



**CORAL GABLES DEMOCRATIC CLUB**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:30 to 8:00PM Via Zoom**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Board Members Present:** Bentonne Snay, Jane Moscovitz, Richard Thurer, Arun Ravindran, Elizabeth Newman, Janet Nostro, Janet Stearns

**Members Present:** Fade Zu Grau, Brian Olson (also presenter), María Elena Lopez, Julie Samkoff, Suzanne Milano, Marjorie Wilkoff, Cindy Lerner, Jill Berman, Ulrich Merten, Betsey Mullins, Bridget Craig, Pat Thaller, Frank Janeczek, Delia Garcia, Joseph Fadel, Barbara Mahoney

**Non-Members Present:** Lucrecia Boullon, Erin Marcus, Susan Randall and Riley Simon

**Guest Presenters:** Shaan Patel (Transit Alliance Miami); Matt Anderson (City of Coral Gables)

Meeting was called to order at 6:30

**MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Welcome and Zoom Rules Review** President Bentonne Snay
  - Bentonne reviewed the house rules, including request for questions for presenters be placed in the chat
  
- II. CG Dems Business**
  - a. Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Richard Thurer
    - Current Account Balance
    - 2022 Operating Budget: Board-Approved Budget is \$8,808
      - Current Balance: \$5,552.19 with an outstanding expense for postcard purchase of \$273
      - Budget Summary Available Upon Request
      - We have CG Dems Club logo visors, t-shirts and mugs for sale
  
  - b. Communications Committee** Co-Chairs Arun Ravindran and Rachel Stempler
    - Website and Social Media Engagement
    - Please follow the Club's social media pages: <https://linktr.ee/CoralGablesDemocrats>  
Instagram: @coralgablesdems - Twitter: @CGDemocrats - Facebook: CoralGablesDemocrats/  
CG Dems website: <https://www.coralgablesdems.org>
  
  - c. Membership Committee Update** Chair Elizabeth Newman
    - Membership Update: 120 paid members
    - Importance of Membership - Join/renew here: <https://www.coralgablesdems.org/membership-renewal>
      - The renewal year restarts 9/1/22; anyone paid up by July 31, 2022 will be
      - All money raised supports Club activities (postcarding, canvassing, etc. to get Democrats elected); most comes from memberships

- d. **Volunteer Committee** Co-chairs Jane Moscovitz, Janet Nostro, Janet Stearns & Martha Schoolman
- February 27<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm Arcola Canvass with Dem Women's Club of Miami-Dade
    - Arcola canvass was a success with several UM Dems members participating and many positive conversations with Dem and NPA voters
    - An ongoing postcard campaign includes welcome to newly registered Dems and NPAs in Coral Gables and our Blue Wave Coalition target precincts
  - March 27 Canvass 2-5pm – this was since changed to an April 3rd Lit Drop from 1-4pm with Miami Springs Activists and NE Miami-Dade Dems in North Miami
- e. **Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee** Co-Chairs Linda Fernandez & Louise Silverstein
- Volunteers Needed for Saturday March 26 at Books and Books 11am-12:30 and 12:30-2pm  
Sign Up Email: [LFernandez44@hotmail.com](mailto:LFernandez44@hotmail.com) placed in chat

- III. **Upcoming Meetings** VP Jane Moscovitz
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Adam Benna (HD 114) and Other Local Candidates (potential speakers)
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> – Reproductive Freedom – Speaker TBD
  - Bentonne conducted a poll regarding online v. in person meeting: 80% of poll completers selected an in-person meeting; plans were made to conduct April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Books and Books

- IV. **Other Business** Bentonne Snay & Jane Moscovitz
- Update on Dems Messaging Task Force
    - Graphic designer Fäde zu Grau has created a new name and logo for Task Force final decision on March 12<sup>th</sup>
    - Tuesday March 15, 2022 – Bendixen & Amandi Internationally Renowned Political Strategist Fernando Amandi will speak at the Task Force's official kickoff meeting; all are invited as it is essential that as many people as possible participate in amplifying positive messages about Democrats prior to the elections
    - Next step will be participation in April 4th "Words that Win" messaging training; Bentonne will circulate the registration information in an eblast
  - Florida Legislative Update and Action Needed
    - Jane informed all that the Miami-Dade Democratic Party initiated a task force to create messaging on the "Don't say gay," anti-choice and anti-history education legislative bills and is coordinating direct engagement with Florida Senators and Reps; Jane believes this has been an excellent program so far

- V. **Speaker Presentations and Q & A** Introductions and Moderation by Arun Ravindran
- **Shaan Patel – Transit Alliance Miami Chair**
    - Patel explained all that the Transit Alliance has done to improve and increase bus transportation in Miami-Dade County via planning and policy advocacy directed at fixing the collapsing bus system due to cuts to the county's transit budget
    - Major improvements have included first-mile/last-mile connectivity, disability access and assisting in securing federal transportation funds for the County

- Patel explained that trolleys are managed by individual city programs and do not coordinate routes or times with County buses
- Patel advised that the more public transportation is used, the more federal funding can be secured
- Shaan provided his email and can be reached here: [shaan@transitalliance.miami](mailto:shaan@transitalliance.miami)
- **Matt Anderson – City of Coral Gables Resilience and Sustainability Program Manager**
  - Matt summarized the city's strategic plan, including sustainability initiatives and sustainability management plan and the Green Business Certification Plan
  - Matt also discussed the resiliency plan, which includes a sea level mitigation fund, water quality projects and outreach and education programs
  - Matt explained the basics about specific neighborhood environmental issues and how the city is managing them, including composting, recycling and electric vehicle charging
  - For more info: <https://www.coralgables.com/sustainability>
- **Brian Olson – Miami-Dade Democratic Environmental Caucus President** (and CG Dems Member)
  - The Environmental Caucus was formed by local Dems who wanted to push the local Democratic party and elected officials to be more environmentally aware; this is part of a larger statewide environmental caucus movement
  - The Environmental Caucus has access to Florida candidate's "Green Ratings" as provided by Catalyst Miami and which quantify candidates' pro-environment standings. The link to this information is: <https://www.flclimatescore.com/>
  - Brian encourages any Club Member who cares about the environment to become involved in the Miami-Dade Democratic Environmental Caucus. He can be reached at [brianolson64@gmail.com](mailto:brianolson64@gmail.com)

## VI. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm

Meeting Summary by Secretary Arun Ravindran with input/approval by President Bentonne Snay