



THE

M

D

C

Promoting progressive values since 1956
www.metrodems.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

book review

A World Without Work

By Daniel Susskind
Henry Holt and Company,
New York, 2020

Reviewed by Nelson Dahl

According to Oxford economist, Daniel Susskind, our lives may be very different in the future. From the beginning of the industrial revolution, economic growth has soared, driven by technological progress. Many routine jobs have been replaced by machines along the way, while the American economy, in just 100 years, has seen the work-force transform from agriculture to manufacturing to service. Better educated workers have benefited the most from technological change, but more recent breakthroughs in artificial intelligence have put all kinds of jobs increasingly at risk. The latest machines are learning to perform many non-routine tasks themselves and are creating their own programs.

If machines don't need to copy human intelligence, will there be any limits on what they might accomplish in the future? Already, there are driverless tractors, cow-milking machines, cattle-herding drones, fruit-picking robots, and drones to fertilize crops. But more sophisticated machines are now performing much of a lawyer's work, making impressive advances diagnosing diseases, teaching online courses at universities, making trades on the stock market, and using algorithms to write news content.

We'll need to face the reality of a world with less work in the coming decades. It will lead to even greater social and economic inequality. When the world has less work available, it will no longer be possible to rely on the labor market to solve the distribution of income. Susskind says we will need to rely on the "Big State." It will have to tax owners of wealth and large companies in addition to income where it still remains.

Eventually, a universal basic income, UBI, will need to be considered. When a large

- continued on p2 -

MDC meets, virtually

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle has scheduled three Zoom meetings for the month of September.

On Wednesday, September 16, Metropolitan King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci will discuss current issues, including affordable housing, the ballot measure making King County sheriff an appointed position, and transit.

On Wednesday, September 23, MDC President Jack Whisner will moderate a discussion (requested by MDC members) on Seattle police reform and budget.

On Monday, September 28, Lisa Stone, executive director, and Courtney Chappell, advocacy director of Legal Voice, will talk about the organization's work pursuing justice for all women and LGBTQ people in the Northwest.

Zoom details follow.

September 16, noon

Meeting ID: 896 5574 9999

**Metropolitan King County
Council Chair Claudia Balducci**

Passcode: 856467

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/Sept16Meet>

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,89655749999#,,,,,0#,,856467# US (Tacoma)

+16699009128,,89655749999#,,,,,0#,,856467# US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89655749999>

September 23, noon

Meeting ID: 883 6566 1652

Discussion: Seattle police reform and budget

Passcode: 272841

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/Sept23Meet>

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,88365661652#,,,,,0#,,272841# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,88365661652#,,,,,0#,,272841# US (Houston)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88365661652>

September 28, noon

Meeting ID: 860 1024 1684

**Legal Voice, Lisa Stone and
Courtney Chappell**

Passcode: 676832

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/Sept28Meet>

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,86010241684#,,,,,0#,,676832# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,86010241684#,,,,,0#,,676832# US (Houston)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86010241684>

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Advocacy group focuses on overall health issues

Bevin McLeod, co-founder and president of Alliance for a Healthy Washington (AHW) was the guest speaker at the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's Zoom meeting, August 20. AHW is non-partisan, non-profit advocacy organization for health care system reform in Washington State.

Ms McLeod explained that AHW differs from other health care advocacy organizations in that it advocates for overall improvement of health, rather than a single issue such as health care for all. She explained that some of the health-related bills the group is supporting have to do with issues such as dental therapy, health system transparency, sex education and the state tax structure.

She said AHW attempts to act as a bridge or conduit from organizations to office-holders, bringing other organizations together to support health issues and helping people learn how to engage in public policy making.

Also attending the meeting was Nicole Gomez, cofounder of AHW and chair of

- continued from p1-

number of the working-age population is without jobs, there must be a system to provide a living for everyone. A properly designed UBI would eliminate welfare and poverty as well. There would still be some paid jobs for those with the right qualifications and an interest in working, while the rest of the population would face the challenge of what to do with their lives.

The last chapter was the most interesting

the 36th LD. She noted that when representatives of AHW talk to legislators they emphasize how much a program or proposal can save, not how much it will cost. She provided the following links for those who are interested in learning more about AHW or joining one of AHW's work-groups.

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/universal-health-care-work-group>

<https://dor.wa.gov/about/tax-structure-work-group>

<http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/Pages/default.aspx>

for me because it deals with profound questions that humans have never before faced on a large scale: how to find meaning and purpose in life without work. For some, a job offers status and social esteem, for others it provides meaning, purpose, and direction. Then there are many less fortunate people who regard their jobs as mere drudgery and only a means to a paycheck. But society as a whole has never been faced with a world without work.

Aristotle believed that meaning could only come through leisure. Bertrand Russell believed that the leisure class had contributed nearly the whole of what we call civilization. Freud stated that work was indispensable for us to live harmoniously in society. Economist Alfred Marshall believed that man rapidly degenerates unless he has some hard work to do.

One thing seems clear, that education in the future must prepare students, not for work but for life: to build character, promote curiosity, and discover ways to make the most of leisure. If I were young again, I would welcome that challenge because the possibilities are unlimited.

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

Membership renewal date appears on above label

September 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

