

# GROSSE POINTE DEMOCRATS

October 2017

*Michigan's largest Democratic Club*

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

## COMING UP

**Grosse Pointe Democratic Club membership meeting, 7 p.m. Oct. 19, War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore, Grosse Pointe Farms.** Guest speaker gubernatorial candidate Shri Thanedar. Other Democratic candidates and elected officials are expected to attend.

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**14th Congressional District meeting, 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers, Detroit.**

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**Women's Convention, Oct. 27-29, Cobo Center.** (More on Page 5.)

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**Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7.** Contact your city hall for a sample ballot and other voter information.

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**Annual Grosse Pointe Democratic Club fundraiser, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, Bogart's, 17441 Mack Ave., Detroit.** Guest speaker state Rep. Stephanie Chang. (More on Page 5.)

For updates, go to [gpdems.com](http://gpdems.com) and like us on Facebook.

## GP Dems are standing strong like never before

It's been 10 months since the devastating election of Donald Trump, and for us it's been a time to resist, to speak out and, at times, to successfully halt the Republicans' assault on working people and the middle class.

I want to thank groups like We GP for their activism to organize like-minded people to raise awareness and change our government. Even

though the group is non-partisan, we support their efforts because our causes coincide.

It's my hope that the Michigan Democratic Party also will support and partner with like-minded nonpartisan organizations. These groups allow people from different



Message from the president

backgrounds and political viewpoints to become involved, which is what we need to expand our voter base and community outreach.

Since election night, what have we learned and done to improve our ability to persuade voters and win elections? In my last article, I said the party has to re-establish trust with voters who didn't support Democrats in the last election but have in the past, and we must be able to handle the truth and not criticize or place blame. In short, we must listen and, most important, be able to see our weaknesses and fix them.

Unfortunately, Democrats are falling into the blame trap and we risk losing those voters again. With so much at stake in the 2018 and 2020 elections, such as redistricting, we must not let that happen.

So what is the Democratic Party doing to win back those voters? Not enough.

It's easy to criticize but that will only push those voters further away. We have to listen to



Club members have showed up in big numbers to events such as the first-ever We GP-sponsored Grosse Pointe Pride March, which attracted 2,000 people. More Dems in action on Page 3.

them and be open-minded enough to see all sides of an issue.

Plus, our party needs to stand strongly on issues, and all Democrats elected to public office must follow the platform. Voters must be able to rely on us at ALL levels to protect working people. As it was so painfully evident in the last election, working- and middle-class voters have lost trust in us.

To regain the trust of the public and nonaffiliated voters who decide elections, we must be able to produce and be relied on to protect their interests without compromise or delay. Actions must follow words.

Here is my proposed solution: The Michigan Democratic Party for 2018 should adopt and enforce a "compact for working people." It would be a straightforward economic platform for

*Continued on Page 3*

# Voters to fill vacant House seat

**T**he recent winner of a contentious Democratic primary race for state House District 1, Tenisha Yancey is headed into the November general election as the candidate most likely to represent the heavily Democratic district in Lansing.

Yancey, a former prosecuting attorney and member of the Harper Woods school board, was one of 11 Democratic primary candidates to fill the seat vacated earlier this year when former State Rep. Brian Banks resigned as part of a plea agreement.

"I feel really proud that I was able to be victorious, considering the amount of people in the race," she said. "Humble as well, and very grateful for the constituents in this area that found me to be the best candidate."

On Nov. 7, when Michigan voters head to the polls for the general election, Yancey will run against Republican Mark Corcoran and Libertarian Gregory Creswell in her bid to represent District 1, which includes a portion of northeast Detroit, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Shores and Harper Woods.

Yancey acknowledges her constituents have different priorities – from drug crimes to education to preserving the Great Lakes. "During the times I was knocking doors, I never heard anyone from Grosse Pointe or Harper Woods have a fear of dead bodies found in the homes next door to them or drugs," she said. "I don't know that the constituents who are faced with drug dealing on their street are as concerned with

water pollution and air pollution as they are in suburban areas because they have a more imminent danger and threat they face coming out of their homes every day."



