

## Upcoming Events

Mon. March 22  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Meeting

**Will Be Held Online**

### Virtual General Meeting

**Hosted on Zoom Until Further Notice.**

Topic: BC Dems General Meeting

Date & Time: March 22, 2021, 12:00 Noon Central Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 955 3096 2959

Passcode: 334393

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking the URL from your device, or  
dialing into the call number below.

(312) 626-6799

# Our March Speakers

## Gracie Ziegler

**President, Arkansas Federation of Democratic Women**

Ms. Ziegler is an active leader in state and local progressive issues; candidate recruitment, training, and consulting; and fighting for women's rights - because women's rights are human rights. Gracie has spent twenty years in a career centered in food and beverage marketing and innovation. Currently, she develops the private label strategy for a national beverage supplier.

She has been able to apply the same mindset behind what makes us choose (and crave) the food we eat to strategies that work best when appealing to voters on social justice issues and Democratic candidates.

Gracie lives in Fayetteville with her husband Mike and their dog.



## Anna Good

**Chair, Benton County Democratic Party**

Anna Good arrived in Arkansas with her family in 2019. Prior to that, Ms. Good lived in Minnesota where she was deeply involved in community organizing through her local Democratic Party and Indivisible. She earned her BA and Masters in Education from the University of South Dakota. Before her children were born, she worked as a public middle school teacher. Since having children, she's been the primary caregiver, educator (she homeschools), and managed a food pantry garden. The garden provided fresh produce to local food pantries and an emergency shelter. When she's not obsessing

over the news, she likes to bake bread, read dystopian fiction, and experiment with new recipes. Anna, her husband Kyle, four kids, and three cats live in Rogers.

# The President's Memo

March is Women's History Month - a time in which to shine a spotlight on the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. Knowing a woman's name, knowing her history, knowing what she did, how she did it, and why she did it gives due recognition and will inspire future generations.

There are so many unacknowledged women who have made history. There are as many who have been unable to create and tell their story. To ignore or exclude women and girls from spheres of influence has implications for our community and country's success and well-being.

There is so much more we can do to illuminate the ways in which women and girls make an impact so that this recognition is included in on-going discourse and celebration. Shining a spotlight on achievement and influence should be part of a continuum in bringing women's participation into the clear light of day, every day.

Stay safe and well,

*Julia K. Bailey*

Julia K Bailey  
March 15, 2021



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## Board News

### Membership Chair Position

The board is looking for an individual to step in as Membership Chair for the balance of this calendar year. If you are interested or want more information, please contact board president Julia Bailey here ([JKBBentonCounty@gmail.com](mailto:JKBBentonCounty@gmail.com))

### Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee is seeking expressions of interest in becoming a BC Dems Board member for 2022. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Chair. If interested, contact Walter Hinojosa ([tuhats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tuhats@sbcglobal.net)).

# What's Your Opinion?

We'd like to know your thoughts about having meetings again in person. Please take 3 minutes to answer 3 questions to help us gauge interest in this idea? [Tell Us What You Think](#)

## You Landed On Chance

[WON'T YOU RENEW NOW?](#)

## BLUE BOWLS

When we were meeting in person, Blue Bowls were placed on every table to collect funds. Those funds are used during both off-election and election years to support Democratic candidates for office within Arkansas.

You can still toss a few dollars into our virtual Blue Bowls. We only ask for a contribution of \$5 or more to offset those unavoidable transaction fees. Give to BlueBowl Fund .



## Women's History Book Recommendations

[America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines](#) by Gail Collins.

The author takes the reader on a journey of American lives, including many different subcultures and different times. She looks at how women were perceived (often as the lesser sex, incompetent to serve in roles reserved for men) and how women transcended those expectations. This is not a "great woman" book, but a book about what life was like for women in normal times and in times of crisis and change.

## **The Long Southern Strategy by Angie Maxwell and Todd Shields**

The Southern Strategy was but one in a series of decisions the GOP made not just on race, but on feminism and religion as well, in what Angie Maxwell and Todd Shields call the "Long Southern Strategy."

The Southern Strategy is traditionally understood as a Goldwater and Nixon-era effort by the Republican Party to win over disaffected white voters in the Democratic stronghold of the American South. To realign these voters with the GOP, the party abandoned its past support for civil rights and used racially coded language to capitalize on southern white racial angst. However, that decision was but one in a series of decisions the GOP made not just on race, but on feminism and religion as well, in what Angie Maxwell and Todd Shields call the "Long Southern Strategy."

In the wake of Second-Wave Feminism, the GOP dropped the Equal Rights Amendment from its platform and promoted traditional gender roles in an effort to appeal to anti-feminist white southerners, particularly women. And when the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention became increasingly fundamentalist and politically active, the GOP tied its fate to the Christian Right. With original, extensive data on national and regional opinions and voting behavior, Maxwell and Shields show why all three of those decisions were necessary for the South to turn from blue to red.

To make inroads in the South, however, GOP politicians not only had to take these positions, but they also had to sell them with a southern "accent." Republicans embodied southern white culture by emphasizing an "us vs. them" outlook, preaching absolutes, accusing the media of bias, prioritizing identity over the economy, encouraging defensiveness, and championing a politics of retribution. In doing so, the GOP nationalized southern white identity, rebranded itself to the country at large, and fundamentally altered the vision and tone of American politics.

