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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

Lisa Brown fundraiser



Above are photos taken in the Magnolia Room of the Columbia Tower on October 15 at the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle’s fundraiser for Lisa Brown, candidate for US Congress in the 5th congressional district. The MDC raised almost \$11,000 at this event. Top left, Lem Howell, fundraiser committee chair, asks MDC Vice President Jack Whisner to introduce Ms Brown. Top right, Ms Brown arrives at the fundraiser. Bottom, Ms Brown addresses fundraiser attendees. Photos by Jayson Morris.

School achievement gaps not improving

Achievement gaps in proficiency in math and English language arts in Seattle Public Schools are not closing according to Seattle School Board Directors Jill Geary and Eden Mack. Both addressed the November 14 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle.

They distributed charts that showed 81 percent of white students and only 33 percent of black/African American students met the standard in mathematics for 2016-17. In English language arts the percentages were 85 and 35 respectively.

However, Ms Geary said, the Seattle Public Schools continues to improve overall student achievement compared to the state as a whole. SPS students outperform the state average by 12 points in math and 10 points in English language arts. Graduation rates, she added are at an all time high of 82 percent.

The educational programs and operations (EP&O) levy that will appear on the ballot next February is intended to bridge the gap between what the state funds and what Seattle students need, explained Ms Mack, and the capital levy (BEX V) is used to replace or modernize school buildings. The levies are asking for an increase in property taxes of \$1.95 per \$1,000 assessed home value.



MDC people

Representative Gael Tarleton has been named a Healthcare Champion by Health Care For All – Washington. Ms Tarleton, who is a member of the MDC, believes “healthcare is a right and that elected officials should work to make sure that EVERYONE is covered.” She promises to “fight against attempts to make access to care harder and to work to bring universal coverage to our state.”

mark your Calendar

December 9 – annual Winter Holiday Party

5:30 - 8 pm at the home of Maryanne Tagney and David Jones . All are welcome. See page 3 for details.

December 12 - MDC meeting

Planning for 2019.

January 9 – MDC meeting

Business: Approve Budget.
Program to be determined.

January 23 – MDC Meeting

Program to be determined.

MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30 pm, the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St unless otherwise noted. All are welcome.

book review

Open Borders A personal story of love, loss and anti-war activism

by Betsy Bell

Epicenter Press, Kenmore WA, 2018

Reviewed by Daniel Fievez

I am privileged to know and to have become good friends with Betsy Bell for several years. She has shared with me the adventure of writing this book. Now it is so wonderful to read it. The book begins with her experience of going to Tashkent and is very exciting to read. Many of us remember the Target Seattle adventure in the 80s. Betsy describes it in personal detail. The adventure of course started in Kay Bullitt's living room. Kay also went on this journey. The book describes not only this journey in emotional detail, but all of the events that happened afterwards including her journey to Congress and the United Nations. It also expresses her personal emotions and the tragic event of the death of her husband Don.

Betsy is still very involved in political issues. She is the personification of a political activist. The trip had a major positive effect in Seattle. Bob Walsh joined Target Seattle in 1985 and put together the Goodwill games in 1990 representing Ted Turner. The significance of the trip to Tashkent and the Goodwill games cannot be underestimated. The people in Seattle created a significant atmosphere to stop the hostility between United States and the Soviet Union. As we might remember, in addition to the Goodwill games, the opera, ballet, and repertory theater all put on Russian performances. Bob died last year of the flu in Istanbul after being airlifted from Georgia Russia.

My only personal disappointment is that I was not on that trip.

I encourage each of you to pick up the book at Elliott Bay Book Company, or ask me and I will get one for you.



Dr. David Korten

Critic asserts we must transition to a new economy

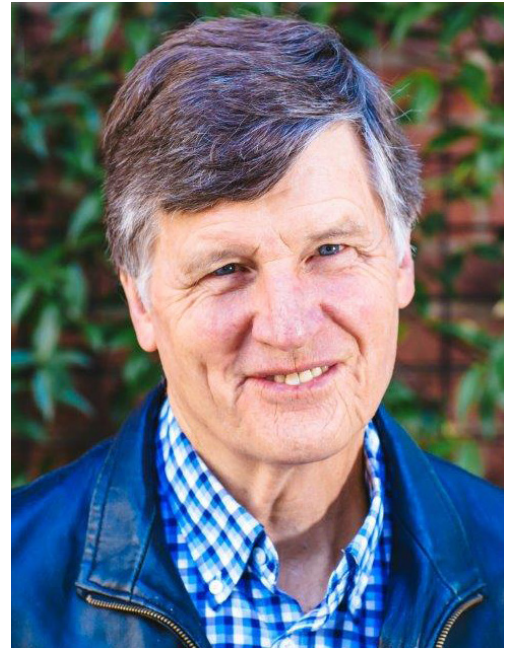
Dr David Korten is not optimistic about our future.

"We are on a path to self-extinction," he told members and friends of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its October 24 meeting. A leading critic of what he calls global suicide economy, he believes humanity is on a route to destroy the earth's ability to support life and must transition to a new economy.

