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NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

## coping with coronavirus MDC people

*I asked MDC members to share their experiences coping with coronavirus. Here are some responses. – Editor.*

### **From Pete Francis in Mexico with Elva**

We really expect that Volaris will still be flying next Tuesday. For now I am able to ease the worries by going for a long walk. I just got back from an hour stroll along the lake. The big white pelicans, egrets, herons, the cormorants, ducks, and coots, all put me in a good mood. There is also a colony of parrots, and numerous song birds which I can appreciate as long as I am wearing my hearing aids. It seems improbable to find such abundance of sea birds on a huge freshwater lake at the same elevation as Denver. I guess that they find plenty of fish to eat. Wish us success in getting home.

### **From Carol Simmons recently on cruise with Jim**

Jim and I returned March 17th. We were aboard our cruise ship when the captain announced that all passengers would have to disembark that day (we were in Fremantle, Australia) because Cunard had cancelled the World Cruise. The ship, Queen Mary 2, did remain there one more day with Australia's permission as Australia said that it was ok due to passengers needing to arrange flight accommodations and that there were not enough hotels in Fremantle for us to stay.

We were fortunate to have Cunard arrange our flight (paid for) home. But it was soooooo long. All together 45 hours so you can imagine how exhausted we were. Also, in all four of the airports we were in, Perth, Melbourne, Los Angeles and Seattle (SeaTac) there was no screening.

We saw our baby once when we arrived home. Oh he is so sweet and how we love that little guy. We had to stay totally away from him though as we could have possibly "carried" something home. Fortunately, it

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## A Chautauqua Afternoon on paper, online

The seventh annual Chautauqua Afternoon, the signature event of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, has been cancelled. The group and its friends and invited candidates will not meet at the home of Ann and Tony Martin in West Seattle on June 7 as scheduled. Instead the event will be conducted on paper and online.

This week the board of directors approved a proposal that will allow candidates, who will be hard pressed to establish and maintain meaningful contact with voters, to provide MDC members and friends with

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### book review

## Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America

By Nancy MacLean  
Viking, New York, 2017  
Reviewed by Nelson Dahl

I found it hard to read this book without becoming angry. But thanks to the extensive research by MacLean, I've finally begun to understand why some things in America are the way they are. One example: the large tuition increases at public universities over the last thirty years can be attributed to deliberate plans to transform the universities to be run more like corporate-style entities requiring students to pay the full costs of their education. The strategies behind all this were developed by a libertarian economics professor, James Buchanan, beginning in the 1960s. Eventually, he was discovered by the billionaire, Charles Koch, and the movement enjoyed practically unlimited

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the information to conduct their endorsement proceedings and to seek their votes.

### MDC members

Members of the MDC are asked to sponsor the event at \$125, as usual; printing costs will be higher than usual and we still need to raise funds for the financial health of the organization. Checks should be sent to Eleanor Munro, 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 or wait to receive a link by email to pay online.

### Candidates

Starting in April letters will be sent to declared candidates inviting them to submit photos and statements of 200 words or less that tell us why we should endorse them. Letters will continue to go out through the end of filing, May 19. Candidates will also be invited to sponsor for \$125. Candidates who sponsor will be given a one-year membership in the MDC and an ad in the event program. Deadline for sponsorships and statements is May 29.

### Print/post

Statements and ads will be printed in the event program and distributed in early June. They will also appear online.

### Endorsement proceedings

Endorsement proceedings will take place June 24 as scheduled, in person if meetings can be resumed, by mailed ballot if they cannot. As usual, endorsements will be reported by email, online and in *The MDC News*.



### News from Jeanne Kohl-Welles

King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles is sending out eNews daily during our coronavirus crisis. Subscribe at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAKING/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WAKING\\_593](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAKING/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAKING_593)

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funding from then on.

Among their goals were the destruction of labor unions, the revision of tax codes, the undoing of environmental protections, the elimination of regulations in general, the privatization of Medicare and Social Security, and the privatization of virtually everything from schools to prisons and parks. Their movement included an attempt to transform the legal profession by revising the curricula at many law schools. As Koch put it, the goal was to save capitalism from democracy. They also established a new conservative think tank called the CATO institute.

Buchanan's concept of freedom was freedom from big government, freedom to consume, produce, save and invest. His followers believed that the only legitimate role of government was to insure law and order and provide for national defense. Ideally, there would be no other services. By the 1990s, the Koch team had pretty well taken control of the Republican party. Any remaining moderate Republicans faced big money thrown at their opponents at the next primary election.

The US has now reached its greatest disparity in the distribution of wealth. To value liberty for the wealthy minority above all else and enshrine it in the nation's governing rules will ultimately lead to oligarchy. Koch views society as split between makers and takers, and he wants to be protected from the takers. He understands that the majority of Americans expect their government to offer

many human services as well as environmental and safety regulations. So the Republican strategy in elections is to rely increasingly on various means of voter suppression.

MacLean points out that our constitutional system has promoted stability but has made it difficult to achieve major changes. Many issues that have been supported by a majority of the people have failed to make it through Congress. The House of Representatives truly represents the people, but the Senate has a very unfair constituency. Fifty senators represent just fifty million people from the smallest twenty-five states, while the other fifty senators represent 257 million people from the twenty-five largest states.

This is the story of big money running

amok in the service of right wing academics. The most important lesson we can learn from this book is to alert us to what has really been happening behind the scenes in American politics. Understanding that scenario will enable the majority of Americans to see what must be done to save our democracy.



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has been 10 days and we are only self-quarantined for 14.

**From Peggy Maze on her way to the clinic** I'm off to UW Urgent Care, not for Trumprvirus symptoms! I fell taking my jeans off and tripped and hit the corner of my bedside table and did something to my ribs! The pain is horrendous, but I'm so grateful! (Peggy found out that she has three broken ribs.)

### Renewing our vision in 2020

MDC members: Let's renew our vision in 2020. Your donation of \$1,000 will help us revitalize the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Mail your check to Eleanor Munro, 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 or pay online at metro-dems.org using the membership form.

If \$1,000 is a bit out of your reach, donate any amount or consider paying a designated amount each month to help us promote the values we hold dear. We have already received two \$1,000 donations.

### Note and vote

Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle President Jack Whisner will be sending a call for vote by email on the motion made at the February 27 meeting of the MDC. The motion was to vote early endorsements for MDC members Representative Gael Tarleton (candidate for secretary of state), Senator Bob Hasegawa and Representative Roger Goodman. The vote was originally scheduled to be taken at the March 11 meeting.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

April 2020

MDC meetings have been cancelled until further notice

METROPOLITAN  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
OF SEATTLE



Eleanor Munro  
1925 41st Ave SW  
Seattle WA 98116

Return Service Requested