



THE

MDC

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JUNE 2019 NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

MDC hosts candidates at its 6th annual Chautauqua Afternoon

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's sixth annual Chautauqua Afternoon is scheduled for noon – 5 pm, Sunday June 9, at the home of Ann and Tony Martin, 3618 SW Orchard. MDC Vice President Jack Whisner will serve as master of ceremonies throughout the afternoon.

Candidates seeking election to Seattle City Council, King County Council, Port of Seattle, Seattle School Board and other offices have signed up for five-minute speaking slots to seek the support and endorsement of the MDC members and friends. For more information about securing speaking slots see page 3.

Classic picnic fare – hot dogs, hamburgers, trimmings – will be provided by Thyme Well Spent Catering and will be available throughout the afternoon, as will wine and other beverages.

A donation of \$25 is requested, but as always, is entirely optional. All are welcome at MDC events.

Six years ago the MDC stopped inviting candidates to drop in at their regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month because the practice took away too much time away from its programming. The group now invites candidates to attend its Chautauqua Afternoon to provide the information it needs to help it make its endorsements.

MDC primary endorsement proceedings this year will take place noon – 1:30 pm, June 26, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St. Candidates are invited to attend these proceedings, but not to speak on their own behalf. Members who are candidates are welcome to participate in the proceedings, but not to speak on their own behalf.

The MDC accepts sponsorships of this event in the amount of \$125. Sponsors last year included King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski, Senator Bob Hasegawa, Representative Eileen Cody and Port Commissioner Fred Felleman as well as MDC members Charles and Jonis Davis, Dean Fournier, Lem Howell, Tyler Mollenkopf, Allan Munro, Eleanor Munro, Charlton Price, Elizabeth Stanton, Harriet Wasserman and Jack Whisner. See page 3 for more information about sponsoring.



Scenes from

A Chautauqua Afternoon 2018

Speakers at A Chautauqua Afternoon 2018 included, top, Senator Bob Hasegawa; King County Executive Dow Constantine with his daughter Sabrina and MDC President Eleanor Munro; center, Seattle City Councilmember Deborah Juarez; left, Judge Andrea Chin; right, Judge Lisa Paglisotti; and bottom Senator Joe Nguyen.



Steinbrueck: grow family wage jobs

The answer to homelessness? Seattle Port Commissioner Peter Steinbrueck says its family wage jobs. He pointed out to members and guests of Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its May 8 meeting that the mission of the Port is “to create good jobs here and across the state.” If people have jobs they will better be able to afford housing, he asserted.

Growing family wage jobs is one of his campaign promises; two others are greening the port and good government.

Criteria for building the port of the future, he explained are that the work be environmentally sound, economically feasible and socially just.

“We are in the midst of a global transformation of shipping,” Mr Steinbrueck

said, “shipping lines are consolidating into fewer alliances and vessels are getting larger.”

Seattle has to be able to compete with other West Coast cities for international shipping, he explained, and Terminal 5 is being retrofitted to make that possible.

As chair of the aviation committee, oversight of SeaTac Airport is a big part of his job, he said. The airport is growing rapidly, he added, with a new international arrivals facility, concourse D annex and an improved baggage handling system coming on line in the near future.

Some of Mr Steinbrueck’s other assignments include serving on the internal audit committee and oversight of the Alaska Pacific fishing fleet and shipping. He said he will be getting some local color this summer by working with his son on a fishing boat in Alaska.



Former president of the MDC, Justin Simmons, and Seattle Port Commissioner Peter Steinbrueck.

Mr Steinbrueck, a long-time member of the MDC, formerly served as a member of the Seattle City Council.



book review

Give People Money

By Annie Lowrey

Crown, New York, 2018

Reviewed by Nelson Dahl

Annie Lowrey is an economics writer who has written for The New York Times, the Atlantic, and Slate. A Universal Basic Income (UBI) is not a new idea. It is currently being tried in Denmark on a limited basis. It was voted on in Switzerland and has been debated in other parts of the world. America has always been about work, founded on a Protestant work ethic, resulting in strong beliefs such as disapproval of getting something for nothing. We’re all familiar with the old saying, “Idleness is the Devil’s workshop.”

