



Vol. 10 number 10

October 2018

From the President's Desk:

By Mary Lou Ambrose



Recently, Joe and I saw "Fahrenheit 11/9." We had read that the movie had not been wellreceived and had poor attendance. Since there were 6 people, including the two of us, in the theater, clearly it had poor attendance. Like all Michael Moore's movies, it was well put together with clips ranging from pre-war Hitler dancing,

hugging small children and petting dogs to recent clips about the Trump Administration to President Obama 's going to Flint and doing nothing. He even shows some footage of himself with Trump a few years back appearing in an interview for Roseanne Barr with Trump. He correctly accuses himself of acting like a "nice guy" rather than asking Trump the questions tough he have asked. Moore cannot be accused of ignoring things done by the Democrats, but he blames Republi-

cans for almost all the wrongs shown in the movie. He has little respect for the Democratic Leaders in the House and Senate. His complaint is much like many complaints we hear about the Democratic Party of Florida as well as across the country - they back and fund moderate candidates and try to discourage Progressives. Democratic Leadership done repeatedly. The result has been, and if that behavior continues, Democrats will continue I understand to lose. that the people of Florida

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are considered to be moderate. However, a Candidate like Andrew Gillum who states his positions as common sense, which they are, can reach people who are more moder-



Rich Piper

On the Amendments

Monday, Oct15 — 6:30—8:45 pm

Acropol Family Restaurant, 1135 Starkey Rd, Largo, Florida 33771

Rich Piper will share his opinion and recommendations on the ballot initiatives. We have previously shared the recommendation of several groups, but we value Dr. Piper's opinions on these matters. WE can be assured of hearing a perspective that had not been expressed by others.

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MLA From Page 1

ate. To heavily paraphrase what the *Tampa Bay Times* said in their recommendation of Gillum, he is not a far-left politician, he speaks to what the majority of people of Florida want.

I will not try to tell you details about the rest of the movie, but I suggest you see it. Clearly Michael Moore is very concerned about the terrible problems in Flint. He is from Michigan and he talks a lot about Flint. His background on Governor Snyder and the hideous travesty done to the people of Flint is up front in this movie. However, if

Moore were only half correct about Snyder and how and why changed the water coming into the city from a pure glacier-fed lake to a dirty local river, Snyder and many of his "good old rich boys" should be in jail. See the movie. I think you will agree. What has been done to

Flint is inexcusable. The saddest thing about it is that the damage done to the children of Flint cannot be repaired. In upcoming years, I expect that you will hear from Republicans condemning the terrible behavior and low IQs of the young residents of Flint. They will probably be correct. Both those things will be the result of consuming lead in their water as children. There is absolutely no resolution to this travesty.

What has been done to this country by the Republican Party is inexcusable. They left the truth behind a while back. Under Trump, however, lies prevail. Lying has become the acceptable norm. What has always been considered unacceptable behavior has become the acceptable norm. Moore stuffs a lot of information into his movie, but it gives a clear picture of what has been happening in this country.

When we meet on October 15th, there will be 22 days until election day. We have much better candidates in the State, County and School Board races that the Repub-

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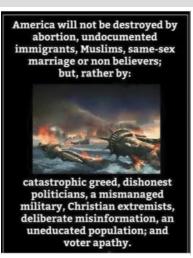
been considered unaccepta-

ble behavior has become

the acceptable norm.

licans. We could put two women into the Florida Senate, Amanda Murphy Lindsay Cross (who is actually a Scientist), well as Jennifer Webb, who has visited part of her District, House. great new Candidates,

