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JUNE 2020

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

opinion Most important race for WA state office this year

I asked members of the MDC the following: What is the most important race for Washington state office this year? Whom do you prefer (choose one candidate only) for the position? Why? I received one answer, printed here. ~ editor

I believe the most important race for Washington state office this year is Mike Pellicciotti for state treasurer because he supports a publicly owned bank, which we likely would already have were it not for an obstinate past and current state treasurer. In this time of economic catastrophe for so many people and our state as well, a public bank would not only generate new revenue without paying taxes, but also generate tremendous leveraged lending capacity of our tax dollars. Public banks are counter-cyclical and can create money to infuse into a struggling economy by creating credit on its books in the form of loans. ~ Bob Hasegawa

Candidates asked to submit statements and photos

As the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle will not be meeting for its annual event, A Chautauqua Afternoon, in person this year, it is asking candidates to submit a statement of no more than 200 words and a photo, which will appear in our printed and online program. These will help MDC members make informed choices at their primary endorsement proceedings, which will take place by mail this year. Results will be announced July 22. Statements and photos should be sent to walkere1@msn.com no later than July 10.

Court upholds UNEA disenfranchisement

The termination last year by Seattle Public Schools of its partnership with the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA) was upheld by a court decision on March 13, 2020. Following its July 10, 2019 meeting, which featured Thomas Speer and David Olivera of UNEA's Clear Sky program, the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, sent a letter to Seattle School Superintendent Denise Juneau urging "the directors of the Seattle School Board to continue the program at the Robert Eagle Staff site on the sacred grounds of Licton Springs, free of charge, and to establish a memorandum of understanding with the superintendent of Seattle Public Schools to continue the partnership between UNEA and the Seattle Public School District."

A press release from UNEA notes that the "court decision sadly underscores historical systemic racist practices throughout our country."

Candidates are also invited to sponsor the event at \$125. Candidates who sponsor are offered an ad in our event program and a one-year membership in the MDC.

Sponsor at <https://www.metrodems.org/the-mdc-chautauqua-event> or send a check to Eleanor Munro, 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.



Primary endorsement deadline extended, MDC votes by mail

Primary endorsement proceedings of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle will occur in July instead of June this year, by decision of the officers of the organization.

As it is unlikely the group will be able to meet in person, for the first time in its recorded history, the MDC will conduct the proceedings entirely by mail. Previously members could choose to vote by mail or at the proceedings.

Primary endorsement ballots will be mailed with the July newsletter. Results will be announced July 22.

The deadline for candidates to submit statements of 200 words or less and photos has also been extended. They are now due no later than July 10 and should be sent to walkere1@msn.com. These will appear in a printed program and online.

You are eligible to vote if your dues are paid in full (your due date appears at the top of the mailing label on the mailing panel of this newsletter) and if you have been a member for 30 days prior to July 22, 2020.

Please sign your ballot and print your name in the spaces provided, tape closed, stamp and mail postmarked no later than July 17.

Also on the ballot are the names of those members standing for reelection to the board of directors. Others who wish to serve on the board should inform Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com no later than June 24.

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE -- Board of Directors

Executive committee President Jack Whisner • Vice President Peggy Maze • Treasurer Joanna Cullen • Immediate Past President Eleanor Munro **Directors** Anquida Adams • Dan Fievez • Sen Pete Francis • Judi Gibbs • Vinod Goswami • Kiku Hayashi • Lem Howell • 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

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 contribution are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

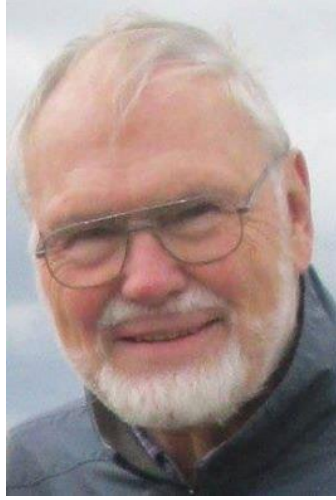
Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism

by Anne Case and Angus Deaton

Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 2020

Reviewed by Nelson Dahl

This book focuses on a particular group of people, middle-aged white Americans without a college degree, who have been experiencing a rapid increase in deaths from three causes, suicide, drug overdose, and alcoholism. While overall life expectancy in the United States has fallen for the last three years, the particular deaths above, called “deaths of despair,” have increased from thirty per 100 in 1990 to ninety-two per hundred in 2017.



Nelson Dahl

Deaths of despair reflect a long-term loss of a way of life for the working class that has not affected Americans with college degrees and has not affected most other advanced countries. This group once held union jobs in manufacturing, jobs that could support a family. As manufacturing moved overseas and automation replaced assembly line workers, white men without a four-year degree saw their median earnings lose thirteen percent of their purchasing power between 1979 and 2017. Workers with degrees continued to make progress in a growing economy. Many of the less-educated men were reduced to lower-paid service jobs and some left the

work force entirely. The accompanying loss of status has taken its toll.

Severe mental distress was on the rise. In this group, 158,000 died from “deaths of despair” in 2017 alone. Suicide rates were rising rapidly. The greatest number of deaths were due to opioids. As they became widely prescribed, many people died from overdose. Eventually, public awareness of prescription drug abuse grew. As supplies of legal drugs began to tighten, deaths from heroin increased. The third category, deaths from alcoholism, began to increase as loss of well-paid jobs contributed to social isolation and decline of family life along with less involvement in community and religious activities.

In considering why these deaths seem to be a uniquely American problem, the authors blame, among other things, a dysfunctional regulatory system and a flawed medical system. In general, capitalism in America tends to redistribute money upward, away from working-class people. Free-market competition cannot deliver socially acceptable healthcare.

Democracy is not working well. Political power has increasingly moved away from working people. Members of Congress, who should be representing the interests

Members donate/pledge \$3,750 to 2020 fund

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's 2020 Fund now stands at almost halfway; donations and pledges amount to \$3,750 of the \$8,000 goal. Donors are Al Rasmussen (\$1,000), Jack Whisner (\$1,000), Peggy Maze (\$500), Eleanor Munro (\$500), Kiku Hayashi (\$500) and Pete Francis (\$250),

MDC members: your donation 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 metrodem.org using the membership form.

of all their constituents, consistently vote the interests of wealthier people.

In the author's opinion, in order to stop deaths of despair, working-class wages must improve. A universal healthcare system must provide for everyone, regardless of employment. Capitalism must be better monitored and regulated to serve the interests of all Americans. And our democracy must be restored. That will prove difficult with the number of lobbyists in Washington and the enormous amounts of money spent on campaign finance. However, our most pressing social and economic problems will never be solved until the interests of ordinary people get the same attention from our government as the interests of corporations.



Membership renewal date appears on above label

June 2020

MDC meetings have
been cancelled until
further notice

Eleanor Munro
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Seattle WA 98116

Return Service Requested

METROPOLITAN
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OF SEATTLE