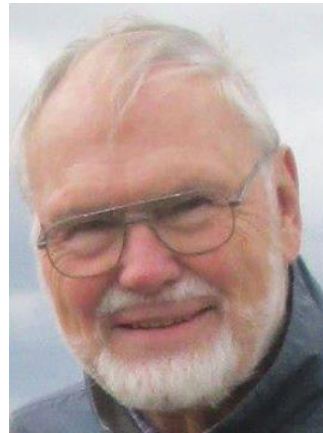
On the practical side, a UBI could eliminate the existing welfare state in the US with all its demeaning and belittling bureaucratic maze for the less fortunate to cope with. It could revitalize American society, make

people more responsible for their own thriving, promote individual freedom that comes from economic security, help cancel the differences between rich and poor kids, and finally eliminate child poverty.

Our present economy may not have an employment crisis, but it does have a lack of good jobs. Working class Americans, and increasingly middle class, have made virtually no gains in several decades. Something is tipping the balance in favor of capital and corporations and away from workers and people.

Economists have estimated that artificial intelligence will eliminate about half of American jobs in the not-too-distant future. Imagine the nation’s truck drivers being suddenly out of work. Millions of white collar jobs will be affected also.

Do people really need to work? We all know people who retired early to pursue



Nelson Dahl

their true interests: travel, special hobbies, art, crafts, writing, volunteering, and any number of possibilities. People need projects to keep their lives meaningful and stimulate their brains. Why would it be any different for younger people? There will still be jobs for those who qualify and want to seek that kind of work. But they would also receive the UBI. Since it’s universal, it will be without stigma. And parents

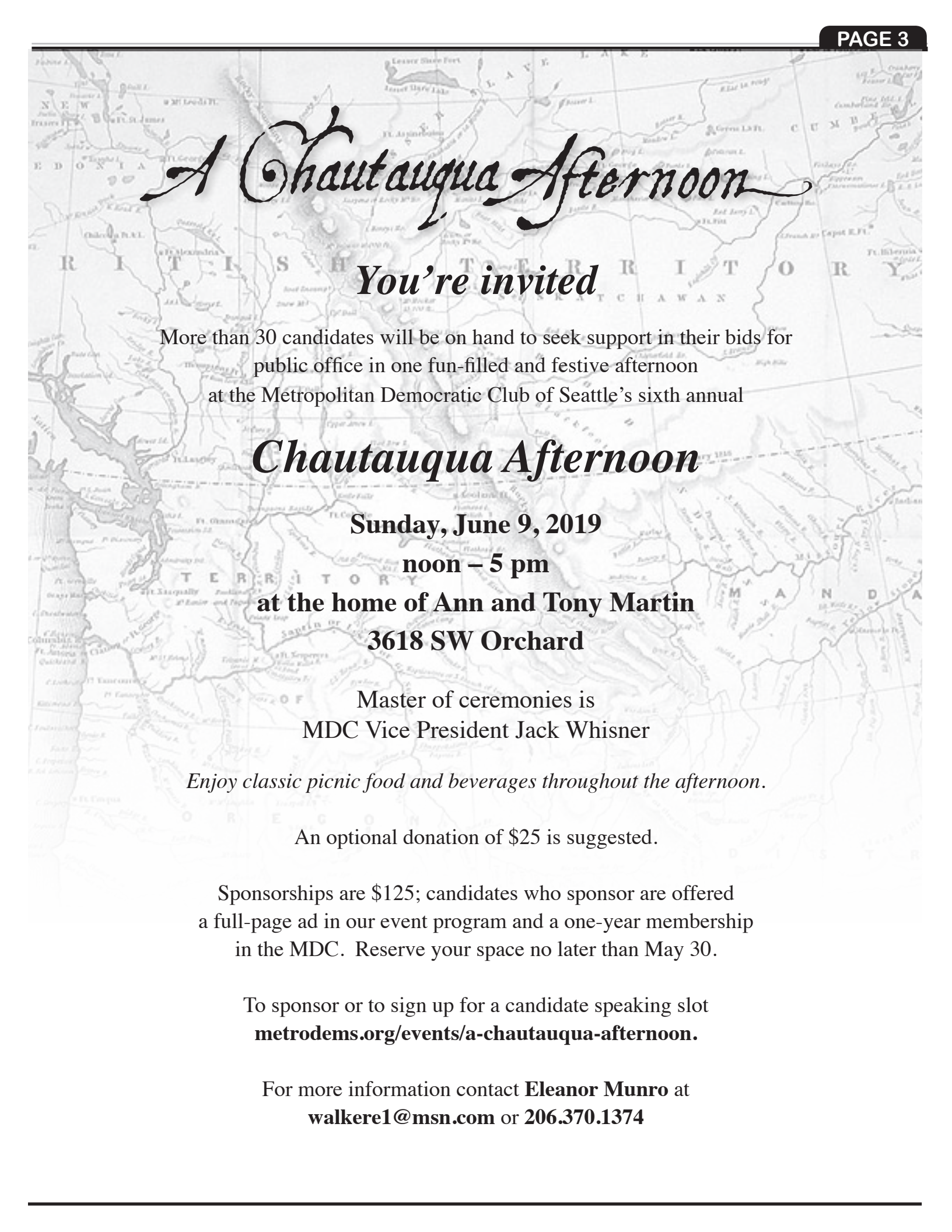
who stay home to raise their children will finally receive some compensation. A UBI would serve as a foundation on which to live your life as you see fit.