Tenisha Yancey

heard so much about during the primary.

In addition to crime and pollution, Yancey mentioned classroom sizes, insurance redlining and the pension tax as important to her constituents. She plans to push for no more than a 30-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio.

"You can't keep cramming kids into a classroom and have mandatory reading laws and expect teachers to have the one-on-one attention some of the students may need who are not getting it at home," she said. "If classrooms are oversized and crowded, you also have behavioral issues that will interfere with goals that need to be met."

Yancey cites years of experiences as an attorney, public servant and single mother that will help her be effective in Lansing. "I want to work with whomever is there who has the same goals I have and who wants to keep fighting the good fight."

*Jennifer Bagwell*

## Officers and executive board

**President** Gary Bresnehan (GP)  
**Vice President** Jackie Kalogerakos (HW)

**Vice President** Aaron Tavalire (GPF)  
**Treasurer** Kirk Garey (GPW)  
**Secretary** Larry Macdonald (GPW)

### At-large members

Jennifer Bagwell (DET)  
Margaret Beck (GPF)  
Tim Bledsoe (GP)  
Beverly Brown (DET)  
Shannon Byrne (GPF)  
Richard Canny (GPF)  
Andrew Casazza (GPF)  
Francesca Catalfio (GPF)  
John Clark (GPS)  
Olivia Coleman (DET)  
Colton Dale (GPW)  
Marc Deldin (GP)  
Emily Everett (GPW)  
Jennifer Fiore (GPS)  
Mary Jo Johnson (GPF)  
Ed Keelean (GPP)  
Peter McGrath (GPP)  
La Vern Rutledge (HW)  
Roland Samaroo (GPF)  
Ricardo Thomas (DET)

### Ex-officio members

Tim Killeen (DET)  
Valerie Kindle (HW)  
Veronica Paiz (HW)

### Past president

Harry Kalogerakos (HW)

## Committee chair reports

### Fundraising

Our annual fundraiser is 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, at Bogart's, 17441 Mack at Neff. Tickets are \$35. It's also a chance to join or renew your membership. Tickets and membership must be paid by check to the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club. Per state guidelines, we cannot accept cash. If you would like to help at the event, call me at 313-882-7775 or email margretbeck@comcast.net.

Thanks to all who volunteered on our garage sale in May. We made \$1,225.

Please save items for the May 2018 garage sale and encourage people who are moving to donate household items.

*Margaret Beck*

### Precinct delegate action

Yes, it's 10 months until the Aug. 7 primary, but only seven months until the deadline to get your name on the ballot as a candidate for precinct delegate. I have already filed many signed and notarized Affidavits of Identity with the Wayne County Elections Commission. I stand

ready with plenty of the necessary forms and my notary commission is good until June 2023. So there is no reason not to fill out the paperwork when next we meet. The general membership meeting on Oct. 19 would be perfect.

With the election of Donald Trump there is a renewed appreciation for the need to get involved in grassroots politics and that is what the precinct delegate program is all about.

For more information, call or email me: 313-618-6067, eckeelean@comcast.net.

*Organize – Build Power – Win Justice!*

*Ed Keelean*





GP Dems Club members have been active at many events, including a rally to save DACA, the March for Science, March for Education, the Grosse Pointe Pride March and signature gathering for the ballot proposal to end gerrymandering. We also were a co-sponsor of the We GP Vigil for Charlottesville.



# GP Dems standing up, speaking out

*Continued from Page 1*

working people and the middle class that all Democratic elected officials, candidates and leaders must sign off on, agree to and, most importantly, follow. No deviations.

It would include pensions, health care, wages, middle-class tax reform, student loan reform, opposing the exportation of jobs to foreign countries, supporting public education and other economic and taxation positions.

