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# JANUARY-FEBRUARY NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

## Scenes: winter holiday party

Mona Das, newly elected senator from the 47th legislative district, and Andrew Lewis, and a candidate for Seattle City Council District 7, joined members and friends of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle for its annual winter holiday party, December 9 at the home of Maryanne Tagney and David Jones. Other officeholders who attended were Senator Bob Hasegawa, Seattle Port Commissioner Fred Felleman, and Representative Gerry Pollet. All three are members of the MDC.

Upper left: MDC President Eleanor Munro invites Andrew Lewis to say a few words.

Center left: Mona Das, Gerry Pollet, Fred Felleman, and Bob Hasegawa are all smiles.

Lower left: Joan Burton, left, chats with George Wallerstein, right; former president of the MDC Justin Simmons appears in the center background talking with David Rudo.

Lower right: Mary and Dean Fournier take a moment to enjoy the holiday goodies.

## MDC forms task forces to organize programs and forums

Task forces focused on specific issues would be the best way to organize programs and other activities of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, members decided at the club's annual planning session, December 12, 2018. The groups met during the January 9 meeting to solidify their plans and to begin scheduling programs.

**The Health Care Task Force** was formed several years ago and has been presenting programs sporadically since then. Members are Charlton Price (lead), Dean Fournier, Vinod Goswami, Bert Wyman, Lem Howell and Seth Armstrong. The group has scheduled February 27 for a health care update and April 24 for a close look at health care in Washington, specifically mental health care.

**The Climate Change Task Force** was formed in 2017 and has presented several programs over the last year. Members are Tyler Mollenkopf (lead), Elizabeth Stanton, Nelson Dahl, Judi Gibbs, Jayson Morris and Allan Munro. The group has not yet scheduled programs for this year, but is considering an evening forum to explore several themes (causes and impacts of climate change, carbon tax, agriculture and

Continued on page 3



## book review

# The Age of Jackson

By Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.  
Book Find Club, New York, 1945

Reviewed by Pete Francis

Maybe I am not the only one who had never gotten around to reading this masterful history by one of our most famous historians. After reading more than one bio of Andrew Jackson I had not been let in on the reasons for some of his positions, such as his hostility to the National Bank. I wondered if this book might get into some of those issues. I was not disappointed. But I quickly learned that this book is not a biography of Jackson. It is a detailed look at the political currents and thought of an era. Working people, farmers, and many others were deeply opposed to the increasing inequality of income, as well as the increased power of corporations, especially the National Bank. Corporations were new, monopolistic, and seemingly unfettered by any of the norms of business morality. Andrew Jackson epitomized this thinking. On the other side were the Hamiltonians, who saw cheap labor as essential to the developing industrial part of our economy.

Schlesinger quotes extensively from poets, publishers, professors and politicians in a way that is never boring. He takes us through the tumult of America's political and economic struggles from Jefferson to the Civil War. Through all of this Schlesinger makes it clear whose side he is on. Some of the Whig tactics in pretending to help working people will remind you of Republican con jobs of this century. And certainly many of the issues facing the voters of the 1830s and 1840s are front and center right now. This classic deserves to be read again and again.



## MDC board of directors meets

Members of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle met January 23 to review the decisions made at its December 12, 2018 planning session and to address leadership and growth issues.

President Eleanor Munro announced that Director Jayson Morris will be administering our Facebook page and website.

She noted that the 2018 budget has not been balanced (she will continue to work on it)

and proposed a budget for 2019, which was approved.

Directors discussed membership issues, such as meeting times and places and how to attract a younger and more diverse audience. It was suggested that evening meetings and more happy hours might be effective. It was also suggested that our downtown time and location fill a special political niche and should be preserved, though not to the exclusion of other options.

Lem Howell suggested a membership committee be formed. Anyone who would like to be part of that committee should contact Ms Munro at walkere1@msn.com.

### METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors

**Executive committee** President Eleanor Munro ▪ Vice President Jack Whisner ▪ Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi **Directors** Joanna Cullen ▪ Dan Fievez ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Judi Gibbs ▪ Vinod Goswami ▪ Lem Howell ▪ Mark Marshall ▪ Tyler Mollenkopf ▪ Jayson Morris ▪ Allan Munro ▪ Dr David Rudo ▪ Elizabeth Stanton ▪ Harriet Wasserman ▪ Bert Wyman **Lifetime honored members** Kay Bullitt ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Sen Jeanne Kohl-Welles ▪ Hon Nick Licata

## book review

# The Curse of Bigness

## Antitrust in the New Gilded Age

By Tim Wu  
Columbia Global Reports, New York, 2018

Reviewed by Allan Munro

This easy-to-read short treatise on antitrust law answers the question of whether bigness is inherently bad, with an emphatic “yes.” Not only is bigger (meaning a corporation with overwhelming market share) economically bad because of power to control prices, exclude competitors, suppress innovation, etc., it is also politically bad. That’s because powerful business interests, now unconstrained thanks to Citizens United v. FEC, will have enormous resources to translate economic power into political power. The results are:

- unfavorable tax laws
- extreme inequality of wealth and income
- deregulated controls on the environment and workplace safety, and
- an alienated middle class that is vulnerable to authoritarian leadership.

The solution is: BREAK THEM UP. This solution should apply to the new tech giants: Apple, Google, Facebook, and Amazon.

Wu points out that the Sherman Antitrust Act criminalizes monopolies and “attempts to monopolize.” The plain meaning of the Act equates to bigness is bad. He then describes the transitions from Louis Brandeis’s interpretation of the Act to the narrow, limited “consumer welfare” construction successfully argued by Robert Bork and the Chicago School of Economics.

[Note: This is the same Robert Bork whose appointment to the US Supreme Court the US Senate refused to confirm; the Chicago School was created by funding from John D Rockefeller.]

Wu criticizes the Federal Trade Commission for allowing mergers and acquisitions (M&A) to massively increase business concentration.

He persuasively argues that enforcement of the Sherman Act as originally intended, would be a valuable tool to reduce income inequality and corporate power.



## 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.

# MDC meeting notes

December 12, 2018

## Planning for 2019

Members agreed to form task forces, which will organize two or three meetings for the year. They may also elect to conclude their efforts with a forum, a position paper, or some other informative activity. Task forces include healthcare and climate change (already formed and active), Seattle's future – the 2019 city council elections. Some members expressed an interest in working on programs that will serve to prepare us for 2020 elections.

## January 9

### Announcements/business

President Eleanor Munro announced that

- she will bring Elizabeth Warren buttons (printed previously) to each meeting. The MDC has several hundred available. They sell for \$1.

- she has not completed the budget for 2018 or the estimated budget for 2019.

- she will call a board meeting. (It was decided to hold a board meeting for part of the January 23 regular meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.)

- she has sent reminders to about one third of our members to let them know their dues are due.

- our library has received a gift of about two dozen books from Lloyd and Liz Hara; she will update the list of books available and have it posted on our website.

- she would entertain remembrances about former members Phyllis Lamphere and Fred Tausend, both recently deceased.

## Planning for 2019

Healthcare, climate change and Seattle's Future task forces met during the last part of the meeting and commenced planning programs for 2019.

## January 23

Meeting of the board of directors

- The board of directors reviewed and added further refinements to the operating plan for 2019. See page 1, task forces.

- President Eleanor Munro said the 2018 budget has not yet been balanced, but the ending balance in the bank is \$8,686.63. She will continue to work on it. The board

# Obituaries

Two former members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, who died near the end of 2018, are remembered here. No public services have been announced for either of the deceased.

## Phyllis Lamphere

1922 – 2018

Phyllis Lamphere was a member of the MDC during the 1960s; she was elected to the Seattle City Council in 1967, one of the candidates endorsed by Choose and Effective City Council (CHECC), in which many current and former members of the MDC participated. She served for 11 years.

Ms Lamphere began her political career as a member of the League of Women Voters. After her stint as a Seattle City Councilmember, she served as president of the National League of Cities, as regional director of the Economic Development Administration, and on numerous civic and political committees and boards.

Ms Lamphere graduated Barnard College and worked at IBM in New York and Boeing in Seattle.

## Fred Tausend

1933 – 2018

Fred Tausend served as president of the MDC in 1965 and held other offices with the organization. He is widely remembered among MDC members for his contributions to the production of the renowned MDC Follies.

Mr Tausend practiced law with Schweppe law firm from 1958 – 1989 with two breaks; he served in the state's attorney general's office in the 1960s and as dean of the University of Puget Sound Law School, 1980 – 1986. In 1990 he joined the law firm of Preston Gates & Ellis, where he worked until his retirement. He also taught at Seattle University and the University of Washington Law School.

approved the operating budget for 2019.