In my opinion this all raises many questions. How much would be enough? Where would the money come from? Would it make people lazy? (Does retirement make people lazy?) It seems inevitable that we will eventually have to face these choices. How will we provide a decent living for everyone when there are no longer enough jobs to go around? We need to keep imagining so that when the future arrives, we are ready. I’m sure it will become a divisive issue, generating strong opposition from conservatives, especially the wealthy class.



METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors

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A Chautauqua Afternoon

You're invited

More than 30 candidates will be on hand to seek support in their bids for public office in one fun-filled and festive afternoon at the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's sixth annual

Chautauqua Afternoon

Sunday, June 9, 2019

noon – 5 pm

at the home of Ann and Tony Martin

3618 SW Orchard

Master of ceremonies is
MDC Vice President Jack Whisner

Enjoy classic picnic food and beverages throughout the afternoon.

An optional donation of \$25 is suggested.

Sponsorships are \$125; candidates who sponsor are offered a full-page ad in our event program and a one-year membership in the MDC. Reserve your space no later than May 30.

To sponsor or to sign up for a candidate speaking slot
metrodem.org/events/a-chautauqua-afternoon.

For more information contact **Eleanor Munro** at
walkere1@msn.com or **206.370.1374**

MDC meeting notes

May 8

New meeting location

President Eleanor Munro confirmed that our regular meeting place starting May 22 will be Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St. She noted that the church is locked and that to gain entrance one must buzz 002.

Bios

She repeated her earlier request for biographical information from board members for use on the MDC's new website.

A Chautauqua Afternoon

She announced that she would invite Linda Mapes, environmental reporter for The Seattle Times, to serve as keynote speaker at A Chautauqua Afternoon, June 9.

Guest

Former MDC board member Caesar Robinson announced that he is serving as a campaign manager for new MDC member Pat Murakami, candidate for Seattle City Council District 3.

May 22

Impeachment

Lem Howell moved to suspend the rules (motion passed); he then moved that MDC urge our congressional delegates to start an inquiry into impeachment of the president. The motion failed.

MDC to elect board for 2019-2021 term

In response to a call for candidates to serve on the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's board of directors for the 2019 – 2021 term, all 10 directors whose terms end this year are seeking reelection. They are Kiku Hayashi, Jack Whisner, Eleanor Munro Senator Pete Francis, Vinod Goswami, Lem Howell, David Rudo, Elizabeth Stanton, Harriet Wasserman and Bert Wyman.

Two others have added their names to the list: Anquida Adams and former board member Peggy Maze.

The ballot is included with the primary endorsement ballot inserted in this newsletter. Results will be announced at the MDC's annual meeting and general endorsement proceedings, June 26.



A Chautauqua Afternoon

Ms Munro announced that Ms Mapes declined the honor of serving as keynote speaker and that she had invited others who had not responded. (As of this printing, there will not be a keynote speaker at this year's event.) Jack Whisner agreed to serve as master of ceremonies.

Guest

Peggy Maze introduced Blake Zeman, who is serving as campaign manager for new MDC member Ami Nguyen, candidate for Seattle City Council District 3,

Election 2019

King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles will kick off her reelection campaign, 7 pm, June 20th at the Woodland Park Zoo Rain Forest Pavilion. Ms Kohl-Welles, a lifetime honored member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, has been endorsed by the organization.



What's happening

Crosscut invites all to a News & Brews program entitled "2020 Vision: Presidential Election Predictions and Projections." Features panelists Sharon Mast, Christopher Parker and Chris Vance; moderator is Knute Berger. Takes place 6 -9 pm, June 13, at the Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Ave N. Tickets are \$20. For more information, Cathryn Burby, 206.443.5476.



New members

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle welcomes new member Cathy Tuttle, candidate for Seattle City Council District 3, and returning member Peggy Maze. Both are sponsors of A Chautauqua Afternoon 2019.

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.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

June 2019

METROPOLITAN
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OF SEATTLE

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Return Service Requested

