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NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE



Speaking about the Iran nuclear accord are from left, Lem Howell, Dr Fred Noland, Dr Jere Bacharach. Dan Fievez moderated the discussion.

speaking of peace

## MDC supports nuclear accord

by Allan Munro

“Events of the past few months – in the Arab world, Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia – have created a political as well as social turmoil, all with significant international effects. Where does the ferment come from? What exactly is happening? Where is it going?”

The above was not written yesterday or even a week ago; it was published in the newsletter of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle dated February 1979.

The newsletter noted that Professor Jere Bacharach, specialist in Middle Eastern history would be the guest speaker.

Some thirty-five years later, Mr Bacharach was back to answer some of the same questions at the MDC’s August 12 meeting. He was joined by Dr Fred Noland, known for his participation in many peace-building projects, and MDC director Lem Howell. Vice President Dan Fievez had invited each of them to address the subject of the Iran nuclear accord.

Mr Bacharach began by describing how the Iranian leadership sees the United States as “the Great Satan.” Iran is predominately Shiite. [Shiites believe the Messiah will return; the ayatollahs will lead until he does.] The Shiite ayatollahs have a long list of complaints against the US. For example:

- 1) The US supplied the Shah of Iran with arms beginning in 1941 and continuing until the Shah’s overthrow in 1979.
- 2) In 1953 the CIA overthrew Iran’s

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## Candidates talk transportation and housing



Above, Eleanor Munro, MDC president, and Senator Pete Francis go over some last minute details at the Seattle City Council Forum. Below, from left candidates are Sandy Brown, Catherine Weatbrook, Mike O’Brien, Deborah Zech-Artis, Jon Grant, Tim Burgess and Bill Bradburd. Not shown are Lisa Herbold, Bruce Harrell, Rob Johnson, Michael Maddux and Debora Juarez.

The first and possibly the only forum in which all finalists for Seattle City Council were invited to participate was hosted by the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle (MDC) August 13 at the Bertha Knight Landes Room at City Hall. It was sponsored by MDC members City Attorney Pete Holmes and Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata.

Those who accepted the invitation were Lisa Herbold for District 1, Bruce Harrell for District 2, Rob Johnson and Michael Maddux for District 4, Debora Juarez and Sandy Brown for District 5, Mike O’Brien and Catherine Weatbrook for District 6, Jon Grant and Tim Burgess for District 8, and Bill Bradburd for District 9.

The moderator, Senator Pete Francis, former president of the MDC, asked the candidates two questions.

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The first was about Seattle's housing affordability crisis. Candidates were asked to address the Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) report, completed July 2015.

Mr Burgess said he likes the HALA report because it brought all of the stakeholders to the table where they could face each other and negotiate mutually acceptable policy recommendations. He liked the concept of linkage fees to fund affordable housing as well as a mandatory affordable unit requirement for all multi-unit developments. His opponent Jon Grant, a member of the HALA committee, felt that the committee's representation was unbalanced and therefore produced a distorted result.

Mr O'Brien stated that the HALA report was "a great body of work" that will compel developers to provide affordable housing.

Deborah Zech-Artis said she was disappointed in the makeup of the HALA committee and disapproved upzoning.

The comments of other candidates generally broke along the same lines as those expressed above.

The second question focused on transportation, particularly Proposition 1, which calls for an increase in Transportation Benefit District taxes to buy more Metro service and the fate of the Move Seattle campaign.

Mr Grant and Mr Bradburd, 9 are opposed to the "Move Seattle" levy initiative. Mr Grant said he opposes heavy reliance on regressive taxes to fund Seattle's transportation improvements. Mr Bradburd is opposed for the same reason. He recommended greater reliance on parking taxes and a head tax. He said a head tax would have the effect of shifting some of the funding burdens to commuters living outside Seattle.

## MDC talks housing and transportation

by Debby Norman

As a follow-up to the issues discussed by candidates at the organization's August 13 City Council Forum, members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle sought solutions to problems of



Jack Whisner leads the discussion on transportation in Seattle. Listening are Lem Howell, Charles Davis, Charles Redmond and Bill Bradburd.

