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From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*



History has always been my favorite subject. Throughout the years I often wondered how Germany elevated and then followed Hitler. Now, since the arrival of Donald Trump, I

somewhat understand. Hitler and Trump have many similarities. Many Americans are following in the footsteps of so many Germans in the 1930s. They, too, were somehow taken in by a stupid, self-centered, person with mental problems. Neither man

was sane; both used hate for a particular group to rise to Leadership. Trump, like Hitler, favors deporting those he hates. Trump, like Hitler, regularly lies to the press he distrusts and to the people he manipulates. Hitler promised to make Germa-

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meeting

Acropol Restaurant
 1170 Starkey Road
 Largo, FL

February 17 2020

6:30—8:45 PM

Our FEBRUARY speakers are:

Norma Henning

Immigration & Civil Rights Attorney, CAIR FL

Thania Diaz Clevenger

CAIR-Florida's Civil Rights Director



Norma Henning



Thania Diaz Clevenger

The **Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)** is a federation of legally independent, governed and managed chapters across the country that work together to defend the Civil Liberties of Americans. CAIR National is the founding organization and has its own Board of Directors, as do each of the chapters across the country. All of the CAIR chapters' board members, employees and volunteers represent the diversity of the American Muslim community.

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CAIR from page 1

The Council on American-Islamic Relations Florida, Inc. (CAIR Florida, Inc.), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in 2001 to challenge stereotypes of Islam and Muslims and defend civil liberties. CAIR Florida Inc. has four offices: Tampa, South Florida (Sunrise), Orlando, and Panama City.

The vast majority of CAIR Florida's work deals with civil rights and anti-defamation. CAIR Florida has consistently won praise from elected officials and the media for its tenacious efforts to combat both discrimination against Muslims and Islamophobia.

CAIR Florida's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR Florida's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

A native of Germany, **Norma Henning** started her professional life in Public Affairs for the U.S. Army in Germany and came to the United States as an Army wife in 1986. She

taught English and German in South Korea, had two children and then started her university studies in the United States, earning the Distinguished Journalism Graduate designation from the Hall School of Journalism at Troy State University in Alabama in 1993 and a Juris Doctor (Cum Laude) from the University of Florida College of Law in 1996, earning Book Awards in Constitutional Law and Trial Advocacy.

She has been practicing law in Florida since 1996, concentrating on business and family immigration but never losing her passion for public interest work and advocacy. In 2003, the Federal Republic of Germany appointed Ms. Henning Honorary Consul for Western Florida, a position in which she gets to combine her interest in transatlantic relations and diplomacy with service to the substantial population of German nationals in Florida. She is the recipient of the Silver Cross of Honor of the German armed forces and a graduate of the Civilian Leadership Course at the German Naval Academy.

Ms. Henning became aware of CAIR's civil rights work during the last presidential campaign and started volunteering with the organization after the enactment of the Muslim Ban. She joined the organization as a staff attorney in January of 2018.

Since December 2011, Thania Diaz Clevenger has served as CAIR-Florida's Civil Rights Director. Thania directs CAIR-Florida's legal program that fields hundreds of yearly complaints on a broad range of civil liberties issues. She manages staff attorneys, support staff, and student interns. She also oversees the organization's litigation docket, determines case

strategies, implements the department's proactive programs, and conducts "Know Your Rights" seminars throughout Florida. Thania is honored to lead the organization in its mission to protect the civil liberties of all Americans through legal advocacy.

Prior to joining CAIR-Florida, Thania was a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission where she investigated employment discrimination claims.

During her free time, Thania enjoys spending quality time with her family in the Tampa Bay Area.



MLA from page 1

ny "Great Again." His theme song was, "Deutschland Deutschland, Uber Alles" which loosely means "Germany Forever." Does that sound familiar? He considered the free press to be his enemy, just as Trump does. Trump's manipulating the media with lies, mistreatment and bullying is very similar to Hitler's actions. Both men normalized lies, hate and bigotry. Hitler had his Brown Shirts and Trump has his Red MAGA Hats.

The Democratic House Impeached Donald Trump for his use of money over which he should have had no control, to manipulate the new Ukrainian President, to investigate a possible Trump opponent in the US 2020 Presidential race. That was wrong in so many ways. It was wrong



to hold up the much-needed money for Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion into their country. People died because Trump, as always, cared about only what he wanted, with no consideration of anyone or anything else. It is important to know that it was wrong to ask a foreign country to intervene in an American election. Intervention by a foreign government was the worst fear

of the Founding Fathers. It was also wrong to attack the Constitution's plan for separate but equal branches of government by demanding that his people refuse legitimate Congressional Subpoenas.

