have done considerable darkness bashing since the 2016 election, even from the one of 2014. Some days it seems to some that the political situation is hopeless and getting worse, that expending any energy to correct it is probably futile.

But there are things—real, tangible, quantifiable—things that, if done by enough of us, can have an impact. But we must act quickly.

April 15 is approaching. Arkansas allows a state income tax credit—not a deduction, but a credit—of \$50 per individual or \$100 per couple filing jointly for political contributions. To qualify the contribution must be made to an Arkansas candidate for state or local office or to his or her campaign committee (see below), to a legally registered Arkansas PAC (such as BC Dems), or to an Arkansas political party (that would be DPA or DP of BC). This means that you can make the contribution and save that same amount on your tax bill—for a net cost of ZERO to you. And to make it even sweeter, if you do this before April 15, 2018, and did not already make such a contribution in 2017, you can claim it against your 2017 tax liability. Moreover, you can make another contribution later in the year and claim the credit on your 2018 tax. It is a modest effort by the state to provide some public campaign financing. And, I repeat, you can make such a contribution without actually spending

any money.

\*The applicable form is available on the Department of Finance and Administration website and possibly at the post office or your bank.

Time is not quite so short for the second "candle," but still demands attention fairly soon. Filing for office begins in late February and ends on March 1. On March 2 we will know for sure who our candidates are. We have a pretty good idea as of this writing. For congress, Josh Mahony is running in district 3. For state senate, Jon Comstock is seeking District 3. For state house, Kelly Scott Unger is running for District 87, Chris Birch for 92, Gayatri Agnew for 93, Celeste Williams for 95, and Christie Craig for District 96. Contact information for each of these candidates can be found on our website, [bcdems.org](http://bcdems.org) <<http://bcdems.org>>. The second candle you can light is to work in one of these campaigns. Let them know what you are capable of doing, what you are best at, and how much time you can spare and when you can spare it. I am confident that you will get a positive response. Please make the effort. Your party needs you, and,

more importantly, your country needs you.

The tax credit also applies to statewide candidates such as Jared Henderson for Governor, but not for those seeking Federal Office.

And, I mentioned the filing period. There is still no Democratic candidate, or even an Independent or a moderate Republican, running for House District 94. Data shows it to be the most Democratic leaning district in Benton County. Governor Beebe carried it by a healthy margin when he sought re-election. There is still time to file for that seat. And, three incumbent justices of the peace have announced that they would not seek another term. A JP campaign can be done much cheaper than a legislative effort. The filing fee, for example, for JP is only \$50.

Cursing the darkness and lighting candles are not mutually exclusive. You can keep on cursing if it is therapeutic, but consider lighting a candle or two in addition. We must change the current direction of politics. So light those candles and chase the darkness away.

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**BENTON COUNTY DEMS**  
**January 22, 2018 General Meeting**  
**Golden Corral, Rogers, AR**

Vice President Suzanne Miltich, presiding in the absence of President Richard Bland, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She welcomed new members and visitors. Eunice VanTuyl led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Suzanne introduced the program for the day, a look at the current culture of arguing. She referred to the book *The Argument Culture* by Deborah Tannen. After pinpointing high points of this book, Suzanne turned the program over to Jon Comstock who is currently running for Arkansas State Senate, District 93. Comstock is also a conflict resolution mediator, and he continued elaborating on the topic of conversing positively with those who hold opposing views. He recommended the book, *Less Than Human*, by David Livingstone Smith, for additional insights on this topic.

The minutes and treasurer's reports for the November meeting were approved as submitted.

Suzanne encouraged members who have not yet renewed their memberships to do so as soon as possible. She also encouraged new members to join.

- Diana Kolman reported for the fundraising committee (Diana Kolman, Eunice VanTuyl, and Betty Cauldwell). The club will hold a Bean Supper fundraiser Friday, March 16. Arkansas Democrat-Gazette columnist John Brummett is scheduled as the guest speaker. The dinner will be held at Janie Darr Elementary School, 6505 S. Mt. Hebron Road, Rogers, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold for \$15.00. Profits from this event will go to support area Democratic

candidates. Club members will be asked to donate desserts and to help set up and clean up. To offset some of the expense involved, sponsorships will be sold. The sponsorship specifics are listed below:

Friends.....	\$50 (2 tickets)
Bronze.....	\$100 (3 tickets)
Silver.....	\$150 (4 tickets)
Gold.....	\$200 (5 tickets)

- Suzanne Jessup reported that the Democratic Party of Benton County will host a Meet-&-Greet, February 12, 6:00-7:00 at Guess Who, for Jared Henderson, Democratic candidate in the Arkansas gubernatorial primary.