If a Democratic candidate or elected official doesn't believe in the compact for working people, then perhaps the Democratic Party is not where that person fits.

If some feel uncomfortable about this, then it's time we make people feel uncomfortable if they can't support and follow positions for working people and the middle class. We have to take a hard line.

This pledge to the compact for working people would emphatically notify the public who we are, what we stand for and what we will do if we elect a Democratic governor

and legislative majorities in 2018.

Continuing to run on what we are against is not working. We must show voters they can trust us. Otherwise, we risk more horrific defeats in the elections ahead.

## In other club news

With the 2018 election almost upon us, the club will be featuring candidates running for statewide offices.

Last spring we had terrific meetings with Congressman Dan Kildee (who has since announced he is not running for governor) and former Democratic state Senate leader Gretchen Whitmer, who is running for governor. At our Oct. 19 general membership meeting, we will feature Shri Thanedar, candidate for governor, and we expect to see other candidates there as well.

In addition, at our annual fundraiser on Monday, Nov. 13, state Rep. Stephanie Chang will be our guest speaker, and we expect to have visits from other Democratic candidates.

Please come out for these important events.

Last spring we had a great picnic and it was terrific to come together with all of you. My thanks to Val Kindle for organizing it, Larry Macdonald for grilling and everyone who brought food and helped out.

I also want to thank Margaret Beck and everyone who volunteered at her garage sale last May. It was again a tremendous success, raising \$1,225, which Margaret donated to the club.

Later this year we will start planning for the 2018 campaign office fundraiser and office opening.

We have our work cut out for us and we know what needs to be done: win! With everyone's help, we can prevail.

Please continue to support the club by renewing your membership and attending our events. It's been great seeing so many standing-room-only meetings! I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Gary Bresnehan*