Now that 51 Republicans ignored their responsibilities and acquitted Trump from the charges in spite of his guilt, we are dealing with an emboldened Donald Trump. He has nev-

er seen himself in a negative way and has always felt that anyone who opposed him was being "unfair." Unfortunately, nothing he does, no matter how unethical or unconstitutional, makes a difference to 90% of the Republican Party. The Republicans in the Senate of the United States, with one exception, showed themselves to be cowards. Out of their fear of a de-

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ranged man they put his threats ahead of the Democracy they vowed to protect. Each Senator completely ignored his or her oath as a member of the US Senate to protect the Constitution as well as their oath to keep an open mind in deciding if the President who had been Impeached could remain in office. It was a sad day watching these Senators put aside their honor and vote to acquit a person who is destroying our Democracy.

Things have now grown worse.

Trump has taken revenge and fired honest government employees who obeyed a legitimate

ald Trump's demands in place in spite of damage to the Rule of Law and to the Constitution.

If we cannot defeat Trump in November, we will have lost a lot more than an election. If he is reelected, he will have 4 more years to completely destroy our Democracy.

subpoena to testify in the House hearings. In his usual spoiled-child way, he called anyone who has opposed him some silly, nasty name. Now his Attorney General, who has answered Trump's cry for his own Roy Cohn, is backing him in his illegal actions. Trump wanted an Attorney-General who is as dishonest as he is. He wanted

AG Barr has been the answer to Trump's dream. One of his first actions for Trump was to hold up releasing the Mueller Report and completely misstate what it meant. For days, people only had that interpretation. Barr has now set up a routine in the DOJ to receive Rudi Giuliani's "findings" from Ukraine. Very much worse, he has stepped directly into the Federal trial of one of Trump's sleazy followers and overrode his own Prosecutors to please Trump.

What's next?. His actions are directly opposed to the Constitution.

I honestly believe that this is all part of the plan to demolish our Democracy and burn the Constitution in order to make Trump a Dictator like those leaders of Russia, Turkey, China and others. Trump has defended and admired Putin who has praised and manipulated Trump. I think Putin is watching, amazed that his manipulation of Trump has worked out so well. We cannot forget that Putin wants to be the most powerful person on earth.

If we cannot defeat Trump in November, we will have lost a lot more than an election. If he is reelected, he will have 4 more years to completely destroy our Democracy. 🏆

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The brilliance of Iowa's confusion

The people of Iowa are pretty clever. Their caucus system is so confusing the Russians didn't know how to interfere with it.

— Don Evans, Barrington

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Local elections, must-see TV with Democratic Presidential debates and primaries, and, oh yes, the Florida Legislature is in session. Here is an admittedly not all inclusive list of key dates for the next few weeks.

Feb. 18 (Tuesday)

Last day to register to vote or change parties before March Municipal elections and Presidential Primary.

In Tallahassee hundreds of felons will be meeting with lawmakers about Amendment 4. Republicans, led by two Pinellas legislators, State Senator Jeff Brandeis and Rep. Jamie Grant, are refusing to pass legislation, ordered by a judge, to clear up issues and allow the intent of Amendment 4 to be carried out. Once again, the clear voice of Florida voters is being ignored.

Feb. 19 (Wednesday)

Presidential Debate from Las Vegas. NBC hosting.

Feb. 22 (a Saturday!)

Nevada Caucus.

Feb. 25

Presidential Debate from South Carolina. CBS hosting.

Feb. 29 (another Saturday!)

South Carolina primary. Could it be Vice President Joe Biden's last stand?

March 2-15

Early voting in Pinellas for Municipal and Presidential Primary elections. Vote-by-Mail ballots have already gone out.

March 3

Super Tuesday it is! Alaska, Alabama, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minne-

sota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia.

March 7

Deadline to file to run as a District-Level delegate candidate to the 2020 Democratic Convention. Convention will be July 13-16 in Milwaukee.

Also deadline to request a mail ballot for March 17 elections.

March 10

More primaries: Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Washington.

March 13

Florida Legislative Session scheduled to conclude.

March 15

Presidential Debate from Phoenix. CNN hosting. (What?! Not Florida?!)

March 17

Florida Primary and local Municipal elections. Also Arizona, Illinois, Ohio.

April 4

Local (and statewide) voting to select delegates to Democratic Convention.

April 18

Largo Mid/Pinellas Democratic Club annual picnic at Taylor Lake Park.



Please join us for a fundraising
event supporting
the re-election of
Pinellas County Commissioner,
and *Club Member*
Janet Long.