Corporate control of government is increasing, Mr Korten asserted, and as corporations are restricted to maximizing financial returns, next quarter's profits are all that matter to them; they do not have an incentive to preserve an asset for the sustained long run.

The result is that people are disconnected; they lack support from the community, he said. Corporate agriculture supports privatization of the commons, driving people off the land, causing them to lose control

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Dr. Bob Crittenden

Crittenden: win in 2020 to achieve Medicare for all

"I saw four people die because they had no insurance," Dr Bob Crittenden told members and guests of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its October 10 meeting. That was before Obamacare, he added.

Mr Crittenden is a professor emeritus in the Departments of Family Medicine and Health Services at the University of Washington. He also served as Governor Jay Inslee's special assistant for health reform and senior policy advisor on health care, 2013 – 2018.

In addition, he is founding executive director of the Herndon Alliance, a coalition of more than 200 organizations nationally doing communications for passage and preservation of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr Crittenden explained that research shows that people like the protection of the Affordable Care Act. They want to keep what they have, they want more access, and no more taxes. About 92 percent don't want government-run health care. Those who oppose the Affordable Care Act fear that health care will double their taxes, health

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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

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.

Winter Holiday Party 2018

At this celebration we honor our elected officials
– present, past and future –
and thank them for their service to the public.

Please join members and friends of
The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle
for a bounty of good food and holiday cheer

December 9, 5:30 - 8 pm

at the historic Colman mansion, home of
Maryanne Tagney and David Jones
9343 Fauntleroy Way SW.

Suggested donation \$25.

To become a sponsor (\$100) go to <http://metrodeems.org/events/winter-holiday-party-2018/> or
mail a check to Eleanor Munro, 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116.

MDC members: As always, this event is a potluck. The MDC provides turkey/ham and beverages. Please bring a side dish, salad, appetizer or dessert to share. Volunteers are needed. Please let Eleanor know (walkere1@msn.com) if you would like to serve on the setup and cleanup committee or the welcoming committee. We also need two or three bartenders and people to continuously monitor the table and keep the food coming.

Traveling by bus? Catch Metro Transit Rapidride C line downtown southbound on 3rd or westbound on Columbia. The bus goes past the Fauntleroy ferry dock and stops at 46th and Wildwood. Get off, walk three blocks west down the hill, turn left on Fauntleroy and walk two blocks to 9343 Fauntleroy Way SW.

Korten continued from page 2

of their environment and making them dependent on a monetized economy, in effect making them dependent on an employer or a bank. In the process, they are undermining mandatory essential relationships.

“We need a commons that people can fall back on when their earning or other resources are insufficient to support their livelihoods,” he said. We need to break up the transnational corporations and change the legal systems around them to give them an incentive to preserve resources and not destroy peoples’ habitats.

Mr Korten claimed that maintenance of the commons and a sense of connection is an issue of particular interest to the younger generation. He suggests the younger generation can be shaped into a political force to mitigate corporate control of the human environment.

Mr Korten is founder and president of the Living Economics Forum and has written several books that frame a new economy, including *Change the Story, Change the Future, Agenda for a New Economy*, and *When Corporations Rule the World*. He holds a PhD from Stanford University and served five years on the faculty of the Harvard Business School. For more information see www.davidkorten.org.



What’s happening

We are invited to join Representative Gael Tarleton at her annual Beer n’ Blarney event, 5:30 – 7 pm at Paddy Coyne’s, Pier 70, 2801 Alaskan Way. RSVP liz@blue-wavepolitics.com or 206.682.7328.



Above are photos taken November 6 at the Warwick Hotel at the Eighth Annual Peter Sherwin Memorial Election Night Prefunk, sponsored by Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes, King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Cliff Goodman, and the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Left, MDC President Eleanor Munro, Mr Holmes, and MDC Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi. Right, Ms Kohl-Welles and Seattle City Councilmember Lisa Herbold. Photos by Jayson Morris.

meeting notes

Crittenden continued from page 2

October 8th

Proposition

A motion to oppose the families and education levy failed.

October 24th

Lisa Brown fundraiser

Fundraiser chair Lem Howell declared that the October 15 fundraiser for Lisa Brown was a success. The amount raised was just short of \$11,000.

Proposition 1

A motion to oppose the families and education levy passed.

Prosecuting attorney ratings

MDC member Dan Shih shared the results of the ratings of the Washington Coalition of Minority Legal Professionals, which he chairs.

care services will be government-run, that they will have to change coverage (they equate choice with quality), and that Medicare will be turned into something else.

How do we (and those running for office) address these perceptions, Mr Crittenden asked? We stress Medicare for all, build on the ACA, and don’t bad-mouth the opposition. We have to do this and we have to win in 2020, he said.

The most powerful argument that will help us connect with the American people is pre-existing conditions. Others are affordability, reducing the cost of drugs and increasing protection.

What would he do to improve the ACA? Work on universal coverage and negotiating pharmaceuticals. Right now, he said, the United States ranks 32nd in the world in terms of health outcomes.



Membership renewal date appears on above label

November - December 2018

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