- She said Director Jayson Morris has agreed to take over management of the MDC website from Tyler Mollenkopf. He will also serve as administrator of the MDC Facebook page.

- Lem Howell and Allan Munro will work on organizing one or more evening meetings the feature candidates for president.

## mark your MDC calendar

### February 13 – MDC meeting

The MDC Seattle's Future Task Force will present "Affordable Housing and the City's Future" featuring Seattle City Council Land Use Chair Rob Johnson.

### February 27 – MDC meeting

The MDC Health Care Task Force will present "An Update on Health Care: in DC and Olympia." Topics include Governor Jay Inslee's health care proposal and brief updates on the progress of healthcare organizations in which the MDC is represented (Health Care for All - Washington, Health Care is a Human Right – Washington, and Physicians for a National Health Program.)

*Task Forces continued from page 1*

food production and others).

**The Seattle's Future Task Force** is new, inspired by former Seattle City Councilmember Jim Street. He is joined by Harriet Wasserman; names of others are not available at this time. The group intends to address the critical issues facing the city in 2019. It will also evaluate candidates for city council to see how they stand on these issues. Its first program is scheduled for February 13, when it will present Seattle City Council Land Use Chair Rob Johnson on "Affordable Housing and the City's Future."

**The Get Ready for 2020 Task Force** so far has not announced a lead, but Allan Munro and Lem Howell will work together to organize a forum featuring candidates for president (or their representatives). They may also consider addressing some national and international issues.

**Members - to join one or more of these task forces contact**

Charlton Price (charltonrp@gmail.com), Tyler Mollenkopf (mollenkt@gmail.com), Jim Street (streetjim2@gmail.com) or Allan Munro (walkere1@msn.com).



## New Members

The MDC welcomes new members Andrew Lewis, candidate for Seattle City Council District 7, Representative Gerry Pollet (46th LD), Betty Means, and Jeff Smith.



# Jack Whisner's Happy New Year Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10							11	
		12			13	14	15	
16	17			18				
19		20	21		22			
	23			24	25		26	27
28				29	30		31	
				32			33	
34	35		36		37			38
39					40		41	42
43			44	45			46	
47								

## Across

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Opportunity in trade                              | 29. New 48th District Representative (Kirkland mayor) |
| 6. Newest 46th District Representative               | 31. Trolley bus power or site of US capital           |
| 10. New 34th Senator (Microsoft)                     | 32. Morro Bay CA city                                 |
| 11. Prefix with conspirator                          | 33. Agency of Link LRT                                |
| 12. Seattle quadrant with U District                 | 34. Late actor Burl                                   |
| 13. New 30th District Senator (school board)         | 37. Dory thruster                                     |
| 16. WA Ferguson title                                | 38. Sixty mins.                                       |
| 18. Favorite Lebowsky street, perhaps                | 39. Circus shelter                                    |
| 19. Nearby   | 40. ER professional                                   |
| 22. With Tung, late night place on South King Street | 41. New 41st Representative (school board)            |
| 23. New 5th District Representative (city council)   | 43. Agency of Swift BRT                               |
| 25. New 32nd District Representative (lobbyist)      | 44. 2014 slide  |
| 28. Paris salt                                       | 46. Clooney as 40 across                              |
|  | 47. My greeting to you                                |

## Down

1. Huge hoops center
  2. NFL three pointer
  3. Merriment
  4. Needle hole
  5. Scale note follows do
  7. Hellman and Gish
  8. Dismal sci.
  9. Bus or erogenous
  13. May precede blanket or weather
  14. Islamic ruler decree
  15. NBA city of Becky Hammond
  17. AI of global warming film
  18. Melville: after "there she"
  20. New 5th District Representative (school board)
  21. Hrs. before noon
  24. New 32nd Senator (Shoreline council)
  26. Home of comic wizard
  27. New 8th District Congressman and 40 across
  28. Turned by fahslaband
  30. Number of passengers on transit vehicle
  35. Hair loss shampoo
  36. Red octagonal sign
  38. Seattle hsg. legislation
  41. A rugby score
  42. Weeding tool
  45. Diminutive suffix
- Answers in the next edition of The MDC News.**



Membership renewal date appears on above label

January - February 2019

METROPOLITAN  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
OF SEATTLE

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Return Service Requested