Wednesday, February 19th

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

490 Harbor Dr. North
Indian Rocks Beach

[Click here to RSVP for this event!!](#)

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Speakers for March and April are still pending confirmation

MAY— We have invited Susan Glickman to join us in March to bring us up-to-date on the efforts to bring Clean Energy to Florida.



YOUR Democratic Club



Dues are \$15 per year, payable in January of each year. Dues paid in the last quarter of the prior year will carry forward into the new year.

If you have not already paid, PLEASE remember to bring your \$15 per person to the meeting Monday night, Feb 17 .

District 66 News



Our club member, **Bryan Beckman**, is the new chair of District 66 Democrats. Bryan is the Vice President of the Sierra Club—Florida Chapter—Suncoast Group.

Bryan has been advocating for the “Ready for 100” program and working with local municipalities to implement the program. Bryan spoke to the club last fall about the program, and it’s successes and plans. I’m sure that he’ll keep us updated on the progress in the future. The photo below is the presentation on “Ready for 100” in Safety Harbor, the latest Pinellas County City to join the effort.

Bryan is also the campaign manager for Kathleen Beckman’s Clearwater City Council campaign. You can bet he’s working hard for his wife!

When you see Bryan, congratulate him on taking over this critical position, and ask him how you can help in our 2020 campaigns!



Tuesday Morning Game Changers News

We have joined with Indivisible FL-13 postcard writing to increase voter turnout in 2020.

As of Feb 10th, we are a total of 22 volunteers. Some of us write postcards from home & some of us write at our biweekly events. Some of us do both. We meet every other week. Our event hosts so far are Becky Heeren, Lois Fries, & Wanda Schwerer. As of today we have written 640 postcards urging our Pinellas neighbors to vote-by-mail. We believe that an increase in voters who receive their ballots through the mail, end up voting in higher numbers. We agree with Bob Glass that elections are won with a three-pronged strategy; door-to-door canvassing, phone/texting, & contact through the mail.

Beer night! 2nd Friday of each month is Beer Night! 7:00—9:00 PM. And if you're hungry — Bar-B-Q!



Rib Shack,
426 West Bay Drive,
Largo 33770

You are invited to join us at:

Up-coming Writing Events

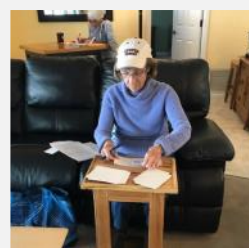
Feb 20th. 10:30 am - 12

noon, Lois Fries, Hostess and

March 5th. 10:30 am - 12

**noon, Wanda Schwerer, Hostess
or RSVP to Ginny**

**at ginny.nelson72@gmail.com to
get started writing from home .**





2020 Congressional District Caucuses

Overview About the Caucuses

On Saturday, April 4, from at least 10:00 AM ET until 2:00 PM ET, Florida Democrats will gather at their Congressional District (CD) Caucuses across the state to elect 143 district-level delegates and 13 district-level alternates to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee.

Florida's Democratic National Convention delegates are proportionally allocated to the presidential campaign based on the results of the Tuesday, March 17 Presidential Primary. Voters at the Caucuses will elect a total of 143 delegates and 13 alternates based on the primary vote within each of the state's 27 Congressional Districts.

Florida's April 4 Caucuses are party-run delegate elections. At each Caucus, a Democratic voter will check in and have his or her party registration and Congressional District verified. A voter should present a photo ID, and if possible, a voter registration card, but this is not required.

Once the voter's status is verified at the Caucus, he/she will sign a pledge of support for his/her presidential preference and receive a ballot listing the individuals who are running as candidates for delegate for that presidential candidate in the respective CD. The ballot will indicate the number of delegates to be elected in the CD for the presidential candidate.

Once marked, the ballot will be turned in at the designated drop-off location and the voter will exit the Caucus.

Once voting is concluded, the ballots will be tallied. The voting results for the CD will be announced and certified to the Florida Democratic Party.

Congressional District 13 will VOTE at the NALC, 5369 Park Blvd N., Pinellas Park. If you want to run to be a Delegate, or more information, contact Wanda Schwerer at Wanda.Schwerer@PinellasDemocrats.com before March 7th.....

CONTACT US

2250 1st Avenue North
St Petersburg, FL 33713
Office hours vary based on volunteer ability.
Please call or email for more information.

office@pinellasdemocrats.com

727.327.2796

Join the In It to Win It Team

Become an **In It to Win It** sustaining donor! By committing to a monthly, recurring donation, you will make the critical work of the Pinellas Democratic Party possible.



How does it work?