Heeren and Dawn Douglas are running in Districts 66 and 67. Alex has been in the race for over a year and is working hard. He has a reasonable chance of doing what several of us failed to do – put a House Democrat in D66. He is running against a Republican who simply takes orders. Dawn was a late entry and is running against Chris Latvala. Don't let anyone tell you that Chris is a



moderate. He is a Florida Republican who voted for many of the terrible bills the House passed in recent sessions. Dawn would do a much better job. Both Republican (D66 and D67) will simply follow orders and vote against the people of Florida. Amy Kedron has the best credentials I have ever see in a County Commission race. Jeff Larsen will be an excellent addition to the School Board, as will Nicole Carr and Matt Steward. Thanks to wins by Ben Diamond and Pat Girard, we don't have to worry about those seats. On the Federal side, Charlie Crist should win handily against a weak candidate. Chris Hunter is an outstanding candidate who is very likely to get rid of the "family-owned" senate seat. We can actually win this time which is a darn good thing since the future of Florida and the fate of our democracy depend on Democrats winning all over the country. This is the first step toward taking our country back. We have no choice. We must win. 🏆

District 66 News

Mid-Pinellas Organization of Volunteers (MOOV)

Pinellas County Democratic House Districts 66, 67, and 68 present

Ask the SOE-Election Security 2018

Wednesday October 17, 2018

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe Estates Clubhouse

9900 Ulmerton Road,

Largo 33771

Dustin Chase, Communications Director from the Pinellas Supervisor Of Elections office and possibly, Julie Marcus, Deputy Superintendent of Elections from the Pinellas SOE, will be our guests for the evening.

I know from our previous meetings we have some serious questions and concerns about the integrity of our election in November. Questions about our ability to detect cyber attacks and how to counterattack them are important. Bring your questions.

Plan on attending this meeting to get some answers from the folks from our election office.

Thank You,

Ginny Nelson, Chair Dist 66 Barb Scott, Chair Dist 67 Denise Lombardi, Chair Dist 68 **

Highlights from September Meeting Commissioner Charlie Justice

Our speaker in September was Pinellas County Commissioner Charlie Justice. Charlie's focus was on the Amendments 1 & 2 dealing with Homestead exemptions.



<u>Charlie Justice</u> - Commissioner Justice began with saying how glad he always is to come visit this group. He

Thanked, Mary Lou Ambrose for inviting him.

He exclaimed,
"What an election
season! To begin
with, how crazy is
DeSantis? He just
keeps on showing
what he is made of.
AND, he said, Andrew Gillum is our
gubernatorial candidate. None of the
polls indicated this
would happen. It is
exciting - he is a
good candidate."

Commissioner Justice continued by opening the subject of red tide. He stated that this has been challenging for small businesses that depend upon tourism. Our Pinellas County website contains up-to-date red tide information. Also on the website are

listings of all the other wonderful activities available in the county.

Next the Commissioner mentioned the recently passed beach access law. He said that to Floridians, beach access is a birthright. What will happen next is unclear, but we will stay on top of this issue. Charlie stated that this is just one more reason to vote carefully this November.

Commission Justice moved on to the Amendments. No. 1 on the November ballot. The Commissioner explained that the source of Amendment 1 is

[Amendment 1] will increase the

amount of the homestead ex-

emption for higher appraised

properties. A yes vote will de-

crease the revenue available to

the county for maintenance and

local government services. This

sive homes. Check out how your

exemption favors more expen-

property will be impacted at

http://pcpao.org.

House Speaker Corcoran, He intended to ride this amendment into the Governor's mansion. It will increase the amount of the homestead exemption for higher appraised properties. A yes vote will decrease the revenue available to the

county for maintenance and local government services. This exemption favors more expensive homes. Check out how your property will be impacted at http://pcpao.org. Amendment 2 makes the cap on non-homestead property permanent. The result guarantees that the taxes on part-time resi-

dent property remains below a certain level which effectively decreases the funds available to Pinellas County. It has no positive effect on fulltime Pinellas County residents. Voting no would keep this tax decisions in the hands of the people of Florida.

During the Q &A session it was brought up that some will benefit from the additional homestead exemption and feel reluctant to vote against it. Others agreed that we must be willing to pay for the services we need in a civilized society and that Local taxes are the means to do that.

Charlie Justice ended by again thanking the club members for their support to county issues and for the opportunity to speak on these important matters. \$\P\$

Opinion & Letters

By: David Leonhardt

Op-Ed Columnist NYTimes 10/9

After Heidi Heitkamp, a North Dakota Democrat, narrowly won a Senate seat in 2012, Republicans changed a voter-identification law in the state. They stopped allowing any voter identification that lists a post-office box as an address.