## **The Roosevelt Women by Betty Boyd Caroli**

The Roosevelt name conjures up images of powerful Presidents and dashing men of high society. But few people know much about the extraordinary network of women that held the Roosevelt clan together through war, scandal, and disease. In *The Roosevelt Women*, Betty Boyd Caroli weaves together stories culled from a rich store of letters, memoirs, and interviews to chronicle nine extraordinary Roosevelt women across a century and a half of turbulent history. She examines the Roosevelt women as mothers, daughters, wives, and, beyond that, as world travelers, authors, campaigners, and socialites—in short, as themselves. She reveals how they demonstrated the energy and intellectual curiosity that defined their famous family, as well as the roles they played in the intrigues, scandals, and accomplishments that were hallmarks of the Roosevelt clan. From the much-maligned Sara Delano (who sired Franklin and by turns terrified and supported Eleanor) to Theodore's irrepressible daughter, Alice ("I can either rule the country or control Alice," Teddy once said) to the beloved Bamie, who was the only mother Alice ever knew, and the model of everything she never was in life, to the exceptionally beautiful but ultimately overwhelmed Mittie, Theodore's mother, *The Roosevelt Women* is an intricate portrait of bold and talented women, a grand tale of both unbearable tragedies and triumphant achievements.

# # #



*Watch this video to learn more about the Community Medical Debt Relief Campaign for Arkansas. RIP Medical Debt*



## We wish a fond farewell to two of our members.

**Nancianna Nott** has moved to Florida in a house next door to her daughter.

**Vivian Michaels** has moved to Tennessee to be near her son. Vivian was a long-time, very active worker for Democrats in NW Arkansas. As well as serving as the President of the Democratic Party of Benton County, for years she organized

our bean supper. She also found volunteers to set up and staff the Democrats' booth at the Benton County Fair for many years. We thank her for all her service.

**If you would like contact information for either of these two, call or e-mail Eunice Van Tuyl.**

It is with sympathy that we note the passing of our former member **Hal Spangenberg**. Hal lived in NW Arkansas in his younger years and was active in the Central Committee. When he moved to California, he continued to work with his county's Democratic party. Returning here in 2015, he immediately joined us and served as our newsletter editor for two of those years. He was a faithful attendee at both our general and executive board meetings. He had left us two years ago after the death of his wife to return to California to be near his son.



# General Meeting Minutes

## Benton County Dems ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Monday, February 22, 2021

- I. Attendee (25 attendees including 2 speakers)
- II. Call to order by President Julia Kilbourne Bailey at 12:05
- III. Welcome
  - A. Renewals are going well—If you haven't renewed, please do so
  - B. Don't forget the Blue Bowl contributions
- IV. Speaker—Bonnie Miller spoke on “Redistricting Movement in Arkansas”
  - A. Board of Directors League of Women Voters, President of League of Women Voters of Washington County, Arkansas Voters First, considers herself a “Democracy Reformist”
  - B. Reported on the Princeton Redistricting Commission and Princeton Gerrymandering Project
  - C. Before 2020, most Southern states' redistricting done by legislatures—Legal challenge on redistricting rules on 17 states (10 of those were Southern states)
    1. Significant growth of LatinX population in Florida, Texas Georgia, North Carolina, and Arkansas
    2. Because of Census delays, legislation has stalled in courts, legislatures, citizen interest, press interest
  - D. 2021 focus on “Differential Privacy,” i.e. system for publicly sharing information about a dataset by describing patterns of groups with the dataset while withholding information about individuals in the data set
    1. Two Arkansas House Bills (HB 1008 and HB 1005) deal with redistricting wanting to push through legislation before census results are in
    2. Questions about accuracy because of delayed census cause concern
    3. Redistricting before census numbers may undercut voters in some areas
    4. Write the Board of Apportionment and Representatives to stop these initiatives
  - E. Questions for Bonnie Miller at [bonniehmiller@gmail.com](mailto:bonniehmiller@gmail.com)
  - F. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/ARVotersFirst/>
- V. Speaker—Reverend Sara Milford, All Saints Episcopal Church, spoke on RIP Medical Debt Relief Program
  - A. Arkansas is 8<sup>th</sup> in the list for states with the most medical debt-- \$24 million in debt over 5 counties
  - B. This program will pay the debt for the most vulnerable people in the state and will remove debt from credit reports
  - C. \$1.00 = \$100.00 in debt forgiveness
  - D. Goal is to reach \$172,000.00 then letters of forgiveness will be mailed
  - E. Campaign runs until April
  - F. More information at <https://ripmedicaldebt.org>
- VI. Business
  - A. Thanks to Diane Coleman and Richard Bland, Audit Committee, for auditing 2020 books
  - B. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
    1. Report posted on Webpage and sent out in newsletter – Current balance \$2,728.28
    2. No questions
    3. Deb moved / Tim seconded / passed unanimously
  - C. Acceptance of January Minutes—
    1. Minutes posted on Webpage and Newsletter
    2. No questions
    3. Joel moved / Tim seconded / passed unanimously
- VII. Meeting adjourned 12:54 p.m. David moved / Rachel seconded / passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ostas

# Treasurer's Summary February 2021

by Timothy Boyer, Treasurer



<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,652.16</b>	
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>		<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>
Dues	\$50.00	\$0.00
Blue Bowls	\$77.95	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$127.95</b>	<b>Total Expenses: \$0.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,780.11</b>	

## 2020 Benton County Dems Officers & Committee Chairs

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
President	Julia K Bailey
Vice President	David Bernstein
Membership Chair	Vacant
Secretary	Deb Ostas
Treasurer	Tim Boyer
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing
Publicity Chair	Catherine Deeley
Communications Chair & Events Coordinator	Anna Knecht