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Promoting progressive values since 1956
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APRIL - MAY 2021

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

mark your Zoom calendar

May 12, 2021, noon

Speaker(s) and/or topic(s) for discussion to be announced.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87920432263?pwd=ZHRiYTRLV1VTZDhIN0xSMkF0MkY5Zz09>

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87920432263?pwd=ZHRiYTRLV1VTZDhIN0xSMkF0MkY5Zz09>

Jack Whisner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Meeting ID: 879 2043 2263

Passcode: 578053

May 26, 2021, noon

Topic: Police accountability

Speakers: Representative Roger Goodman (long-time MDC member) and Representative Jesse Johnson, chair and vice chair respectively of the House Public Safety Committee.



Rep. Roger Goodman



Rep. Jesse Johnson

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89849689347?pwd=RXh5UStFRm9vaXFtMjVFcTJ4UERadz09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89849689347?pwd=RXh5UStFRm9vaXFtMjVFcTJ4UERadz09>

Meeting ID: 898 4968 9347

Passcode: 966868

Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

MDC hosts eighth annual Chautauqua Afternoon in June

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle will hold its eighth annual Chautauqua Afternoon as a paper and email event this year as it did last year. In the past the event has been held outdoors and has included picnic fare and beverages; candidates signed up for five minute speaking spots throughout the afternoon.

The event is intended to provide members and friends of the MDC with information prior to its primary endorsement proceedings, which will take place by Zoom at noon June 23. Information about accessing the meeting will be sent to members, friends, and candidates and will also be posted on the organization's website, www.metrodems.org.

Candidates seeking the endorsement of the MDC are asked to send a photo and a statement of no more than 200 words to walkere1@msn.com; these will be included in our printed event program, which will be distributed prior to the endorsement proceedings.

Members and candidates are invited to become sponsors of the event at \$125. Candidates who sponsor get a free full-page ad in our event program and a one-year membership in the MDC. Sponsorships can be paid online at www.metrodems.org or sponsors can send a check to Eleanor Munro at 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.

Candidates are welcome to attend the endorsement proceedings, but are not invited to speak on their own behalf. They can, however, enlist a member of the MDC to speak for them.

Candidates are invited to send notices of their campaign events to walkere1@msn.com; these will be printed in our newsletter and/or forwarded to the

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book review

THE CODE BREAKER:

Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race
by Walter Isaacson
Simon and Schuster
New York, 2021

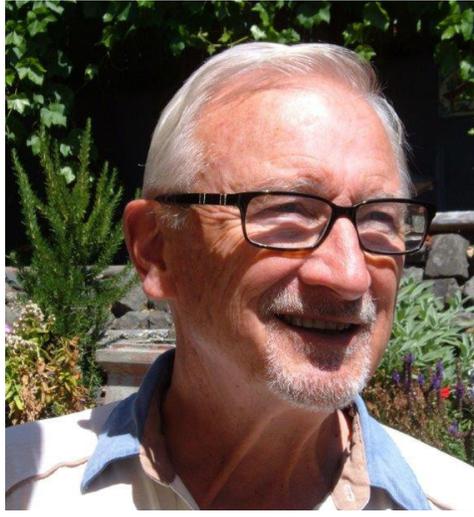
Reviewed by Pete Francis

This very popular new book starts with a review of genetic science from Darwin through James Watson, before starting the tale of the discovery of repeating patterns in the DNA of viruses, found to be replicated in bacterial DNA. These “clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats” were labeled in 2001 with the acronym CRISPR and the name has stuck.

Scientists learned that bacterial DNA matched the spaced repeats (CRISPR) in the DNA of invading viruses, thereby giving them immunity to that virus. Then it was found that certain RNA molecules could be used to snip out sections of virus DNA and bacterial DNA, and even to insert replacement DNA in the gap that was created. Eventually they learned how to apply and control this process in humans, leading to the ability to cure certain genetic diseases.

Probably the most important development, and the most controversial, is the nascent but certain ability to alter the genetic code of future generations. Not only could hereditary diseases be eliminated in a family line, but of course some people would want to edit their gene pool to try to make their descendants smarter, taller, more muscular, etc.

Finally this book tells how a number of scientists cooperated in quickly developing vaccines for COVID 19. It even describes how the Pfizer vaccine works.



Pete Francis

This book was somewhat of a slog for me. Others may like Isaacson’s approach. He spends a large part of the book going into the backgrounds, personalities, and motivations of the dozens of people who, through competition and collaboration and relentless work, uncovered the secrets of this part of the natural world. I would have preferred more focus on explaining the science, as in *The Epigenetic Revolution* (2012) by Nessa Carey, or *The Wild Life of Our Bodies* (2011), by Rob Dunn. But Isaacson apparently sees all this as adding drama or human interest. Of course it’s important to understand that major developments in science are always a group effort in one way or another, even if the Nobel Prize committee has to focus on one or two people, such as Jennifer Doudna.

Walter Isaacson has much to tell us, and his latest book is a veritable must read even if it can be slow-going.



METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors

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March, April MDC meeting highlights

March 10

Program Brady Walkinshaw, chief executive of Grist magazine and April Sims, secretary-treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council spoke about the work of the Washington State Redistricting Committee. Mr Walkinshaw was appointed to the committee by the Senate Democratic Caucus; Ms Sims is the House Democratic Caucus appointee.