There was a specific reason for the change, as Pema Levy of Mother Jones reports. Many Native Americans use a P.O. box as their address because the U.S. Postal Service does not deliver to their communities. And Native Americans had provided Heitkamp with crucial support in her win. The law was another Republican attempt to win elections by keeping Democratic-leaning groups from voting.

Last night, the Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to the North Dakota law, effectively upholding it. Amy Howe of Scotusblog has a fuller explanation. "The risk of disenfranchisement is large," Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in a dissent.

This case is yet another reminder that democracy protection needs to be the No. 1 item on the Democrats' long-term political agenda. (Really, it should the top item on both parties' agenda, but I realize that's a naïve wish.) The next time Democrats control the federal government, they should pass a sweeping voter-rights bill, similar to the kind Paul Glastris has described in Washington Monthly.

History won't look kindly on the political party that is trying to keep Americans — usually dark-skinned Americans — from voting. ♥

From the Facebook post of Mario Farias:

I find it humorous when my conservative friends think they insult me by calling me liberal, progressive or even snowflake. Why would it bother me knowing what they mean?

Liberal means I'm more apt to care about a greater spectrum of issues and not remain focused on a certain one or two which causes a stoic life and mind.

Progressive means that I'm moving forward to a destination and not sitting still in hopes that the world stops dead in its tracks so I don't have to face change or new ideas.

Snowflake is my absolute favorite because each one is never identical to another one. It is in their uniqueness that their beauty shines brightly in the ugliness of winter while its strength comes from when they join together and cause an avalanche.

I will just keep accepting each of those names as compliments so please allow me to thank you all for caring so much that you recognize these amazing traits in me. \mathbb{F}



I like beer.

If we desire respect for the law,

we must first make the law

Opinion & Letters

The Problem That Has No Name

Jessica Valenti

Oct 4

We still have no word to describe what happens to women living in a country that hates them

After Donald Trump mocked Dr. Christine Blasey Ford at a rally in Mississippi this week — a new low for the president of lows — I couldn't muster the energy to be outraged. Even as the crowd chanted "lock her up," now a catchall for any woman who defies Trump, I felt that I had simply run out of anger. And today, as the sham FBI investigation into Brett Kavanaugh came to a close and it became clear that Republicans would vote how they were always going to vote, I wasn't sad or upset an exhausted numbness came over me instead.

For women, the national reckoning on sexual assault — and its backlash — isn't just a political moment or a cultural shift. It's an unraveling of the lies this country tells itself about women's progress. It confirms feminists' worst fears about men

in power and how poorly they think of us.

Over last few weeks, as Kavanaugh's path to confirma-

It's patriarchy.

It is a system.

equality."

"The enemy of feminism isn't men.

And patriarchy is not men.

And women can support the

system of patriarchy just as men

can support the fight for gender

tion has killed off any pretense of justice, I've heard from dozens of women who are not just angry or sad or devastated. It's some-

thing more; what they're feeling is something deeper, more existential, and lasting. I know because I feel it too.

In my last book, Sex Object, I asked how it was possible that we still have no word to describe what happens to women living in a country that hates them. Terms like "trauma" or "triggered" don't quite capture the cumulative impact of how living under sexism slowly whittles away your sense of safety and self.

For once, it does not feel good to be right.

This lack of shared language feels more urgent now than ever — how can we explain to the people in our lives, the men in our

lives, what is happening with us if we don't have the words to do so? How can we probe our own experiences if there's no framework to give name to what we're feeling?

Here's what we do know: We know that violence caus-

es trauma. We know that living in stressful and harassing environments can cause anxiety, PTSD, and depression. And we know that to be a woman in America is to live with the daily threat of all of these things.

Researchers who study objectification theory have shown that when women are dehumanized, it has a profound impact on their mental health. Other studies have shown a direct link between misogyny and psy-

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Opinion & Letters

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chological trauma and distress. Though we may not have the language to name what is happening to women, its impact is well-documented.

