

CORAL GABLES DEMOCRATIC CLUB
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 6:30 to 8:00PM Via Zoom

MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

Board Members Present: Bentonne Snay, Arun Ravindran, Richard Thurer, Elizabeth Newman, Jane Moscovitz, Martha Schoolman, Janet Stearns, Linda Fernandez, Mac Hooton, Janet Nostro

Members Present: Marjorie Wilkoff, Bridgit Craig, Ulrich Merten, Annie Bentancourt, Terrence Connor, Diana Hooton, Laurie Gunn, Maria Elena Lopez, Sharon Langer, Brian Olson, Cindy Lerner, Lisa Rowe, Karen Moore, Fade Zu Grau.

Non-Members Present: Onofre Torres, Jane Torres, Julie Becker, Joel (team Grieco), Carole Jackson, Natascha Otero-Santiago, Susan Windmiller

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

I. Welcome and Zoom Rules Review

President Bentonne Snay

- Rules reviewed

II. CG Dems Business

a. Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Richard Thurer

- Current Account Balance: \$5,378.22 with outstanding obligations under \$100
- 2022 Operating Budget in Process
 - This will be ready for presentation at the March 8, 2022 meeting
- Fundraising Committee Members Needed: email Bentonne@thesnaygroup.com to volunteer

b. Communications Committee

Co-Chairs Arun Ravindran and Rachel Stempler

- Website and Social Media Engagement, Welcome Graphic Designer Fäde zu Grau
 - Please follow the Club's social media pages:
<https://linktr.ee/CoralGablesDemocrats>
CG Dems website: <https://www.coralgablesdems.org/>
Instagram: @coralgablesdems
Twitter: @CGDemocrats
Facebook: CoralGablesDemocraticClub

c. Membership Committee Update

Chair Elizabeth Newman

- Membership Update and Recognition of 2017 Founder and 2018 Builder Members
 - We recognized Founders and Builders at the Holiday Party
- Importance of Membership - Join/renew here:
<https://www.coralgablesdems.org/membership-renewal>

d. Volunteer Committee Co-chairs Jane Moscovitz, Janet Nostro, Janet Stearns & Martha Schoolman

- January 30th 2-5pm North Gables Canvass Success
 - The canvass of precinct 602 was a success. We knocked on 600 doors.
- Miami-Dade Dems Feb 16 Voter Registration (VR) and Vote by Mail (VBM) Training
- Blue Wave Trainings To Be Announced: VR, VBM, Voter Engagement & MiniVAN
 - Stay tuned for messages about these Blue Wave organized sign ups
- Feb 27 Canvass 2-5pm w/Democratic Women's Club in Arcola – Sign Up Here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/feb27arcolaparkcanvasslitdropcgdemsdwcmd>
 - Arcola is in NW Miami, 12th Avenue to 22nd Avenue

- We have a postcard project for voters over 80 and Jane Moscovitz has a postcard project for new voters and new Coral Gables resident democrats
- We will also be staffing a voter registration tent at the Coconut Grove Arts Festival; volunteers need to attend training

e. **Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee** Co-Chairs Linda Fernandez & Louise Silverstein

- Volunteers Needed for Saturdays at Books and Books 11am-12:30 and 12:30-2pm

Sign Up Email: Please email Linda at LFernandez44@hotmail.com to sign up

- Please email Linda if you can participate in tabling at Books & Books

III. **Upcoming Meetings – Will Poll re: Live Meetings by End of February** VP Jane Moscovitz

- March 8th – Focus on Miami-Dade Transit/Environmental Impact
 - Miami Waterkeeper, Miami-Dade Transit Alliance, and potentially Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
- April 12th – Adam Benna (HD 114) and Other Local Candidates (potential speakers)
- May 10th – Suggestions Welcome: please email Jane at JMoscovitz@moscovitz.com with suggestions

IV. **Other Business**

Bentonne Snay & Jane Moscovitz

- Update on Dems Messaging Task Force and DEC Communications Committee
 - The task force has met every other Saturday and a few times in between; the members have attended trainings on messaging conducted by several groups; we encourage everyone to support Democratic candidates early; we'll have some tangibles by mid-March, which will be shared via our social media
- Florida Legislative Update and Action Needed
 - There is a slew of pending legislation all of which is likely to pass which trample on Democratic values; we need to contact our Republican representatives
 - Bills to keep discussions about racism out of school; anti-solar provisions; to allow health care providers to not pay for services they disagree with on moral grounds; anti-speech restrictions on congregating around police activity; to prohibit local minimum wage ordinances; no mentioning of gender in public schools; bills to prohibit substantive constitutional amendments; 15 week prohibition on abortion; voter suppression measures including establishing voter police and complicating voter by mail registration

V. **Speaker Presentations and Q & A** Intros & Moderation by Jane Moscovitz

- **Jane A Torres**, Blue Wave Coalition Hispanic Outreach Team Leader and Democratic Messaging Task Force Co-Leader
 - 68.7% of Miami-Dade voters did not vote in the 2020 election; if only 2.5% of MDC Hispanic Dems voted we would have retained both House seats
 - Jane's groups designed a questionnaire to drill down on (1) local and national issues of importance; (2) reasons for non-voting; (3) what would encourage Dem participation in 2022
 - Selected two precincts in each congressional district to distribute the questionnaire, which was distributed last Summer; the precincts were selected for economic diversity
 - The most important local issue was cost of housing, education, and safety
 - The most important national issue was access to health care, climate change, and immigration far beyond

- 46% of respondents stated they did not vote although it appears that many more did not vote
- Actionable Messaging Takeaways:
 1. Hispanics believe in the American Dream. We need to stress Democrats policies which encourage self-reliance and economic empowerment
 2. Reclaim Freedom – Family, Fairness, Future, Freedom; we need to emphasize secure voting, fair pay for work, clean water and air, access to quality healthcare, and that Democrats are the party of working families, but using the four “F” themes
- **Dr Eduardo Gamarra**, FIU Professor of Politics and International Relations and Director of the Latino Public Opinion Forum
 - Dr. Gamarra shared the results of his multi-year polling-based studies to discern the political attitudes and political behavior of South Florida Hispanic groups
 - Historically US policy towards Cuba drove Cuban voters’ decision-making; there was a shift in 2008 and a significant downward trend in that correlation by 2016; by 2016 only 8% of Cuban origin respondents in 2016 stated that was a strong fact; the Republicans realized with Romney’s defeat in 2012 that they needed to broaden their messaging beyond foreign policy to retain the Hispanic vote; in 2017 there was a rapid rise in the correlation between U.S. policy towards Cuba and voting behavior; this coincides with Trumpism
 - In 2016 and beyond the same question was asked of Colombians, Venezuelans, Nicaraguans, and Puerto Ricans; 60% of Venezuelans stated US policy has a significant impact on they decide to vote
 - The recent uprisings in Cuba have resulted in Cuban voters solidifying their voting preferences based on US policy towards Cuba
 - Colombian attitudes mirror those of the Cuban community; the Colombian electorate is growing more conservative; more Colombians voted for Trump than Venezuelans, almost along the same lines as Cuban Americans
 - Margins are very slim in Miami-Dade County and Florida. Take away: Cuban American voters cannot be ignored; the Puerto Rican vote presents a real opportunity for Democrats in Florida, though more voted for Trump than expected, but they are not committed Republicans

VI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Prepared by Secretary Arun Ravindran with approval by President Bentonne Snay