

CHEERS TO COLTON!

Colton Dale received the 2023 David Greenspan Award at the club's annual fundraiser in November for his outstanding contributions, ranging from serving as vice president to running our communications efforts. From left: Vice President Sandra Bucciero; President Gary Bresnehan; Rachael Backer Dale, a former GP Dems board member and Colton's wife; Colton, and past President Harry Kalogerakos.

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Michigan vote could be decisive

While I was writing this column, Donald Trump won the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary. Despite his acts of treason, corruption and fraud, the Republicans will again nominate him to be the next president of the United States. This means we must make every effort to re-elect President Joe Biden.

Since Michigan could decide the presidential election, or at least be a battleground state, getting out the vote has never been more critical than it is right now. We've been through one disastrous Trump term. The country cannot withstand another.



**Message from
the president**

To this end, we are already preparing for this election and will need your support. The club will open a campaign office with the presidential and Michigan Democratic Party coordinated campaigns. Our goal is to open earlier than in past years. We also are planning a campaign office fundraiser and grand opening, and will share the details when they're finalized.

Other races in 2024

We have a lot of work to do to keep Michigan's U.S. Senate seat Democratic. Our state could decide the majority of the Senate so it's imperative that we work to get our eventual nominee elected. At our upcoming

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Michigan Speaker of the House Joe Tate addresses a record fundraiser crowd at Sindbad's in November.

It's critical that we keep our Senate seat

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membership meetings, we hope to have the U.S. Senate candidates appear so you can meet them. Our nominee will be decided at the August primary and the club will review candidates for endorsement. Regardless of who wins the nomination, we must unite behind our nominee for this very important November election.

Our party's national convention will be in Chicago in August. If you would like to be considered as a delegate, go to the Michigan Democratic Party website at michigandems.com.

This is also a great source of information for events hosted by the party, including the Legacy Dinner and convention.

Another great fundraiser

We finished 2023 with a fundraiser at Sindbad's, where we saw a dramatic increase in attendance and funds raised, and had an outstanding program.

Thanks to Chris Keelean for taking the lead and everyone who volunteered. Joe Tate, our 10th House District representative and Michigan Speaker of the House, was our featured speaker. Congratulations again to our former board vice president, Colton Dale, on receiving the David Greenspan Award. Thank you, Colton, for all the hard work and everything you've done for our club and the Democratic Party.

We hope to return to Sindbad's in November for the 2024 fundraiser. Watch for details later this year.

Coming up

We have a full schedule of events and opportunities for you to get involved in the coming year. Membership meetings will be held on March 27 and April 24 at Wayne County Community College in Harper



During a visit to Michigan in February, President Biden dropped by They Say in Harper Woods, where he was greeted by Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle and acting City Manager John Szymanski.

Woods. Our annual picnic will be June 17 at the Tompkins Community Center in Grosse Pointe Park, and the popular National Coney food trucks will be back. Watch our social media and website for details.

If you haven't done so, please renew your membership. Your donations allow us to continue the great work we do for our party and candidates.

Finally, a big highlight for our community was President Biden's visit to Harper Woods in early February. He was terrific and I know we will see more of him this year.

And speaking of highlights: Congratulations to the Harper Woods High School Pioneers for winning the Division 4 state football championship for the first time in the city's history!

Let's take a page out of their playbook and go for the win this year!

Gary Bresnehan

Greenspan Award goes to Colton Dale at club's biggest fundraiser yet

The Grosse Pointe Democratic Club honored two esteemed members, Colton Dale and Cheryl Harvey, at the annual fundraiser in November.

Colton received the David Greenspan Award for serving as second vice president and executive board member, canvassing for local candidates and being a one-man communications committee.

Colton created and maintained our website and social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and X, formerly known as Twitter. He also wrote and distributed email communications to club members.

Whenever there was something of importance to share, Colton made sure it was distributed to members through multiple channels. What he used to do on his own is now done by a committee.

The Greenspan Award honors members for exemplary service and devotion to the Democratic Party and the continued success of our club.

It is named after David Greenspan, who devoted a lifetime of service to the Democratic Party and our club, as a precinct delegate, activist, volunteer and board member to advance the causes of civil liberties, justice and government that serves all citizens equally.

Kudos to Cheryl Harvey

We have so many members who contribute to our club. One of them, Cheryl Harvey, has been such a stalwart that we wanted to recognize her at our fundraiser. She is a longtime supporter who began attending Grosse Pointe Democratic Club fundraisers more than 25 years ago when they were at the Blue Pointe Restaurant.

Cheryl stays in the background, but has been a stalwart supporter of everything the club has done. She is a lifetime member many times over and generously donates to our fundraisers; she was a sponsor of the November 2023 fundraiser.

She is usually the first to sign up for an event, and attends everything from club meetings to campaign fundraisers with her smile and enthusiastic energy.

Harry Kalogerakos



ABOVE: Lifetime club member Cheryl Harvey was recognized for her longtime support in a presentation by former President Harry Kalogerakos.