What we are witnessing right now through the response to Kavanaugh — and the slow-roll comeback of various men held to account by #MeToo — is a largescale dismissal of women's reality. It's a national gaslighting by politicians and pundits saying Yes, I'm sure something happened to Dr. Blasey Ford, but the poor thing must be mistaken. It's a mass trauma perpetrated by leaders who would tell women in their most painful of moments that it's men who are the real victims.

This is an unraveling of the lies this country tells itself about women's progress.

I can't help but wonder what this will do to us in the end. I'd like to believe that women will come out stronger — after all, we've been here before. But while I have faith in women's perseverance and strength, there is a creeping sickness in the pit of my stomach. I know that women will be deeply

harmed by being shown, for the hundredth time, that our pain doesn't matter.

And though I still don't have the words to describe what it means to be a woman in a country that hates you, I can feel it as clearly as I can read any word on a page. For now, that will have to be enough.



https://medium.com/s/ jessica-valenti/thegaslighting-of-americanwomen-456821bbb09d



Democratic Party News

GETTING OUT THE VOTE WILL BE **JOB #1** FROM NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 6. THE PC DEC WILL BE PRINTING LOTS OF THE DOOR HANGERS ILLUSTRATED BELOW. IF YOU WANT TO HELP BLANKET YOUR PRECINCT WITH THESE, CONTACT GINNY NELSON! THERE ARE 3 VERSION—TAILORED FOR EACH STATE SENATE DISTRICT.





Environmental News

Ex-NASA Scientist Dr. James Hansen: We Need to Act Now to Preserve Our Planet for Future Generations

DEMOCRACY NOW! GUESTS

- James Hansen; former top climate scientist at NASA. From 1981 to 2013, he was the head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. He is now the director of Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions at Columbia University's Earth Institute. He traveled to Minnesota to testify at the trial for the valve turners.
- Emily Johnson: poet and co-founder of 350Seattle.org. She is one of the five climate activists known as the "valve turners" who in 2016 temporarily shut down the flow of tar sands oil from Canada into the United States.

As Hurricane Michael barreled down on Florida, famed climate scientist Dr. James Hansen traveled to Minnesota earlier this week to testify on the imminent danger of climate change. He was supposed to be an expert witness at the trial for the "valve turners," the anti-pipeline activists who

staged an unprecedented coordinated action to shut down the flow of oil from Canada to the United States in 2016. But the judge ruled she would not allow witnesses like Dr. Hansen to testify on the clear and present danger posed by climate change. On Tuesday, valve turner activists Annette Klapstein and Emily Johnston were acquitted. We speak with Hansen in Minneapolis about the valve turners, the recent IPCC report about the imminent threat of climate change and what must be done to save the planet from destruction. Hansen is the former top climate scientist at NASA. He is now the director of Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions at Columbia University's Earth Institute. We also speak with Klapstein and Johnston.



Environmental News

From previous page

AMY GOODMAN: Dr. James Hansen is the former top climate scientist at NASA. From 1981 to 2013, he was the head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, now the director of Climate Science. Awareness and Solutions at Columbia University's Earth Institute. He traveled to Minnesota to testify at the trial for the valve turners, but the judge ruled she would not allow expert witnesses, like Dr. Hansen and 350.org founder Bill McKibben, to raise this issue—to testify at all or raise this issue about climate change and the connection to what the valve turners were doing. Dr. Hansen, why did you go to Minnesota, agree to testify in this case? Why did, the valve turners, you want to defend?

JAMES HANSEN: Well, of course, they're trying to draw attention to the climate issue, and particularly to the egregious role of the tar sands. And I just was supposed to help explain the climate consequences of this carbon source.

AMY GOODMAN: And talk about the consequences, because, ultimately, of course, as the valve turners have said, this is why they've done what they've done. It's this connection to climate change.

JAMES HANSEN: Yeah. Well, you know, the difficulty is the delayed response of the climate system and the fact that it includes amplifying feedback, so the public doesn't see that much going on. The public does realize that climate is beginning to change, but it doesn't have a good picture of the ultimate consequences of that, because they will be much greater in the lifetimes of our children and grandchildren. And we need to begin to move on a path of decreasing emissions very rapidly if we're going to preserve the same planet that we've enjoyed, for our children and grandchildren. And that just has not been

clear enough, I think, in the prior—in the public's mind.