## 2016 Grosse Pointe Democratic Club membership list

LIFE 500	Heather Bendure	Blondell Doughty	Mary Jo Johnson	Adrian Mitchell	Roland Samaroo
Steve & Pat Bill	Scott Benson	Kathy Drozer	Robert Johnson	Melanie Mitchell	Stephanie Samuel
Shauna Ryder Diggs and Douglas Diggs	Edward & Fran Benz	Anne Duffey-Leo	Jermain Lee Jones	Ken A. Mokray	Michael & Vivian Sawicki
Paul & Sylvia Donohue	Barry Berk	James T. Ellis	Andrea Joy	Adam & Natalie Morath	Connie Moulder-Shaub
Cheryl A. Harvey	Sen. Steve Bieda	Emily Everett	Harry & Jackie Kalogerakos	Sandra Moreland	Trudy Shiemke
John P. & Linda Jacobs	Anthony Birnbryer	Theresa Fields	Edward & Christan Keelean	Gordon & Judy Morlan	Basil & Evey Simon
Carolyn Kilpatrick	Mary Herring & Tim Bledsoe	Barbara Fitzgerald Finch	Brendan & Shelley Ann Keelean	Mary Morshead	Robert Sisler
Roger & Nancy Kline	Anne Bleich	Jennifer Fiore	Philip & Marjorie Keils	Katharine Mullaney	Donald E. Smith
Yvonne Knox	Corinne Foley Bojanic	Linda Fisher	Jerry Keith	Colleen Murphy	Terri Smith
Hon. Leo & Joyce Lalonde	J.P. & I. Bourgeois	R. Michael Flores	James & Joann Kelly	George Murphy	Therese L. Smith
William LeFevre	Susan Boynton	Dennis R. Flynn	Tamika Kennedy	Lambro Niforos	Gary & Geraldine Spezia
Hon. Lamar & Joyce Lemmons III	Greg Bowens	Catherine & Joseph Forcillo	Arnold Ketels	Laura O'Grady	Stephen Spurr
Charles Mancini	Robert Bradley	Theresa Forir	Kevin Ketels	Richard & Deborah Olson	Neil Sroka
George McMullen	Dennis & Mary Brescoll	Shirley Fortune	Clarita Ketels	Courtney O'Reilly	Benjamin Stanczyk Jr.
Ellen Schreuder	Gary Bresnehan	Mark & Sonja Franchett	Kasia Kietlinska	Maryann & Michael O'Shea	Sandra Stanley
Comm. Martha G. Scott	Michelle Broughton	Susa & Bill Francis	Valerie Kindle	Chris Vadino & Chuck Palmer	Iris Steinberg
S. Martin Taylor	Claire Brown	Elaine Frost	Lauri Kingsbury	Daniel Palmer	Cynthia Stephens
Seetha Uthappa	Susan Budrys	Judy & Kenneth Gafa	Lauren Knill	Colin Parjlan	John & Deanna Stephens
Cecilia & Jeffrey Walker	Janet Burke	Kathleen Gallagher	William Korte	Diane Parlove	Julie Strabel
Bernard & Roberta Youngblood	Dorothy Burrell	Kathy, Ross & Ben Gardner	Anastasia Koutsopoulos	George Pelyak	Nadia Straktelak
~~~~~	Shannon Byrne	Kathleen Garvey	William & Agnes Kunes	Larry & Janet Peplin	Kathleen Straus
Mary Abouljoud	Sharon & Gregory Campbell	Joseph & Linda Girolamo	Nadra & Leo Lamberti	Christy Petroff	Nathan Strickland
Veronica Adams	Richard Canny	Linda Girolamo	Elizabeth Lawlis	Gerald Phillips	Greg & Patti Swetka
Don Adzigan	Vincent Caporale	William Tilly & Marsha Goan	Susan & Jim Lawlis	Hon. Lynne Pierce	Emery J. & Dee Szmrecsanyi
Dar Alcott	Suellen Carrier	Steven Goldstein	Deborah Lessane	Andrew Morlan & Meggan Morlan Pope	Joe Tate
Joy & Marge Alff	Andrew Casazza	Doris Goleniak	Michele Lindsay	Joanna Porvin	Julie Telang
Jill Alper	Francesca Catalfo	Julia Goodman	Katherine Loch	Ken Poynter	Kelly Terpstra
Dana M. Alpern	Marcy Chanteaux	Claudia Gostine	Lawrence & Kathleen Macdonald	Christopher Pratt	Ricardo Thomas
James Amar	John Clark	Gina Granger	Giovannina Maio	Aulga Prokopowicz	Janet Thompson
April Anthony	Patrick Clarke	Andre Green	William Marcus	Suchi Rama	Robert Tighe
Sharon Applebaum	Paula Cole	Russell Greenfelder	Madelyne Markowitz	William Rapai	Allan J. Torp
Laurie Arora	Olivia Coleman	Jeffery Greer	Beth Martin	Eileen Reickert	Rosanne Triano
Nicholas Bachand	Judith L. Collier	Joan Hall	Martha Martin	Kenneth G. Reid	Steve Trowbridge
David & Elaine Backhurst	Don Corbin	Roman Hammes	Appolonia Matz	Lisa Rennell	Susan Trudeau
Jennifer Bagwell	Susan Corbin	Katherine Hampton	Victoria McCann	Joan Richardson	Mark Ulicny
Matt Bancroft	Dr. I. Louis Cotman	Tudi Harwood	Harper & Eric McClellan	Lori-Ann Rickard	John & Gail Urso
Barb Choate & Lawrence Banka	Judith LeBeau & William Cox	Elaine & George Hathaway	Colin McComb	Dawn Riddle	Emily White
Brian Banks	Marcia Cron	Wilma Healy	Darci McConnell	James Rine	William Wild
Skip & Mary Ellen Barnes	Donna Curran	Maria Miller & William Heaphy	Timothy McCormick	Sally Roberts	Russell Chavey & Christy Winder
Margaret Beck	June E. Dean	Jeremy Erskine Henner	Laura McCourt	Carol Rodriguez	Craig Woodhouse
Emma Bell	Marc Deldin	Gloria Heppner	Katie McGrath	Renee Rogers	Tenisha Yancey
Willie Bell	Caroll Deuben	Edward Hill	Renee McKinney	Kathy Rohan	Jasper Young