- Jon Comstock noted several events taking place during Black History Month:
  - Feb. 13 – 2:00 – 3:30 – University of Arkansas campus
  - Feb. 17, 9:00-1:00, NWACC, Race in Arkansas panel presentation

- Suzanne listed other meetings of interest:
  - Jan. 27 – Faith Caucus of DPA, NWA Regional, at Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Fayetteville, 10:00 – noon
  - Feb. 7 – Voting Rights: U.S. Supreme Court and State Legislators, Dr. Lisa Corrigan, Associate Professor of Communications at the University of Arkansas, Rogers Public Library, 5:30 p.m.

- March 6 – Legislative Briefing, Faith Voices in Arkansas, Lunch and Tour of State Capital, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., \$25 at the door

- Bill Beck thanked everyone who supported the recent movie fundraiser. Attendance exceeded 120, and the total amount raised was over \$1000.00.

- Joel Ewing reminded those present to look for information on the BC Dems website. Information about upcoming events as well as information about

Democratic races and candidates can be found on the website.

•Eunice said that since Hal Spangenberg has moved, she is taking over the responsibility for the monthly club newsletter. She will accept for consideration items submitted by members. Articles must be 250 words or less, informational in nature, and must be received by the second Monday of the month.

•Jon Comstock’s campaign manger reminded members that no Democrat is currently running for the district 94 house seat.

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, Feb. 26, at the Golden Corral.

Diana Kolman, Secretary

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**Treasurer’s Summary January 2018**

Beginning Balance	\$5,282.27
Income:	
Dues	\$550.00
Blue Bowls	\$100.00
Movie Income	\$1,970.00
Misc. Sales	<u>\$74.00</u>
Total	\$2674.00
Expenses:	
Meetings	\$38.49
Movie Expense	<u>\$907.50</u>
Total	\$945.99
Ending Balance	\$7,010.28

David Cauldwell, Treasurer

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**Some reading possibilities:** 1) Bernie Sanders’ campaign book *Our Revolution*, 2) and now his lightly revised edition aimed at a young-adult audience *Bernie*

*Sanders Guide to Political Revolution*, 3) *It’s Time to Fight Dirty: How Democrats Can Build a Lasting Majority in American Politics* by political scientist David Faris, 4) *No Is Not Enough* by Naomi Klein, which builds on her 5) *Shock Doctrine*, 6) *Resist and Rebel: The Peoples’ Uprising in America* by Jonathan Tasini, 7) *The Resistance Handbook: 45 Ways to Fight Trump* by Daily Kos founder Marcos Moulitas and Progressive Now founder Michael Huttner, 8) *Rules for Resistance*, an anthology of essays that includes the “Indivisible Guide,” and 9) *Nasty Women*.

**Meet Democratic Candidates:**



**Chris Birch for District 92:**

The three focal points of my campaign are healthcare, criminal justice reform, and education. I will seek to bolster, not cut, the healthcare coverage for Arkansans and, in particular, seniors. Someone should not spend a lifetime working hard and being successful only to end up sick and in poverty toward the end of life due to crippling healthcare costs. That is not what I want for my grandparents, parents, myself, or my children. This is not just a generational problem, but a problem that hits home for every one of us in some way.

I also hope to promote policies that address the opioid crisis. This ties to healthcare, but I want to address the criminal justice reform aspect. We can do more to combat this public health emergency. Drug courts can be an amazing resource for combating this plague, but changes need to be made. I’ve talked to

several prosecutors and mental health professionals, and believe we can develop a model that is both more cost-efficient and more effective at combating recidivism. What we do NOT need to do is have our drug courts send participants to private rehab programs with no oversight. That's fundamentally negligent.

The final focal point of my campaign is to promote strong, quality public education by listening to experienced educators who know the strengths and weaknesses of our current systems. I oppose policies that take funds away from public schools, and will work to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration of charter schools. So, to reiterate: the three main focuses of my campaign are healthcare, criminal justice reform, and education. These correlate perfectly with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness: principles that are fundamental to our identities as Americans.