All of the other candidates expressed general support for Move Seattle.

Ms Weatbrook expressed support for light rail to Ballard and West Seattle. She feels that the Seattle Department of Transportation should rethink and re-do its bicycle lanes, which she thinks are dangerous.

Mr Burgess opined that the McCleary decision would force the Washington legislature to enact a progressive tax. He is hoping the same piece of legislation will authorize local units of government to enact similar forms of progressive taxation for other purposes as well, such as transportation.



transportation and homelessness during its August 26 meeting. While they found no permanent fixes, the members generated insight, ideas and a commitment to addressing the two issues.

That didn't mean unanimity of opinion.

"People who are homeless are citizens just like us," said Bill Bradburd.

But Peggy Maze Johnson voiced a different concern.

"Homelessness right now is a very scary issue," she said. "There's not an underpass in the city without tents."

Seattle's treatment of homeless people is deeply flawed, according to some members. Bradburd denounced what he called "the production line of homelessness," in which about a third of homeless live in tents, a third in transitional housing and a third in shelters. Many homeless avoid shelters as regimented and unsafe, he noted.

Rep. Gael Tarleton, D-36, said the city doesn't recognize that the needs of homeless people differ. "They are treating it as if it's a one-size problem, and it's not."

Meanwhile, Seattle rents increased four percent in July. Developers continue to buy properties, impose huge rent increases and drive the existing tenants off the property.

And because affordable housing and homelessness are linked, more affordable housing means fewer homeless.

Ways to create more affordable housing include linkage fees that charge developers for a certain number of square feet to fund affordable housing. Given the amount of luxury housing being built, as

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## METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE - Board

**Officers** President Eleanor Munro ▪ Vice President Dan Fievez ▪ Treasurer Kate Martin  
**Directors** Joanna Cullen ▪ Nelson Dahl ▪ Kathleen Flynn ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Vinod Goswami ▪ Kiku Hayashi ▪ Lem Howell ▪ Anne Johnson ▪ Peggy Maze Johnson ▪ Sen Eugene Lux ▪ Mark Marshall ▪ Allan Munro ▪ Dr David Rudo ▪ Rep Gael Tarleton ▪ Harriet Wasserman ▪ Michael Weisman ▪ Jack Whisner ▪ Bert Wyman ▪ **Lifetime honored members** Pat Emerson ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Hon Nick Licata ▪ Gov Mike Lowry ▪ **Representative to WAmend** Seth Armstrong

## From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.



- accord continued from p1 -

elected leader.

- 3) Iraq, Iran's main enemy, invaded Iran in 1981. The US gave military intelligence to Iraq.
- 4) When Hussein used chemical weapons on the Iranians the US did nothing.
- 5) In 1988, a Navy destroyer shot down an Iranian commercial jet killing all aboard.
- 6) All through 9/11 the Iranian government opposed the Taliban in Afghanistan, quietly supporting the US. The US responded with President Bush's "axis of evil" speech. The Iranians were shocked.
- 7) Iran has faced sanctions from the US since 1984. Several presidents have stated the US wants a regime change in Iraq.

For these reasons Mr Bacharach stated the Iranian leadership is suspicious of US motives and are motivated to become a nuclear power. However they have indicated a willingness to forego their nuclear program in exchange for elimination of the international sanctions organized and implemented by the western powers plus China and Russia. Mr Bacharach feels the nuclear accord is reasonable in the sense that it is enforceable and provides an incentive to the Iranians to comply.

Mr Noland has visited Iran many times, where he taught English and the history of western civilization at the University of Tehran. He spent 20 days there last April. He claims the Iranian people "love us." Only 20 – 30 percent of Iranians support the Islamic state. Fifty percent of Iran's population is under 25 years of age, he said. They are highly educated with more than half of the college-educated being women. These young people want to join the modern world and get past the economic sanctions. Thanks to the sanctions and mismanagement of the economy, price inflation is rampant. People purchase carpets as a hedge against inflation.

