

GROSSE POINTE DEMOCRATS

February 2020

Michigan's largest chartered Democratic club

Serving the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and Detroit's east side

COMING UP

GP Dems membership meeting, Wednesday, March 4, social time at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7, Grosse Pointe War Memorial Reception Room, 32 Lake Shore, GP Farms. State Reps. Tenisha Yancey and Joe Tate will give legislative updates, and Cynthia Douglas will talk about the Grosse Pointes & Harper Woods NAACP.

14th Congressional District monthly meetings, 11 a.m. March 14 and April 11, Oak Park Parks and Recreation, 14300 Oak Park Blvd. **May 9 and June 13 meetings** at Northwest Activity Center, 18100 Meyers, Detroit.

Fundraiser for U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, 3-4:30 p.m. March 29, co-sponsored by Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, Grosse Pointe Park (address provided after ticket purchase). See flier inside.

Save the date: Youth engagement and community cleanup event, **10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 18**, details TBA.

GP Dems membership meeting, Wednesday, April 22, social time at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7, Grosse Pointe War Memorial Activities Room (lower level).

Save the dates: Door-knocking, phone-banking, absentee voter outreach. **12:30-3:30 p.m. April 26**, and door-knocking, phone-banking, general voter outreach. **12:30-3:30 p.m. May 17**. Details TBA.

GP Dems annual picnic, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11, Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park, GP Park, rain or shine, \$5 donation.

For updates, check our Facebook page and gpdems.org.



GREENSPAN AWARD WINNERS Olivia Coleman, second from left, and Chris Keelean, second from right, are flanked by club VP Jackie Kalogerakos and President Gary Bresnehan. Details on Page 3.

Local successes point way to dumping Trump!

We were so local and vocal last fall that almost all of our endorsed candidates prevailed in local city council races. Congratulations to Neil Sroka who won his race for GPF City Council; Aimee Fluitt and Vikas Relan, who won their races in GPP, and Kenneth Gafa who won in GPW. We commend Anthony Chalut who unfortunately came up short in his race for the special GPF City Council



Message from the president

vacancy.

We also had a new mayor elected in GPC, Sheila Tomkowiak, along with new GPC City Council members who will bring more progressive change to that city. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and supported those candidates. The results showed that everyone's contributions made a huge impact.

I want to thank everyone who attended or contributed to our fundraiser at the Whiskey Six in

Continued on Page 2

We had an overflow crowd at our Whiskey Six fundraiser. Our members are ready to take on Republicans in this year's elections!



Local successes are road map to 2020 efforts to dump Trump

Continued from Page 1

November. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy was a terrific speaker, providing updates about her policies and new programs.

Since we had significantly more people attend than in recent years, we apologize for being tight on space and the food service not being expedient enough. We will definitely plan ahead to accommodate more people at the Whiskey Six for this November's event.

Although having too many people at an event is a good problem to have, we will improve this year's event to make it even better.

I want to congratulate Olivia Coleman and Chris Keelean for being the David Greenspan Award recipients last year, in recognition of their efforts for the club. Their hard work is essential; without them doing the financials, we will not be able to function.

Turning to 2020

We have big tasks ahead. First and foremost is to dump Trump. We also have to retake control of the U.S. Senate – which must include re-electing Gary Peters – and retaking our state House. Based on strong voter turnout in 2018 and the electorate's disdain for the Republicans' divisive agenda, we can finish what we started in 2018. But we cannot take anything for granted and must plan now for a strong campaign effort.

To do our part, the club will co-host a local fundraiser for Sen. Peters on March

29. Since Peters will have a competitive race against a well-funded Republican, we need to contribute what we can.

In addition, the club will hold a fundraiser during the first half of this year for our campaign office. Once our presidential nominee is known, we will be able to actively search for a joint campaign office.

Our presidential primary will be Tuesday, March 10. Although the club will likely not endorse a candidate, we will provide news and updates about candidate events, appearances and forums locally.

After our presidential nominee is selected, we must put aside our differences and be together behind that candidate. Without a totally unified effort, we cannot hope to succeed this November.

A round of thanks

I want to thank Val Kindle for organizing the 14th Congressional District meetings at WCCC in January and February that were heavily attended by local Democrats. I also want to thank our 2019 board for their hard work.

At our March 4 membership meeting, we will elect our 2020 board. (See slate at right.)

To stay updated on events throughout the year, like us on Facebook, check gpdems.org, and make sure we have your current email address for club notices.

And renew your membership. We need your support for continued success this year, and to maintain our club's work in the community.