AMY GOODMAN: You know, it's interesting that this trial came just as the United Nations climate scientists warned in a landmark report that humanity has only a dozen years to mitigate climate change or face global catastrophe. If you, Dr. Hansen, can talk about the significance of this report and, at the same time, this massive monster hurricane, Hurricane Michael, bearing down on the Florida Panhandle? It's believed to be the worst Florida has seen in something like a century in this area, about to make landfall.

JAMES HANSEN: Yeah, well, I think this report is really a good report from IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The prior reports do not always convey the urgency of the issue and really make it very clear to the public. But this one, I think, did a very good job, both in warning about the consequences if we don't do something, and in making clear that we still can do something, but we have to begin very quickly to actually phase down emissions, while, in fact, emissions will continue to climb if we don't have some significant policy changes.

AMY GOODMAN: I don't know if you're getting a chance to see the climate coverage of the hurricane—meteorologists, reporters down in the Panhandle warning, you know, people must leave, evacuate, and, of course, the politicians, as well. But there is almost no mention of climate change. Can you talk about that connection, the intensification of these hurricanes?

Environmental News

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JAMES HANSEN: Yeah. Yeah, well, sure. If you look at the temperatures of the ocean in the Gulf and off the East Coast of the United States, they are way above normal. And, of course, as everyone knows, and I think even the public understands, if the ocean is warmer, that provides the fuel for these tropical storms. And that's exactly what we're seeing. That storm is intensifying because the water is unusually warm. And so we're getting a very strong storm out of what would have been a weaker storm without that additional push from the extraordinarily warm ocean.

AMY GOODMAN: And the tsunami, the earthquake and tsunami that we saw in Indonesia in the island of Sulawesi, this horror, where it looks like 5,000 people are missing, 1,700 confirmed dead, is there any link there? If not the earthquake, the power of the tsunami?

JAMES HANSEN: Well, there's a link in terms of the impact of the tsunami. There are recent papers on this that show that sea level is rising. And when you add the human-caused increase in sea level to the tsunami, it makes it more damaging. That has been actually apparent on the recent hurricanes hitting the United States. The sea level—global average sea level has gone up by 20 centimeters because of greenhouse warming, which is about 8 inches, but along the coast, eastern coast, of the United States, it's about twice as much. And when you add that sea level rise to the storm surges, it makes them that much worse.

And, of course, the warming also increases the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere, increases the rainfall totals. And so, the global warming effect has been making hurricane effects significantly larger. There's also a recent paper by James Kossin which argues that the speed, the translation speed of these storms, in

many cases, has been slowed down, and that in the case of the Houston and the Carolinas hurricanes, they moved slowly, and so the rainfall totals were exceptionally large. And this is attributable—the slowing of the speed, in general, can be related to the global warming.

AMY GOODMAN: Emily Johnston, you co-founded <u>350.org</u> in Seattle, Washington. As we wrap up, your thoughts on what your plans are, now that you are acquitted?

EMILY JOHNSTON: Well, in the immediate sense, you know, we are engaged in many climate campaigns in Seattle and in Washington state. There's plenty of work to be done. I'm looking forward to getting back to it. A great majority of that work is legal, but we do engage in some civil disobedience actions. And, you know, we really-with this trial, we particularly wanted to do the necessity defense. This would have been sort of the dream trial in terms of our expert witnesses and our ability to present that defense. The fact that we couldn't do that is pretty heartbreaking. And so I know a lot of people are still thinking about how can we try to have the-

AMY GOODMAN: We are going to have to end it—we're going to have to end it there, but we'll do Part 2 and post online—**EMILY JOHNSTON:** Sure.

AMY GOODMAN: —at democracynow.org. Annette Klapstein and Emily Johnston, Kelsey Skaggs and Dr. James Hansen, thanks so much.

Contact your Federal Representative!

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20Citizens%20Guide.pdf

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All of the officers were elected March, 2017. Next election is March, 2019

Additional contact information is available on

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.