During his last visit, Mr Noland met with the mayor of Isfahan on the possibility of developing a sister city relationship between Seattle and Isfahan. Noland supports this possibility as a "small first step" toward building relationships with the Iranians and to encourage them to end the isolation and join the contemporary world. Mr Howell said he cannot understand why Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu opposes the nuclear accord. He stated that in opposing the accord Israelis were ignoring their true interests. He pointed out the US has had sanctions against Iran for decades. These sanctions "haven't done a thing," he

## Munro, Martin seek re-election



Two years ago I asked you to choose me to preside over the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. I spoke of my vision for the MDC and how this small independent political organization can make a difference in a world plagued with war, violence, hunger, greed, and more. This vision has not yet been fully realized, but we have made significant progress toward achieving our goals of good programs, outreach, and issues groups. There will always be more to do. I ask you to choose me again to provide leadership as we move forward. Thank you for your vote.

Eleanor Munro



I was appointed Treasurer of MDC in the spring of 2014 after the former elected treasurer left the position before the end of the term. I've enjoyed coming up to speed with my role as treasurer and also enjoyed working with the Executive Committee to keep things on track with accounting of MDC's income and expenses. I was able to contribute to the work of establishing a budget for 2015 which I would enjoy doing for 2016 as well. I would appreciate the vote of MDC members to elect me as treasurer so that I can continue to contribute to the MDC organization in the capacity of treasurer. Thank you.

Kate Martin

claimed; only multilateral sanctions work. They will go away if Congress rejects the accord. In part this is because China and other developing nations need cheap Iranian oil. This accord, if ratified, will extend the period of time it is projected to take Iran to develop a nuclear weapon from a matter of months to 16 years. It represents a diplomatic tour de force by President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry.

The meeting concluded with the approval of a resolution expressing the MDC's approval of the Iran accord and informing members of the Washington congressional delegation of the resolution. Senator Patty Murray has announced her approval of the accord.



- happening from p4 -

hosts a fundraiser for Jeanne Kohl-Welles for King County Council District 4 and Rod Dembowski for reelection to District 4, 6 – 8 pm, 746 Edmonds St, Edmonds. Suggested donations start at \$50. RSVP, info@jeannekohlwelles.com.

**September 25** Transit Talks, noon, Bertha Knight Landes Room, City Hall. Hosted by Transportation Choices. More information, hester@transportationchoices.org.

**September 29** Fundraiser for Jeanne Kohl-Welles for King county Council District 4 and Sally Bagshaw for Seattle City Council District 7, 6 – 8 pm, the Seattle PI Building, 101 Elliott Ave W #400. Sponsored by NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and National Women's Political Caucus of Washington. Suggested donations start at \$50. RSVP, info@jeannekohlwelles.com.



**Please send your vote for the above-named officers (YES or NO) to Debby Norman at 206.679.5247 or nordy3@comcast.net.**

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one member noted, the developers can hardly claim they can't afford a \$25 per square foot fee when they are selling the property at \$500 per square foot.

Transportation expert Jack Whisner noted that the transportation and housing issues are linked. Priced out of Seattle, he said, "More people are moving to the suburbs, where housing is cheaper." These transplants, who formerly lived close to their Seattle jobs, now face long commutes.

At the same time, Whisner said, Metro is facing the expiration of \$45 million in funding. He also noted that the state has no fiscal plan to maintain Interstate 5.

Some members denounced the \$930 million Move Seattle levy, which will be on the November 3 ballot. Rather than build more roads, the measure will fund bike lanes, greenways and trails.

That was not good enough for Bradburd, who called the property tax funding regressive and said the measure was a "feel-good approach" that did little more than kick the can down the road.



mark your  
**MDC Calendar**  
 September - December 2015

All regular membership meetings occur on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, noon – 1:30 pm at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St, Seattle, unless otherwise noted. The MDC welcomes guests at all of its regular meetings and special events. Members are welcome to attend all MDC committee meetings.