Click on the image above and under "Make it Monthly" select "Yes, Count me in!" then set your monthly donation amount. Give what you can, every cent counts! You may cancel your donation at any time by calling the office at 727-327-2796.



From the Chair's Desk

Dear Florida Democrats,

During Black History Month, let's each take the opportunity to celebrate the importance of Black history and the legacy and strength the Black community brings to the fabric of our society. Black history is American history.

FDP's campaign to defeat Trump kicked off February with 92 full-time employees, the largest staff of any state Democratic Party in the nation — and equal to the Trump Florida campaign and Republican Party of Florida combined. Donald Trump has put children in cages, gone to court to destroy the Affordable Care Act, and passed a massive tax cut for the rich on the backs of the middle class. We cannot afford another four years of his presidency, and we are taking nothing for granted in 2020. Florida is the most critical battleground

state in the country, and we are already hard at work building the infrastructure needed to flip Florida blue.

This past week's events, not only in our Florida legislature but also the State of the Union address, impeachment trial, and Trump's absurd press conference, underscore why it's so critical we continue to do everything we can to deny Trump Florida's 29 electoral votes and deliver a win to our Democratic presidential nominee and Democrats up and down the ballot. Thank you, again, to each and every one of you for all the work you are doing throughout this great state!

As of Saturday, February 8, there are exactly 269 days - 8 months 26 days -- to November 3, 2020.

Forward,
Terrie Rizzo
Chair
Florida Democratic Party

SendDem Texting Tool



Another way we are engaging with voters earlier is through text banks. In 2019, the FDP sent 357,439 texts. Nearly half of these were through our new in-house, cost-saving texting tool SendDem.

Texting has proven an effective means of recruiting for events as well as GOTV activities. If you would like to implement a texting campaign with SendDem, [please complete this form](#).

Training Resources

Here are training opportunities available in the next two weeks:

- [Team Blue Pipeline Program: Resume Building and Networking in Democratic Politics](#) **Wednesday, February 12 at 4 p.m. EST**
- [DNC's Best Practices Institute: Rural Field Implementation](#) **Wednesday, February 19 at 4 p.m. EST.**

[See additional training resources here.](#)

See next page



FDP's Weekly Talkers

February 14, 2020

The Florida Democratic Party has over 250 events across the state to register voters ahead of the February 18 deadline to register for the Florida Democratic Presidential Primary on March 17. So let's get out there and tell Floridians to register to vote and come out to the polls for their pick to replace Donald Trump!

Top Lines Of The Week

- February 18th is the last day to register to vote in the Democratic Primary
- FDP is making a big push to vote-by-mail through our site fl.dems.vote.

Our Latest Press Releases

- February 14: [FDP Mourns With Parkland On Second Anniversary Of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting](#)
- February 13: [Florida State Legislators, Climate Action Leaders Slammed Trump for Ignoring Florida's Climate Crisis in Proposed 2021 Budget](#)
- February 11: [E-Verify Would Be a Financial Disaster for Florida's Businesses](#)
- February 10: [Trump Once Again Breaks Campaign Promise, Threatens Seniors and the Poor By Slashing Funding for Social Safety Net in 2021 Budget Proposal](#)
- February 6: [Florida Democratic Party Honors Black History Month](#)

The Tweets Around Town:

Tweets of interest from staff, activists, leaders, and media.

- @MilesDavisFL: JOIN US: When Florida votes, Florida wins. That's why on Monday, February 17th at 2pm @FlaDems are taking over Twitter to answer all of Florida's questions on registering to vote before the 2/18 deadline. DM me for more info! #VoteFLDems #Flapol
- @AlexMorash: Wow, @realDonaldTrump -- the incumbent president -- saw almost 15 percent of Republican primary voters in New Hampshire say they want someone else at the top of the ticket. Can you hear that? That's the sound of Donald Trump losing the White House in November.
- @TerrieRizzo: Today is a powerful day in history! @NAACP #FoundersDay and the 120th Anniversary of #LiftEveryVoice, the #BlackNationalAnthem. We are forever thankful for the hard work & sacrifices of the NAACP & the inspiration of James Weldon Johnson. @FlaDems

FDP's Weekly Talkers Articles We Are Circulating

These are articles we think are of interest to read or share.

- Miami Herald: [Stacey Abrams: Florida Republican policies are 'saying you should be afraid to vote'](#)
- Orlando Sentinel: [Why won't Florida ban LGBTQ workplace discrimination? House Speaker José Oliva says it isn't a major problem.](#)
- Politico: [House passes bill to boost labor](#)

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Opinion & Letters

Russia will try to meddle in 2020 U.S. election, intelligence report says

Russia wants to help pro-Russia candidates, the report says, but it also meddles because it wants to show that Western nations can't hold fair elections.

