

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB of MANATEE COUNTY

November 2007

NEWSLETTER

RIVERFRONT HOLIDAY INN

Luncheon \$14

November 12 @ 11:30 AM

Our speaker for November will be Janine Witham, director of development of the Manatee Players. As we all know, they are undergoing a new building plan and we all hope to support them in their endeavors.

We will also be holding our annual election and updating our Standing Rules. Please attend!

KEEP UP THE PRESSURE by Myra Jones

The right wing conservatives who have dominated this administration are imploding before our eyes. Important members of the cabinet and administration are bailing. The President's approval rating is at an all time low, as is approval of the Republicans in Congress. Every day brings more bad news. If it isn't a scandal, it is another administration gone awry. Republican disasters are falling like autumn leaves.

The hardest thing to do is keep score. One scandal drives out the consciousness of the last scandal. And things are multiplying so fast that it is sometimes difficult to keep the big picture in mind. However, these are not isolated incidents: they stem from a culture of corruption and a policy of imperial military conquest.

We Democrats, if we want to take advantage of the Republican disasters, must keep aware of the context and the connection linking these events. In the past we have discussed the strategy of how to reply to Republican attacks: never apologize, never explain, keep on the offensive, and always lay bare the Republican strategy. If they attack John Kerry by lying to turn a war hero into a coward and a fraud, Kerry should never try to defend himself or explain away the lies. Instead, he should have pointed to the tactics that the Republicans were using and calling them the chicken hawks that they were. We must do that, and we must keep the pressure on our elected representatives to do the same.

The latest example is the Blackwater scandal. We have more mercenaries in Iraq than regular military — 180,000 mercenaries to 160,000 regular troops. Many of the troops are thugs, recruited from South Africa, where they worked under Apartheid, or from Central and South America where they helped their respective governments suppress popular uprisings. Many of them learned their trade (how to torture and kill) at our own School of the Americas. They are also hurting morale among regular troops—one reason being they make in one day what army regulars make in a month. And not many of them have been killed, either. Maybe they have better body armor?

The founder of Blackwater is a Christian Conservative named Erik Prince who is a close friend of the Bush family and has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to Republican campaigns.

These troops have been lawless, killing civilians with apparent impunity and immunity. Iraqis have been complaining for years but their complaints have been ignored. We also find out that a favorable report given to the State Department was actually written by Blackwater for the State Department to read.

And why is this all coming out in the press? And what will our Presidential candidates do about it? The worst possibility is that mercenaries like Blackwater might be brought home and used against U.S. citizens. They have already been used in New Orleans after Katrina to keep people out of their homes. In the next election we want to take back our government from those who have stolen it from us, but it isn't going to be easy. We have to be vigilant and keep ourselves informed.

Upcoming Meetings, Speakers and Events

November 12 @ 11:30 AM, DWC at the Riverfront Holiday Inn with Manatee Players speaker. We will have our election of officers and standing rules vote.

December 5th, @ 6PM to 10 PM, Democratic holiday party — covered dish and BYOB at the Bayside Banquet Hall in Cortez Village. Call **DEC** headquarters @ 761-8385 and tell them what you will be bringing to this affair.

December 15 @ 10:30 AM, Sarasota Cay Holiday Breakfast buffet for DWC and WWG members. Cost will be \$20. You need to make reservations by December 8th. Call Phyllis Virzi for a reservation.

DEC Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at the downtown library @ 6:30 PM. All Democrats are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Forms
will be available starting in October.
Judy Balevre will have them at the next meeting.

We have 110 members at this time.

CLUB OFFICERS/LEADERS

Pat Benson, President	758-4610
pattybenson@verizon.net	
Pat Benson, 1 st VP (Programs)	758-4610
pattybenson@verizon.net	
Judy Balevre, 2nd VP (Membership)	727-8128
balevre2@verizon.net	
Suzanne Dickie, Recording Secretary	761-4098
suzannedickie@aol.com	
Shirley Snyder, Corresponding Secretary	798-9882
srs2918@yahoo.yahoo.com	
Jean Lewis, Treasurer	351-6568
jeanlewis@webtv.net	
Evangeline Hall, Chaplain	746-5324
Esther Happich, Parliamentarian	746-2246
Newsletter Editors	
Myra Jones	mjones672@tampabay.rr.com
Pat Benson	pattybenson@verizon.net

Have a Democratic friend who might be interested in joining? Call Judy Balevre (727-8128) for an application. Membership is \$20 a year (\$10 starting in July for new members only).

Please let Judy know of any address, phone or email changes, so that we can keep our lists up to date.

A Message from our President:

Dear DWC Members,

Wow! Our own Vicki Waters has volunteered to take the position of Executive Director of the DEC of Manatee County. We wish her the best of luck and complete support from our organization.

The DEC Convention of Florida was well attended by over 60 Manatee Democrats. We all had a good time and hopefully learned a bit more to bring back to our precincts.

I want to wish all of our members a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving Day. May your family gatherings be happy ones.

We are selling Entertainment Books at the cost of \$30 per book. They will be returned on Dec. 15th so please try to purchase one as soon as you are able. Every little bit helps. Do not forget our Market Place items.

We need all Holiday breakfast reservations to go to Phyllis this month along with the November meeting reservations. Checks for both can be brought to the meeting on the 12th.

Patty

Meet The Candidates: Barack Obama

Barack Obama, 46, has one of the most diverse backgrounds of any senator or candidate for president. He has a Kenyan father and an American mother, and spent most of his childhood in the culturally and racially diverse state of Hawaii.