**Single Payer Task Force** meets immediately following regular meetings.

**September 3 MDC event**

**MDC Salon**, a potluck hosted by Anne Johnson, 6 – 8 pm, 3649 42nd Ave NE. Our first annual raffle will debut at this social event.

**September 9 Second Wednesday**

**Topic:** general election ballot measures.  
**Speaker:** Andrew Villeneuve, founder and executive director of Northwest Progressive Institute.

**September 23 Fourth Wednesday**

General endorsement proceedings; announcement of results of election of officers; new officers assume office.

**October 14 Second Wednesday**

**Topic:** Port of Seattle.  
**Speakers:** Courtney Gregoire and Stephanie Bowman, co-presidents of the Port of Seattle Commission.

**October 28 Fourth Wednesday**

**Topic:** management of state lands and natural resources.

**Speaker:** Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands.

**November 3 MDC event**

Progressive Election Night Prefunk. Watch for more information.

**November 11 MDC event**

**MDC Board Social** hosted by Sally and Brad Bagshaw, 6 – 8 pm, 1107 1st Ave #2003. Potluck for board members. All members are welcome to participate.

**November 14 MDC activity**

**Annual planning retreat**, 9 am– 3 pm, Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St. Members will develop an operating plan for 2016. Lunch provided. RSVP, Eleanor Munro, 206.370.1374, walkere1@msn.com.

**November 18 only MDC meeting this month**

**Topic:** Solutionary Rail  
**Speaker:** Bill Moyer, executive director and cofounder of Backbone Campaign.

**December 13 MDC event**

**Winter Holiday Party**, 4 – 7 pm. Drawing for MDC Raffle; first prize is \$1,000 cash. Venue to be determined.

**December 16 only MDC meeting this month**

Review/approve operating plan for 2016.

**April 2016 Diamond Jubilee**

The MDC celebrates 60 years of promoting progressive values. Details to be determined.

To join the MDC or for more information contact MDC President Eleanor Munro at 206.370.1374 or walkere1@msn.com or visit metrodems.org or facebook.com/metrodems. ◆◆◆

## What's happening

**September 8** Let's Move Seattle campaign kickoff (to promote yes on Seattle Proposition 1), 5 – 7 pm, Spitfire, 2219 4th Ave. RSVP, Chad at chad@bluewavepolitics.com .

**September 9** A party in support of Pamela Banks, Seattle City Council Candidate District 3, 5:30 – 7 pm, hosted by Harriet Wasserman, 1247 20th Ave E. Suggested donations start at \$50, but all are welcome. Appetizers and excellent wines will be served. RSVP, harriet@wasserman.net or michael@bluewavepolitics.com.

**September 10** A special reception to help re-elect Tim Burgess, 6 – 7:30 pm, Sorrento Hotel, 900 Madison St. RSVP, kevin@bluewavepolitics.com or 206.682.7328. Suggested contributions start at \$100.

**September 17** Real Change celebrates 21 years of community-powered journalism, 7:30 – 9 am, Washington State Convention Center. Keynote speaker is Alexis Harris. No cost to attend, but suggested donations start at \$100. RSVP, realchangenews.org.

**September 20** Tea Party in support of Bill Bradburd for Seattle City Council Position 9, 2 – 4 pm, hosted by Kiku Hayashi at the home of the candidate, 1642 S Lane St. RSVP, 206.325.3120.

**September 22** Fundraiser for Jeanne Kohl-Welles for King County Council District 4, 6 – 8 pm, 3242 23rd Ave W. Co-hosted by Ah Warner and Cannabis Basics. Hemp cocktails and appetizers will be served. Suggested donation \$50. Sponsorship \$100. RSVP info@jeankohlwelles.com.

**September 23** Travel guru Rick Steves  
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Membership renewal date appears on above label

September 2015

METROPOLITAN  
 DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
 OF SEATTLE

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Return Service Requested

