

Benton County

Dem's World

July, 2018

Eunice Van Tuyl, editor

Sun., July 22: 2:00 – 5:00 4105 W. Olive St. Rogers Parking at Reagan Elem. or Scottsdale Mall	Garden Party for Jon Comstock Senate Candidate
Sun., July 22: 2:00 – 5:00 1314 W. Fir, Rogers	Jené Huffman-Gilreath Meet and Greet
Sun., July 22: 4:00 607 SW 2 nd , B'ville	Gayatri Agnew Meet and Greet
Mon., July 23 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral	BC Dems Luncheon
Mon., July 23 4:00 – 7:00 PM 1019 N. 2 nd St.	Democratic Hdqrs of Benton Co. opening in Rogers
Wed., July 25: 6:00 – 7:30 16 Bromyard Lane Bella Vista	Piano and Ice Cream Social for Celeste Williams - RSVP
Thur., July 26 6:00 Flavors Indian Restaurant	Gayatri Agnew Fundraiser
Sun., July 29: 2:00 306 SW 11 th , B'ville	Gayatri Agnew Meet and Greet
Mon., Aug. 13: 6:30 PM Guess Who?	Democratic Party of Benton County
Tues., Aug. 14 11:30 – 1:00 Western Sizzlin'	NWA Senior Democrats' Luncheon
Wed., Aug. 22: 9:30 AM Rogers Library	BC Dems Board Meeting
Mon., Aug. 27 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral	BC Dems Luncheon

JULY 23rd MEETING

12:00: Speaker and Business

Lunch before, during or after

Golden Corral in Rogers

2605 W. Pleasant Grove Crossing



Jené Huffman-Gilreath is a candidate for the Arkansas House District 94. She is currently the Shared Services Manager for Rogers Water Utilities. She has also been a Projects Director for CCF Brands, a Vice-President at

Arvest, a Legislative Correspondent for the U. S. Senate, an Intern at the U. S. Senate, owner of Huffman Consulting and involved in many boards and clubs. After receiving a BSBA and a Masters at the U. of A, she studied Global Commerce and Electronic Trade Policy at Oxford University in Oxford, England.

(Find more information about Jené in our April newsletter on page 5.)



Gayatri Agnew is running for AR State House in District 93. Her love for Bentonville and experience as a consensus builder and problem solver inspired her

to run for this seat to increase civic engagement and ensure that Bentonville has a strong advocate in Little Rock.

Gayatri Agnew made her home in Northwest Arkansas with her husband Ryan because they saw Bentonville as a place of opportunity- not

only for their careers but also for their children, Rohan and Kamala. Gayatri is a Senior Director at a major corporate foundation. She leads strategy and grantmaking for the foundation's work to create economic opportunity. Prior to her current role, Gayatri worked in the public and private sectors, focused on education, workforce, and economic development with an emphasis on pathways to opportunity for all. She is passionate about building relationships, education, jobs and creating strong communities.

Gayatri serves on the development committee for the Helen Walton Children's Enrichment Center and is a former Trustee of the Seattle Community Colleges. She is also a former Board Member of the Center for Women and Democracy. Gayatri is a proud community college alum, having attended Foothill-De Anza Community College before transferring to Seattle University. She holds both a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a Masters of Business Administration from Seattle University.

"The moral test of government: how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those that are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."

Hubert Humphrey

"This is an extraordinary moment. It is without equal, not only in American history, but in modern history. A hostile foreign power intervened in our election to help elect a man president who has since actively served their interests and has defended them at every turn. Trump may deny collusion. But given that this the attack continues, denying it is collusion, distracting from it is collusion, obstructing the investigation of it is collusion — because all these things enable it to go on.

That the president is abetted in his aid for the Russians — again, in the midst of this ongoing attack — by the leadership of the Republican Party makes the situation all the more extraordinary and dangerous. As Republicans seek to undermine the investigation, they serve Russia as directly as if they were officers of the GRU.

David Rothkopf, CEO and Editor of *Foreign Policy Magazine*

June 2018 Treasurer's Summary

By David Cauldwell, Treasurer

Beginning Balance	\$3,231.17
Income:	
Blue Bowls	\$71.00
Dues	\$100.00
Donations	<u>\$30.00</u>
Total	\$211.00

Expenses:		
Facebook Ad		<u>\$10.00</u>
Total		\$10.00
Ending Balance:		\$3,432.17

BENTON COUNTY DEMS' June 25, 2018 General Meeting Golden Corral, Rogers, AR
By Diana Kolman, Secretary

President Richard Bland, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. He began the meeting by welcoming new members and visitors. Thurman Metcalf led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Suzanne Miltich introduced the first speaker, Kelly Scott Unger, who is a candidate for the Arkansas House District 87. Kelly, an attorney for Simmons Pet Foods, said she is running in a district that has had no Democratic opposition in 35 years. One of her main platform focuses is education, especially pre-K. She would like to see the state's pre-K program expanded to provide quality pre-K education for all Arkansas children, especially those in rural areas. She would also like to see the state move forward in providing education for those who want to go into technical or health care fields. She also wants to focus on health care in Arkansas. She described the current health care system as "broken," and she feels that no one wants to fix it at this time. If elected, this would be one of her goals.