He also lived for four years, in his pre-teen days, in Djakarta, Indonesia. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he was the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review. After law school he spent some time organizing poor communities before running for the Illinois Senate where he served from 1997 to 2004. In 2004 he ran for U.S. Senate, where he has been since.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY NEEDS



Please remember to bring your canned goods for Our Daily Bread and gifts for infant/s or newborns for Healthy Start.

Our Daily Bread is in need of canned goods and non-perishable food items and can also use socks for men, women, and children.

Healthy Start, which works with Hispanic moms and newborns, are always in need of infant clothing and diapers. Please continue your generous support for those in

Name Tags for Members

Our 2nd Vice President for Membership, Judy Balevre asks that any members who requested name tags contact Barbara Tomsik at 741-8737 or barbtomsik1@jtampabay.rr.com Magnetic tags are \$6.50.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Where: Sarasota Cay Club on Tamiami Trail (Our Fashion Show facility)

WHEN: SATURDAY, December 15th at 10:30 AM

WHY: To make friends with our night time members and have a good time

WHAT: Fresh Seasonal Fruit
Scrambled Eggs
Bacon and Sausages
Breakfast Potatoes
Mini Danish and Muffins
Assorted Fruit Juices
Brewed Coffee and Tea

French Toast Station

Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with Fruit Toppings, Butter and Maple Syrup

COST: \$20 per person please pay at our November meeting.

Keith Fitzgerald will be installing the officers and be our guest speaker.

Bring a gift certificate for Healthy Start Christmas gifts and a grab bag gift worth \$5.00 for a fellow member.



ONE FLAW IN WOMEN

Women have strengths that amaze men.
They bear hardships and they carry burdens, but they hold happiness, love, and joy.
They smile when they want to scream.
They sing when they want to cry.
They cry when they are happy
and laugh when they are nervous.
They fight for what they believe in.
They stand up to injustice.
They don't take "no" for an answer
when they believe there is a better solution.
They go without so their family can have.

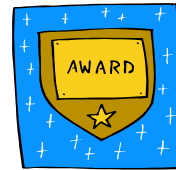
CESAR CHAVEZ MEMORIAL DINNER

HONORS LUZ CORCUERA

Golden Apple Theater
Monday, November 26
6PM Admission \$35

Call Francine Slack @ 778-3444 if interested in attending ASAP

Thanks
patty



November Election for DWC of Manatee

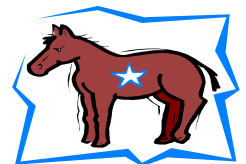
On November 12th at our monthly meeting, we will be taking nominations from the floor for the following officers: President, First Vice President, and Secretary.

Laurel Johnson has added her name for President, Katherine Oarr for 1st Vice President (Programs), and Nancy Hartley for Secretary. Jean Lewis will stay on as Treasurer and Judy Balevre will continue as Second Vice President (Membership).

At the same meeting, we will be voting on two amendments to the Standing Rules:

#12. Dues must be paid by April. Existing members must pay the full amount of dues no matter what time of the year they are paid.
NEW members will pay half the amount if they join after June.

#13. Registration fees for the convention have been changed from \$25 to \$35 for an attendee to the convention. The DWC of Manatee county will pay for delegates to attend the convention.



In 2000, of the 458 U.S. Counties surveyed by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy – Manatee had the 77th highest rate of teen births.

Democratic Women's Club of Manatee
3508 Wood Owl Circle
Bradenton, FL 34210

TO CONTACT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

President

George W. Bush (R) 202/456-1414,
president@whitehouse.gov

US Senators

Mel Martinez (R) 202/224-3041
Bill Nelson (D) 202/224-5274
senator@billnelson.senate.gov

US Representatives

Kathy Castor (D-Distr. 11) 202/225-3376, 813/871-2817
www.house.gov/castor
Vern Buchanan (R-Distr. 13) 202/225-5015, 951-6643
www.Buchanan.house.gov

Governor

Charlie Crist (R) 850/488-2272
Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com

Our Florida Senators

Arthenia Joyner (D-Distr. 18) 850/487-5059,
813/233-4277 joyner.athenia.web@flsenate.gov
Mike Bennett (R-Distr. 21) 850/487-5078, 727-6349
bennett.mike.web@flsenate.gov
Lisa Carlton (R-Distr. 23) 850/487-5081, 486-2050
carlton.lisa.web@flsenate.gov

Our Florida Representatives

Frank Peterman (D-Distr. 55) 850/488-0925,
727/552-1370 peterman.frank@myfloridahouse.com
Ron Reagan (R-Distr. 67) 850/488-6341, 727-6447
reagan.ron@myfloridahouse.com
Bill Galvano (R-Distr. 68) 850/488-4086, 708-4968
galvano.bill@myfloridahouse.com
Keith Fitzgerald (D-Distr. 69) 850/488-7754, 955-8077
fitzgerald.keith@myfloridahouse.com
Donna Clarke (R-Distr. 69) 850/488-7754, 955-8077
clarke.donna@myfloridahouse.com

Below are some links where you can find out more about Barack Obama. The first is his official site; the third has a compilation of recent news and articles about him.

www.barackobama.com

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack

<http://news.google.com/news/q=Barack>

**DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S
T- SHIRTS**

Francine Slack @ 778-3444 will be taking orders for our T- shirts. There are ladies out there who have been asking for them. We need to order 50 at a time. The cost is \$10 per shirt and the sizes range from small to xx large.

Thank you, ladies

REMINDER

You must pay for your meal at the Holiday Inn or prior to our meeting. If you make a reservation, you must pay the \$12 for the meal. The total is \$14.

We use \$1.50 for scholarships or the general fund.

You may not bring in sandwiches and eat at the reserved tables. We must pay for our meals. Anyone who does not wish to eat at the Holiday Inn may sit in the back of the room.

Thank you for your co operation.
Patty