BELOW: Michigan Speaker of the House Joe Tate, right, got a special GP Dems T-shirt from President Gary Bresnehan, left, and board member Ed Keelean.



Committee reports

Fundraiser

We had a great club fundraiser in November at Sindbad's. A nice venue with good food and good conversations made for an enjoyable evening. Michigan House Speaker Joe Tate was an inspiring keynote speaker.

Back for a second year was our silent auction. Many unique items, including a Tigers ticket package, raised \$1,200.

Thank you to the committee, auction item donors and auction bidders for helping make this event a success.

We raised \$5,960 overall and had 115 attendees, outdoing our 2022 numbers of \$3,280 raised and 85 attendees.

— *Chris Keelean*

Action & Engagement

This is going to be a busy year for the Grosse Pointe Democrats, and we will need all hands on deck!

By the time you read this, we will have held a primary election watch party, and precinct delegate and activist training designed to empower members to make change and learn what small steps members can take to make a difference in November.

We welcome more members to get involved with our committee. For more information on what we do or to join the committee, email Sandra.bucciero@gmail.com.

— *Sandra Bucciero*

Precinct Delegate Action

The committee is ramping up recruitment of precinct delegates and retention of the 155 current delegates, in advance of the May 7 deadline to get on the ballot for the Aug. 6 primary election.

When the new state House, Senate and federal congressional districts are implemented for the 2024 election cycle, basic precinct maps will be largely unchanged but voters will be in need of effective leadership from their precinct delegates.

Currently the GP Dems focuses on the 99 precincts and 396 delegate positions in the former state House districts 1 and 2, encompassing the eastside of Detroit, Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes.

The committee has an important job and we welcome motivated Democrats to embrace the opportunity to be grassroots difference-makers in your neighborhoods. Committee members are Sandra Bucciero, Jeff Greer, Darci McConnell, Shannon Byrne, Addison Mauck and chairman Ed Keelean.

For more information or to get on the ballot for precinct delegate, call or email Ed Keelean at 313-498-2409, eckeelean@comcast.net.

— *Ed Keelean*

*Membership Committee
report on Page 5.*

GROSSE POINTE DEMOCRATIC CLUB officers and executive board

President Gary Bresnehan (GP)

Vice President Jackie Kalogerakos (HW)

Vice President Sandra Bucciero (GPW)

Treasurer Christan Keelean (GPP)

Secretary Jeff Greer (GPP)

At-large members

Beverly Brown (DET)

Shannon Byrne (GPF)

Francesca Catalfio (GPF)

John Clark (GPS)

Olivia Coleman (DET)**

Emily Everett (GPW)

John Kalogerakos (GPF)

Ed Keelean (GPP)

Laura Kellett (GPF)

Ernestine Lyons (HW)

Addison Mauck (DET)

Darci McConnell (GPP)

La Vern Rutledge (HW)

Roland Samaroo (GPF)

Aaron Tavalire (GPF)

Rose Tokatlian (DET)

Christine Wujek (GPF)

Ex-officio members

Tim Killeen (DET)

Valerie Kindle (HW)

Neil Sroka (GPF)

Past president

Harry Kalogerakos (HW)

** campaign finance compliance officer

It's time to renew!

Club membership coincides with the calendar year. Check the mailing label on the back page for your last paid membership year. Renew by check with this form, online at gpdems.com or by scanning the QR code. As always, thank you!



Grosse Pointe Democratic Club • 2024 Membership

P.O. Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

- Member \$20 Sponsor \$50 Century Club \$100 Life \$500
- New Renewal Cash Check Credit Card

* Email _____

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

** Occupation _____

** Employer _____ ** Address _____ ** ZIP _____

* Required for club announcements

** Required by Michigan campaign finance law

Donations not tax-deductible

Message from the Membership Committee

Welcome to all of our new members!

You are now a part of what has historically been the largest Democratic club in Michigan. Thank you to existing members who paid your dues or donated this year.

This will be one of the most important election cycles in American history.

Please renew or join us as we continue our fight for democracy, for the working people of this

country, for health care, climate protection, equity, education, infrastructure, a strong economy and all the other traditional democratic values at stake this year.

You can easily renew online at gpdems.com or use the form above. The year listed on your address label is your most recent paid membership year.

— Laura Kellett



**Grosse Pointe
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

P.O. Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

SAVE THE DATES!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 6:30 P.M.

Membership meeting, Wayne County
Community College, 19305 Vernier,
Harper Woods

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 6:30 P.M.

Membership meeting, Wayne County
Community College, 19305 Vernier,
Harper Woods. Featured speaker: Mark Brewer,
former MDP chair and election attorney

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 5:30-8 P.M.

Picnic, Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park,
Grosse Pointe Park. \$10 per person. Catered by
National Coney Island.

TUESDAY, AUG. 6

State primary

OCTOBER, DATE TBD

Membership meeting

TUESDAY, NOV. 5

Election Day and evening
watch party

NOVEMBER, DATE TBD

Annual fundraiser