NBC News

By Courtney Kube , Feb. 12, 2020

WASHINGTON — Russia interfered in Western elections in 2019 and is likely to do so again in 2020, according to the latest annual threat assessment by the Estonian Foreign Intelligence Service.

NBC News obtained an exclusive preview of the annual report from [the Baltic nation's intelligence agency](#), which warns that [Russia](#) will continue to pursue cyber operations that threaten other nations.

"Russia's cyber operations have been successful and, to date, have not been sanctioned enough by the West to force Russia to abandon them," the report says.

[Russia will try to interfere in the U.S. presidential election](#) in November and in parliamentary elections in the nation of Georgia in October, it warns, saying, "The main goal is to ensure a more beneficial election result for Russia by favoring Russian-friendly candidates or those who have the most divisive influence in the West."

[Another motivation, according to the report, is to show that Western nations cannot hold fair elections, thereby making questionable elections in Russia seem less significant.](#)

The report also warns that Russia continues to strengthen its mili-

tary posture against Europe and NATO. According to the report, in 2019, Russia established three army commands, five new division headquarters and 15 new mechanized regiments in the Russian Western Military District, which borders five NATO nations, as well as Finland and Ukraine. Russia has slowly built up its military power against Europe for the past decade.

Russia's influence in the Middle East has been growing since it became involved in the war in Syria in 2015, but the report finds that Russia's influence in the region "has essentially reached a ceiling" unless it invests sig-

nificantly more military or economic resources. That is "unlikely in the short term," the report says. 🏆

Contact your Federal Representative!

Senator Rick Scott Washington, D.C.
United States Senate 83 Russell Senate
Office Building Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5274

Email: help@rickscott.senate.gov

Senator Marco Rubio United States Senate, 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Main: (202) 224-3041, Toll free: (866) 630-7106 Fax: (202) 228-5171, TTY: (407) 254-5548 Tampa: 5201 West Kennedy Boulevard Suite 530 Tampa, FL 33609 Phone: (813) 287-5035 Call: (813) 977-6450

Rep. Charlie Crist - 13th District <http://crist.house.gov/> Washington, DC Office 427 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5961 Fax: (202) 225-9764 **District Offices Seminole District Office** 9210 113th Street Seminole, FL 33772 (727) 394-6950 (727) 394-6955 (fax) **St. Petersburg District Office** 696 1st Avenue North, Suite #203 St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 318-6770

Rep. Kathy Castor - 14th District Washington Office 205 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202)225-3376 Fax: (202)225-5652 **Tampa Office 4144 N Armenia Ave Suite 300 Tampa, FL 33607** Phone: (813)871-2817 Fax: (813)871-2864 Office Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm **St. Petersburg Office University of South Florida - St. Pete Williams House** 511 Second St. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 873-2817 Office Hours: Please call in advance. Note: Please mail all items to the Tampa District Office address.

Rep. Gus Bilirakis - 12th District Washington, DC Office 2112 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 PHONE: (202) 225-5755 FAX: (202) 225-4085 **New Port Richey Office** 7132 Little Road New Port Richey, FL 34654 PHONE: (727) 232-2921 FAX: (727) 232-2923 **Tarpon Springs Office** 600 Klosterman Road Room BB-038 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 PHONE: (727) 940-5860 FAX: (727) 940-5861 **Wesley Chapel Office** 5901 Argerian Drive Suite 102 Wesley Chapel, FL 33545 PHONE: (813) 501-4942 FAX: (813) 501-4944_

For the most up-to-date information on your Federal, State, and County representatives including all contact information, Go to :

<https://www.voteinellas.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=R9k4r7jkBB4%3d&portalid=72>

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All of the officers were elected March, 2019. Next election is March, 2021

Additional contact information is available on www.largodemocrats.org.

Why Join the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club?

The club provides a variety of ways to stay informed and involved in local, county, state and national political discussions. But we're not just about talk. We will be part of the action in finding the best candidates and getting them elected, as well as supporting the most important causes. We will write letters, make phone calls, knock on doors, register voters, and whatever else it takes to bring change to our communities, our county and our state. But, just as important, we also want to make time to enjoy each other's `company and celebrate each other's efforts at social events throughout the year. Grassroots politics is effective and fun!

As a member of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club you can:

- Meet other active Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials and potential candidates
- Raise funds and work for candidates
- Participate in community service projects
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national importance
- Attend special events and monthly meetings.