The second speaker was Chris Birch, a candidate for the District 92 seat. Chris just graduated from law school and will be taking the bar exam next month. He hopes to work as a criminal defense and immigration attorney. For his campaign platform, Chris wants to focus on education and health care. He also wants to seek criminal justice reform. He feels too many Arkansas prisons focus on imprisonment rather than on rehabilitation. He also feels those with mental illness are not treated fairly by the state's criminal justice system. If elected, Chris would like to address these issues.

After the speakers answered questions from the audience, Richard opened the business meeting. The minutes and treasurer's reports for the April meeting were approved as submitted.

- Democratic Party of Benton County: Thurman Metcalf reminded everyone that this group meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 in the Guess Who Community Room. He said the garden party on June 2 for Jené Huffman-Gilreath, candidate for District 94, was very successful. He is hosting a similar event for Jon Comstock, candidate for Arkansas State Senate, July 22, 2:00-5:00. Thurman reminded everyone that the annual Little Flock picnic is scheduled for Sept. 22 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Little Flock City Park.
- Nominating Committee: Committee members are Bill Beck, Mike Reese, and Harrell Simpson. Anyone wanting to be an officer should contact one of the above.
- Movie Fundraiser: Bill Beck said has tentatively arranged for a movie fundraiser July 21. The movie is *Leave No Trace*. More information will be forthcoming.
- The League of Women Voters and the Benton County Clerk's Office will be holding a Voter Registration Training Seminar Tuesday, June 26, at the Bentonville Library, 5:30-7:00.
- Richard again reminded everyone that requests for cards should be submitted to Jo Ann Skillet, Corresponding Secretary.

•The next meeting is July 23, at the Golden Corral in Rogers. Speakers will be Jené Huffman-Gilreath, District 94 candidate, and Gayatri Agnew, District 93 candidate.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Travel is the only thing you can buy that makes you richer. We travel, not to escape life, but for life not to escape us.

President's Message - July 2018

This summer I've read a couple of books that have somewhat eased my anxiety about the current political and cultural situation and the probable upcoming economic crisis. These books, both published this year, point to the fact that the current state of affairs, or at least the factors causing it, are not unique. Hate, nurtured by racism, xenophobia, sexism, and ethnic prejudice, has always existed in America and has risen to the forefront periodically during the 240 plus years of American history. Forces for reform, for progress, and for tolerance that saw the nation through those difficult times, exist today and are more powerful and produce more positive results than most Americans realize.

The first of the two books is Jon Meacham's *Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. Meacham, a writer and journalist, has previously published well-received books on Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and George H. W. Bush. In *Soul of America*, Meacham reminds the reader that the present is not the first time that the uglier tendencies in American life have risen to the forefront and been embraced by a large number of people. He argues that a theme in United States history has been a struggle between our "better angels" and more demonic forces. He describes the Alien and Sedition Acts during the undeclared war with France during the John Adams administration. Those acts targeted foreigners, immigrants, and the opposition press. He discusses the long history of slavery and racism in America. Civil civic discussion ceased in the mid-nineteenth century before and during the Civil War. In the twentieth century, there was the Red Scare in the years after World War I and the contemporary rise of the second Ku Klux Klan. Even during the administration of the liberal Franklin Roosevelt, thousands of American citizens of Japanese descent were incarcerated for the duration of the Second World War. The 1950s brought the hysteria of Joseph McCarthy.

In each of these situations, forces opposed to hate and intolerance opposed these manifestations of the darker side of American culture. The "Better Angels" eventually prevailed. The election of 1800 came while the Alien and Sedition were in effect, and the incoming Jefferson Administration declined to ask Congress to renew them. The crisis of the 1850s was followed by the Civil War and the leadership of Lincoln. The Red Scare eventually fizzled and the second KKK shrank to a miniature of its former self. An apology was finally offered to the formerly imprisoned Japanese Americans. McCarthy was discredited and even censured by the Senate. Wise and magnanimous leadership often served as a catalyst or facilitator for moving past these moments. Meacham argues that the most effective

Presidents have governed in a way to appeal to the voters' better natures and to build a broader consensus rather than to strengthen a narrow, but powerful base. The optimistic take-away is that we as Americans have experienced difficult and unsavory times before and have survived, that Trumpism will be survived, too.

The second book is *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, written by James and Deborah Fallows. James Fallows is a longtime *Atlantic* correspondent, and Deborah Fallows is also a writer and researcher. Their premise is that things are better in the United States than most of us believe and that people are finding productive ways to work together despite the political polarization we see, especially in Washington. They bring hope in pointing to the similarities between now and the waning years of the Gilded Age and the rise of Progressivism on the local and regional level.