Now, about the race itself: my opponent, assuming neither of us have primary challengers, is Gayla Hendren McKenzie. She is the daughter of the current incumbent, Kim Hendren, the sister of state senator Jim Hendren, the cousin of state senator Jeremy Hutchinson, and the niece of Governor Asa Hutchinson. Being

## **Awesome Women's Accomplishments**

Early perceptions about women participating in sports included a threat to the feminine ideal and fertility. Nineteenth century America idealized white woman's modesty. Elite women did not exert themselves; their [female] servants did. Acceptable sports at women's colleges and country clubs were tennis, croquet, archery, and bathing-beauty swimming at racially restricted lakes or beaches.

It is no surprise that these sports would be the entryway for women into competitive sporting. Yet healthful beauty, not aggression or the personal/political desire to triumph over competitors, remained the watchword for active women.

Here are some women who started to break that mold:

elected to a political office should not be based on family or name. It should be based on a record for public service, character, and ability and drive to meet the needs of constituents.

I know that I am up against a well-established political machine and network of donors. I will not be able to outspend the Hendrens, but we're going to do our best. That is where you come in. I need your help. Talk to people. Reach out. Spread our message. Get friends and family registered, and to the polls. Also donations are very much needed.

I end with a quote from one of my favorite grassroots politicians, Paul Wellstone. He said, "Politics is not just about power and money games, politics can be about the improvement of people's lives, about lessening human suffering in our world and bringing about more peace and more justice." I intend to use my position to improve the lives of others, not use it as a position to exert and maintain power, which is what the Hendrens and Hutchinsons have been doing for generations. Thank you.

# Olympians

Women have been competing in the Olympics since the second modern games in 1900.

Throughout the years the sports women have been allowed to participate in has drastically changed. These women laid the foundation for today's Olympic athletes.

**Margaret Abbott** was the first American woman to win an Olympic event. She shot a 47 in the 9-hole golf tournament and took first out of the 11 female competitors.

1900



1904



**Matilda Scott Howell** was the first American woman to win three gold medals in one Olympics. In 1904, she was able to win all three archery events she competed in.

1920



**Aileen Riggins** won the women's 3-meter springboard in 1920, at 14, she was the youngest American yet to win a medal. In 1924, she was the only woman to win diving and swimming medals.

1948



**Alice Coachman** was the first woman of color, from any country, to win an Olympic gold medal. In 1948, she won gold for the high jump at the London Summer Olympics for the US.

1968



**Janice Lee York Romary** was the first woman to compete in six Olympic Games, starting in 1948 she fenced until 1968. She was also the first woman to carry the US flag during the opening ceremony.

## **2018 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs**

Position	Name	E-mail	Home #
President	Richard Bland	<a href="mailto:rabland@cox.net">rabland@cox.net</a>	631-9818
Vice-President	Suzanne Miltich	<a href="mailto:suzanne@dhsc.com">suzanne@dhsc.com</a>	925-6275
Treasurer	David Cauldwell	<a href="mailto:dcauldwl@gmail.com">dcauldwl@gmail.com</a>	721-2747
Recording Secretary	Diana Kolman	<a href="mailto:dkolman@cox.net">dkolman@cox.net</a>	903-3532
Past President	Eunice Van Tuyl	<a href="mailto:etuyl@sbcglobal.net">etuyl@sbcglobal.net</a>	855-7771
Membership Chair	Gaye Bland	<a href="mailto:GKBland@cox.net">GKBland@cox.net</a>	631-9818
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing	<a href="mailto:jcewing.bcdems@cox.net">jcewing.bcdems@cox.net</a>	268-4231
Social Media	Lauren Galle	<a href="mailto:BCDemsLauren@gmail.com">BCDemsLauren@gmail.com</a>	855-4348
Newsletter Chair	Eunice Van Tuyl	<a href="mailto:etuyl@sbcglobal.net">etuyl@sbcglobal.net</a>	855-7771
Corresponding Secretary	Jerri Cooper	<a href="mailto:jerricooper@aol.com">jerricooper@aol.com</a>	640-1343
Reservations Chair	Betty Cauldwell	<a href="mailto:bcauldwl@gmail.com">bcauldwl@gmail.com</a>	721-2747