	James Devereaux	Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood	Jan McMillan	Frank & Carol Romano	
	Jessie Ding	Monica M. Hubbard	Catherine McPherson	Janna C. Roop	
	Clara Dixon	Jennifer Hutchinsan		Cheryll & Ron Ropke	
	Craig Dougherty				

Corrections/omissions  
to mjingp@aol.com

## Your vote doesn't count. Let's fix that! Join Voters Not Politicians campaign

**O**n Aug. 17 the Michigan Board of Canvassers approved petition language that would change the state constitution to create an independent commission to redraw our congressional and state House and Senate districts.

A volunteer army mobilized immediately to gather the required 315,654 registered voter signatures in the allotted 180 days, to get the issue to voters on the 2018 ballot. In fewer than 30 days, the 6,500 activists got nearly 117,000 signatures, and the momentum builds daily.

Many Grosse Pointe Dems and precinct delegates are in the middle of the movement, but we need more. It is important and rewarding work to change the way our political representatives are chosen by ending gerrymandering, the process in which the party in power manipulates boundaries of the electoral constituency to dilute the voting strength of the other party.

If you'd like to volunteer and/or contribute, log in to [VotersNotPoliticians.com](http://VotersNotPoliticians.com) or contact Ed Keelean at 313-618-6067, [eckeelean@comcast.net](mailto:eckeelean@comcast.net).





# GROSSE POINTE DEMOCRATIC CLUB ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13  
Bogart's Food & Spirits  
17441 Mack Ave. (at Neff), Detroit

*Guest speaker state Rep. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit)*

Tickets \$35, available by mail or at the door.

**Checks only** – per state regulations –  
payable to Grosse Pointe Democratic Club.

Ticket includes pizza, salad, coffee, tea, soft drinks  
and one glass of house wine or beer

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend. Please reserve \_\_\_\_ tickets at \$35 each.

\_\_\_\_ No, I cannot attend but I am enclosing a gift to support the club.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ \*Employer \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_ \*ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form by Nov. 9 with check made out to Grosse Pointe Democratic Club.  
Mail to Treasurer, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, P.O. Box 36881, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.  
Reservations will be held at the door. For more information, call Margaret Beck 313-882-7775.

\*Required by Michigan campaign finance law • Contributions are not tax-deductible.

**Reminder: We will be accepting membership renewals at the event.**

## Join fellow Dems, other allies at women's convention at Cobo

The energy that inspired the Women's March in Washington on Jan. 21 comes to Detroit Oct. 27-29 for the Women's Convention at Cobo Center.

The weekend will include workshops, strategy sessions, forums and intersectional movement building to continue preparation for the 2018 midterm elections.

Guest speakers include Congresswoman

Maxine Waters, and there will also be film screenings, a Saturday night social justice concert and a Social Justice City with a Women's Market where socially conscious businesses can showcase their work.

The event will bring together first-time activists and seasoned organizers who have organized marches, huddles, rallies and resistance actions, large and small, since

January.

The roots of the Women's March are impressive. It was the largest single-day protest in U.S. history. It not only inspired sister marches in Grosse Pointe and around the country but around the world. In all, 5 million people marched that weekend.

*For more information and to register, go to [womensconvention.com](http://womensconvention.com).*



## Grosse Pointe Democratic Club • 2018 Membership

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

**Circle a category: Member \$15 • Club \$25 • Sponsor \$50 • Century Club \$100 • Life \$500**

If information below is the same as your previous year, just print your name.

\* Email \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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\* Required for club announcements

\*\* Required by Michigan campaign finance law

Donations not tax-deductible