In their single-prop plane, the couple travelled to dozens of towns and cities around the nation. Most were medium sized. Many were in the Deep South, where poverty had been longstanding, and in the Rust Belt where postwar prosperity had evaporated, but others were on the coasts. Included were Burlington, Vermont; Guymon, Oklahoma; Wichita, Kansas; Greenville, Mississippi; and Sioux Fall, South Dakota, to mention a few. The authors sought to discover what caused some communities to thrive, or experience revival, while others did not. They discovered communities reinventing themselves in innovative ways.

The Fallows found ten and a half common themes in the various and varied success stories. One was avoiding partisan divides and working in a non-partisan way. Another was leadership; in any town everyone could point to a main mover and shaker who might be an elected official, a philanthropist, a civic leader, a business executive, a civil servant, or one of some other designation. Three other themes involved education: proximity to a research university, possession and caring for a local community college, and innovative schools. Public-private partnerships were universal. Openness was necessary as was having big plans. The half theme was more whimsical, but the authors found it, too, to be a common thread: towns on the rise had one or more craft breweries, a sign of an entrepreneurial spirit and a sizable group of young customers. (These themes and characteristics seem familiar to this Northwest Arkansas resident!)

Hopefully the optimistic and cooperative effort to enhance the common good will spread from the local level upward as the Progressive Movement did in the first decade of the last century. And perhaps that will foster the political revival that Meacham has found so many times before.

Richard A. Bland

Snubbed Women in STEM

National Women's History Museum



In 1940, Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu, educated in her native China and the United States, overcame both gender and racial barriers to receive her Ph.D. in physics. Shortly thereafter, Wu was invited to work on the Manhattan Project to conduct research on uranium enrichment and radiation detection. And if that was not enough, she later found experi-

mental evidence against the long-standing theory of conservation of parity. Her two male colleagues were awarded the Nobel Prize for research made possible by her discovery, but Wu was ignored. Why?

The Problem: Over the last century, great strides have been made in the United States to equalize the status of women and open the doors of opportunity that have been closed to them for most of history. Yet somehow these strides in STEM fields have fallen woefully short. This is one of the great ironies of women's history. In the past several years there has been a sense of urgency to get young women and girls interested in science early. But as recently as the mid-twentieth century, women in science were so ostracized that they were not recognized for groundbreaking, sometimes Nobel Prize-winning, work.



Wu's story is just one of several that we have allowed to slip through the proverbial cracks. Dr. Esther Lederberg was a microbiologist credited with discovering the lambda bacteriophage—a virus that infects bacteria. She and her husband, Joshua, also developed a method to move bacterial colonies between petri dishes. Joshua Lederberg and his male colleagues received the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine in 1958. But like Wu, Esther was not recognized for her contributions.



Sometimes women's scientific contributions are not as obviously overlooked. Dr. Nettie Stevens was a geneticist during the turn of the twentieth century. She was among the first to argue that sex determination in certain organisms (including humans) is determined by chromosomes. This discovery was not widely accepted in the scientific community until other scientists published similar findings. Edmund Wilson came to similar conclusions in his own experiments, and prominent geneticist, Thomas Hunt Morgan, wrote a textbook confirming Stevens' findings but did not credit her for the discovery.

While the numbers are improving, there are still considerable disparities along *both gender and ethnic/socioeconomic lines*. Many experts argue that the key to inspiring the next generation of women to pursue STEM careers is to give them role models to whom they can look for inspiration. Women like Wu, Lederberg, and Stevens are just the people for the job. But for women and girls to be inspired by their handling of adversity and achievements, their stories need to be told.

One of the ways we can tell these stories is through a museum dedicated to women's history. Not only would such an institution tell the untold stories of women in STEM, but of those in politics, the arts, sports, and social change, to name a few.

See Eunice for how to join the National Women's History Museum project. (Her contact info is on the following page.)

2018 Benton County Democrats' Officers & Committee Chairs

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Home #</u>
President	Richard Bland	rabland@cox.net	631-9818
Vice-President	Suzanne Miltich	suzanne@dhsc.com	925-6275
Treasurer	David Cauldwell	dcauldwl@gmail.com	721-2747
Recording Secretary	Diana Kolman	dkolman@cox.net	903-3532
Past President	Eunice Van Tuyl	etvl@sbcglobal.net	855-7771
Membership Chair	Gaye Bland	GKBland@cox.net	631-9818
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing	jcewing.bcdems@cox.net	268-4231
Social Media	Lauren Galle	BCDemsLauren@gmail.com	855-4348
Newsletter Chair	Eunice Van Tuyl	etuy1@sbcglobal.net	855-7771
Publicity Chair	Jerri Cooper	jerricooper@aol.com	640-1343
Corresponding Secretary	JoAnn Skillett	jskilllett@sbcglobal.net	876-6841
Reservations Chair	Betty Cauldwell	bcauldwl@gmail.com	721-2747