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club slate of proposed officers and executive board

President Gary Bresnehan (GP)
 Vice President Jackie Kalogerakos (HW)
 Vice President Colton Dale (GPW)
 Treasurer Christan Keelean (GPP)
 Secretary Larry Macdonald (GPW)

At-large members

Rachael Backer (GPW)
 Beverly Brown (DET)
 Sandra Bucciero (GPW)
 Shannon Byrne (GPF)
 Francesca Catalfo (GPF)
 John Clark (GPS)
 Olivia Coleman (DET)
 *Tewonia Evans (DET)
 Emily Everett (GPW)
 Jeff Greer (GPP)
 Ed Keelean (GPP)
 Laura Kellett (GPF)
 *Colin McComb (GPP)
 *Chris Moyer (GPC)
 *Mary Rouleau (GPP)
 La Vern Rutledge (HW)
 Roland Samaroo (GPF)
 *Marcia Spivey (DET)
 Aaron Tavalire (GPF)

(* Proposed new board members. Nominating committee: Shannon Byrne, Jeff Greer, Harry Kalogerakos, Ed Keelan)

Ex-officio members

Kenn Gafa (GPW)
 Tim Killeen (DET)
 Valerie Kindle (HW)
 Neil Sroka (GPF)

Past president

Harry Kalogerakos (HW)

Not returning in 2020: Margaret Beck, Andrew Casazza and Ian McCain

November fundraiser featured speaker Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy with Rick Blocker, chair of the 14th Congressional District Democrats, at right. Fundraiser guests, below, are full of smiles, good cheer and energy for the 2020 elections!



Greenspan Award goes to all-star team of Keelean and Coleman

Two unheralded but indispensable women received the 2019 David Greenspan Award. It was only appropriate that Chris Keelean and Olivia Coleman receive the award jointly. Chris is the club's treasurer and Olivia is the assistant treasurer and officer for financial compliance.

They handle the increased recordkeeping resulting from our growing membership and fundraisers, process all the dues and contributions and prepare and file all the required campaign finance reports. They help out at the welcoming table at every activity.

As if that's not enough, both Chris and Olivia always step in to handle any other tasks that

need to be done at club meetings and events. Their dedication and willingness to take on any job exemplifies the dedication that the Greenspan Award honors.

The plaque reads: "This award honors our members for their exemplary service and devotion to the Democratic Party and to the continued success of our club. This award is named after David Greenspan, who has devoted a lifetime of service to the Democratic Party and to our club as a precinct delegate, activist, volunteer and board member to advance the causes of civil liberties, justice and government that serve all citizens equally."

Greenspan died Oct. 24, 2014 at the age of 100.

Committee chair reports

Action!

2020 is here! We've spent three years organizing and resisting and this is the year we have been preparing for.

In successful city council races in the Park and Farms last fall, we knocked on the doors of 10,000 voters. When we bring this kind of energy and commitment, we win! With your help we can do the work to win in November.

Each month the GP Dems will host activism opportunities. In January we hosted canvassing and precinct delegate training. February and March were designated for coordination with the MDP to knock doors and register voters. In April we will host our first Youth Engagement Event, and from May until November we will hold multiple canvassing opportunities as well as pints and postcard events.

Engaging as many voters as possible is the path to victory. Join us to work together to win in what may be the most critical election of our lives!

Shannon Byrne

Membership

Time to renew your club membership! 2020 is an important year with presidential and important Senate and House seats on the line. Dues are our primary means of support.

There are two ways to renew: Mail the form on the back page of the newsletter with your check, or go to gpdems.org and click on CONTRIBUTE to pay by card. .

You can also win a lifetime membership. Bring in a new member between now and the March 4 membership meeting to be entered in a drawing at the meeting. You get one entry for every new member. New members also can join online or by mail. Remind them to list you as the referring member.

Francesca Catalfo

Precinct delegate

On Jan. 25 the committee presented Part II of a Precinct Delegate training and networking program that started last September. The program at the Grosse Pointe Woods library focused on canvassing.

Municipal elections in the Pointes and Harper Woods last November demonstrated the effect of grassroots activism in the elections of Neil Sroka to the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council and Vikas Relan and Aimee Rogers Fluit to Grosse Pointe Park City Council, with support of the GP Dems and many precinct delegates and volunteers.

The committee intends to make 2020 a momentous year with the March 10 presidential primary, Aug. 4 statewide

primary and Nov. 3 general election. In March we have a say in selecting the national Democratic candidate who will carry the fight to Trump. In August we elect the precinct delegates we need to get our voters registered and motivated, and also the Democratic candidate and the likely winners in House Districts 1 and 2. In November we contribute to the end of Trump and re-elect Gary Peters and Brenda Lawrence.

The deadline is May 5 for current and prospective precinct delegates to file their affidavit of identity for the Aug. 4 ballot. The affidavit form and a Precinct Delegate Manual can be accessed at gpdems.org and you can check your precinct and confirm your voter registration at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Organize - Build Power - Win Justice!

*Ed Keelean, 313-498-2409,
eckeelean@comcast.net*

Fundraising

More than 100 members and friends attended our annual fundraiser on Nov. 18 at Whiskey Six in Grosse Pointe, enjoying pizza, pasta and guest speaker Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy. It was our largest fundraiser ever! Profits will go toward our 2020 campaign office.

Margaret Beck



**Grosse Pointe
DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

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

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club • 2020 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

New member referred by _____

* Email _____

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

** Occupation _____

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

* Required for club announcements

** Required by Michigan campaign finance law

Donations not tax-deductible