March 24

Program Nick Licata, former Seattle City Councilmember, former president and lifetime honored member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, author of *Becoming a Citizen Activist* and writer of the *Citizenship Politics* newsletter spoke about his new book, *Student Power, Democracy & Revolution in the Sixties*. The book will be published later this year by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

April 14

Program Lisa Daugaard, executive director of the Public Defender Association, spoke about the PDA’s alternatives to the legal system and law enforcement options as well as homelessness in Seattle. Miss Daugaard was co-chair of Seattle’s Community Police Commission 2013-2018.

Business The membership voted to approve a motion for early endorsement of Peter Steinbrueck for Seattle Port Commissioner Position 4. The 2021 budget was approved by the MDC board of directors. It was agreed that the MDC would not be able to celebrate its 65th anniversary this year or conduct its eighth annual Chautauqua Afternoon in person.

April 28

Program Former mayor, Mike McGinn, spoke about his work as executive director of Washington’s branch of America Walks. The work of the organization is to make walking safe, routine and enjoyable. Walkability is not just about safety in crosswalks but street safety, disability mobility, and accessibility and a host of other issues. An ideal neighborhood is one in which daily needs can be met within a 15-minute walk, he said.

Business With minor changes, the letter to the members of the Seattle City Council was approved. The letter appears on page 3.





METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

Promoting progressive values since 1956.

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**Lifetime honored
members**

Kay Bullitt

Sen Pete Francis

Sen Jeanne Kohl-Welles

Hon Nick Licata

*The MDC promotes
good government through
educational programming,
social discourse and
support for progressive
public policy, candidates
and campaigns*

Honorable _____
Seattle City Council
PO Box 34025
Seattle WA 98124-4025

Re: Police budget and reform

Dear Councilmember _____

Members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle are concerned with efforts to “defund the police,” a call that gained prominence with the protests of police activities in this city and across the country last spring and summer. While we appreciate the origins of this sentiment, we recognize that the Seattle Police Department currently responds to more than 700 daily calls for services. Severe reductions over the past year in the SPD’s budget are already having consequences; response times for both 911 Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls have increased substantially and response times have exceeded goals.

Rather than a blanket budget cut, reforms are needed to address community concerns. Officers need a wide variety of skills to address the needs of Seattle’s communities. Systemic changes should include de-escalation training and other efforts to reduce violence,

Neighborhoods with the largest minority populations will be disproportionately harmed by cuts to police services. Polling suggests that 67 percent of persons of color in Seattle oppose defunding the police even though they oppose police violence.

Please reconsider the budgetary needs of a police department that can both protect our communities and provide services that uphold the values of our city.

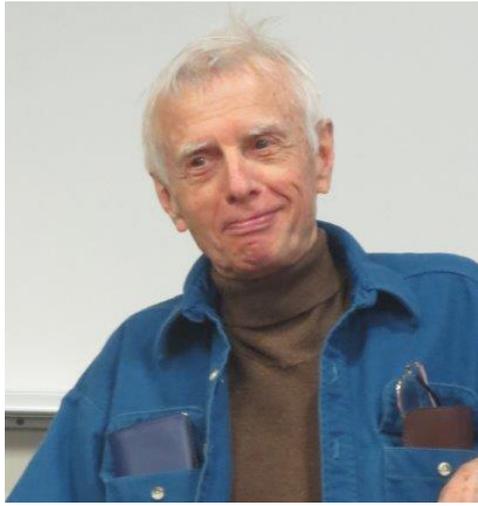
Sincerely,

Jack Whisner, president
Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle

Note: The MDC approved a motion, made by Lem Howell and seconded by Allan Munro, to send to the Seattle City Council a letter (above) expressing the organization’s objection to the Council’s cuts to the SPD budget.

obituary

Al Rasmussen
1937 – 2021



Al Rasmussen

Al Rasmussen, a member of the MDC for many years, died February 12. Al spent his last years living at Horizon House. He frequently wrote articles for The MDC News and made generous donations to the organization.

Al graduated from the University of Washington in 1959 with a BS in meteorology and climatology. He became an expert in glaciological science and worked for the US Geological Survey and later at the UW. He authored or co-authored dozens of scientific papers and presented his research findings in Norway, Sweden, England, Canada, Austria and Chile. His

obituary

Marty McLaren
1944 – 2021



Marty McLaren

Marty McLaren, who joined the MDC shortly before she was elected to the Seattle Public Schools School Board, died March 13, 2021. She served on the board 2011-2015. She taught preschool for several years and later taught middle and high school mathematics. No commemoration is planned due to COVID restrictions.

interest in math and science led him to publish *Analytic Geometry Solutions*, a book of advanced mathematical proofs. In January he fell and broke his left leg, which led to complications causing his death.

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membership by email.

Members who are not able to attend the endorsement meeting and whose dues are paid in full may vote by mail using the ballot that will be included in the June edition of The MDC News. Mailed ballots are due postmarked no later than June 19.

Following the primary endorsement meeting the MDC will decide if and for whom it will hold fundraisers.



New members

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle welcomes new members Marvin Rosete and Michael Charles.



Dues

Have you paid your membership dues? Please check the top line of the label on the mailing panel of this newsletter for your due date.

Only those whose dues are paid in full are eligible to vote on endorsements or any other issue requiring a vote. Pay online at www.metrodems.org or mail your check to Eleanor Munro, 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

April - May 2021

METROPOLITAN
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OF SEATTLE



Eleanor Munro
1925 41st Ave SW
Seattle WA 98116

Return Service Requested