



THE EUCLID DEMOCRAT

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An Inaguration and (Another) Impeachment Trial

Welcome back for Issue #2. Thank you for your support and coming back for a second month.

President Biden is in, he has been sworn in, it is official and there is no amount of deplorable behavior that can reverse it. I feel much better everytime I say that. There has been no shortage of deplorable behavior since the November election. “COUNT THE VOTES,” “STOP THE COUNT”, “HANG MIKE PENCE,” and “WE ARE COMING FOR YOU NANCY,” are just a few of the rage filled cries we have been flooded with over the last several months. Now, our Senate is once again weighing whether or not to impeach Donald Trump. This time for inciting and even directing an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Not to be confused with last time, when the Senate voted on his impeachment for soliciting foreign interference in an election and obstruction of justice. This impeachment vote, much like the last, will show the true colors of who has been elected to represent us in Washington.

Following a Covid conscious and moving inauguration, President Biden has been very busy in his first weeks in office. Using executive orders, he is steadily reversing the direction we have been traveling over the last four years. Initial orders have covered immigration, climate change, the ACA and American jobs.

I encourage everyone to keep the faith and keep working to sustain what we have right now. 2022 is right around the corner.

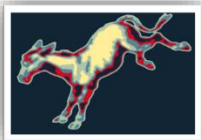
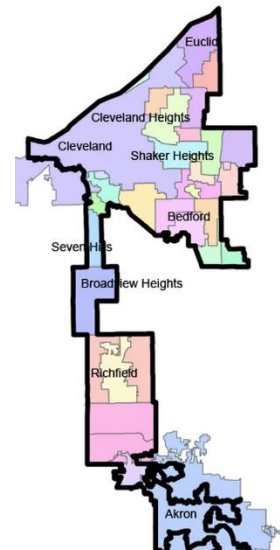
-Chris Ericksen, President Euclid Dems

Follow the Euclid Dems on Social Media



Zoom Meetings will be held on the third Thursday every month at 7PM, watch your email for the login info. If we don't have your email address or for registration, email us here- euclidOHdems@gmail.com

Be sure to join us for Q&A sessions with the candidates from the 11th Congressional District!



A MOMENT IN TIME:

BLACK HISTORY IN EUCLID OHIO

Pamela Gray-Mason, Euclid Democratic Member

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THIS IS A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST BLACK FAMILY IN EUCLID, OH

VERNA BICKLEY, Accomplished Cook and Dietitian

One of a family of ten children, Verna Gorman was born in 1904 in Americus, Georgia. Her family later moved to Oil City, Pennsylvania where she attended high school. Her mother worked as a caterer. Not surprisingly, young Verna learned to cook and began selling fried pies and butterscotch chips around the neighborhood. It soon became a thriving business. Her father built her a three-tiered cart to carry the baked goods around. By the time she was nine years old, Bickley had earned \$50 for her endeavors.

Verna studied at Western Reserve University in Cleveland where she studied dietetics (the study of food and nutrition) and graduated at the top of her class. In the 1920s, she



met and married Frank Emerson Bickley, a postal worker. Not many institutions would hire a black dietitian in those days so Verna decided to use her skills as a cook to find employment. Over the years she worked in many popular Cleveland area establishments. To name a few: Kupboard, Schwebel Baking Company and Stouffer. Many judges, attorneys, politicians, and sports figures ate her cuisine. Bickley shared her knowledge of food with anyone who was interested. During the 1960s, she was food editor of Designs For Gracious Living, a quarterly magazine started by Madelyne Blunt. The magazine was aimed for the black community and featured recipes along with child-raising tips, home furnishing ideas, and fashions.

Bickley visited several foreign countries over the years and incorporated foods from those countries into her recipes. After a trip to England in 1961, she concocted the Tavern Sherry Trifle. When the everyday food of the South became known as “soul food” in the 1960s, she shared the recipes in numerous publications. When asked how soul food got its name, Bickley replied “My people ate food that stuck to their ribs and sustained them for the hard life.” Bickley also used her knowledge of cooking while doing charity work. She was part of a group which distributed food baskets to needy families with children each Christmas. The baskets, which usually numbered around 150 each year, contained either a turkey, chicken or canned ham along with side dishes of vegetables, cranberries, fruit and margarine. The baskets also contained directions on how to cook the food and use the leftovers.

Bickley lived with her husband Frank in Euclid for many years. The first black family to buy a home in Euclid, the Bickleys lived on Tracy Avenue. Theirs was the third home on a street that consisted mostly of orchard. Verna revealed in an interview that “she always wanted to live close to water”. Euclid was a village at this time. Verna did encounter ‘trials and tribulations’ of being the first Black homeowner, but she survived. Verna Gorman Bickley died on October 1, 2006.

<https://www.euclidlibrary.org> › content › oral-histories

<https://cdn.euclidlibrary.org/cdn/EuclidHistoricalBrochures/VernaBickley.pdf>

Reference Information: Euclid Public Library (Thank you)

NEWS: CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMON

PLEAS COURT GENERAL DIVISION

Judge Deborah M. Turner



The Court has continued to operate during these challenging times by limiting in-court appearances and conducting as many matters possible remotely. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is available and the courtrooms have been fitted with Plexiglas. Masks are required at all times and a maximum of two people are permitted on the elevators. Individuals entering the Justice Center are screened with Covid-19 questions. The

Court has secured space in the Global Center to assemble potential jurors with social distancing as well as additional courtroom space. At the current time, jury trials are suspended until March 1st, 2021.

Black History Month is being observed with a variety of activities that include a viewing of “Get on Up” and “Just Mercy” (a replay of the poem by Amanda Gorman), “The Hill We Climb”, trivia questions and so much more. The three African American Judges on the Common Pleas Bench were interviewed and provided an opportunity to reflect on the significance of Black History Month. They are, Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams, Judge Shirley Strickland Saffold, and Judge Deborah M. Turner.

On February 10, 2021, the Honorable Patricia A. Blackmon will serve her last day as a jurist on the 8th District Court of Appeals after 30 years. She will be the keynote speaker during the noon hour by Zoom and will share her journey. She will be introduced by the Honorable Justice Melody J. Stewart of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Recently, Administrative and Presiding Judge Brendan J. Sheehan appointed me, Judge Deborah M. Turner, to the Common Pleas Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court Docket. I will be replacing Judge Robert C. McClelland who was not re-elected to the bench.

I joined the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court bench in January of 2019. I am a graduate of John Adams High School and I have earned a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Education from Cleveland State University. I was a school educator for 20 years prior to joining the bar in 1999, after attending the Cleveland Marshall College of Law. I additionally served as the Assistant Law Director and Prosecutor for the cities of Bedford Heights and Warrensville Heights.

The MHDD docket was established in 2003 as a response to the increasing number of defendants with serious mental health illness entering the criminal justice system. The MHDD Court is funded by the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and supported by local resources through the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD).

The Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and the MHDD Judges are committed to managing challenging defendants by effectively utilizing scarce resources that can improve long term success in treatment and reduce recidivism. The MHDD docket also includes Chairperson Judge Hollie L. Gallagher, Judge Deena R. Calabrese, Judge Shannon M. Gallagher, and Judge Michael Shaughnessy.



How to Quickly Participate in the Democratic Process When it's not Election Season

Steve Holecko, Political Director Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus

This can be summarized in two parts 1) Pay attention and 2) Use your phone. Paying attention simply means watching or reading the news. Some of us have more time than others to do this and on certain days are glued to CNN and/or MSNBC. If you are not one of those with a lot of time though it is logical to assume that

since you are interested in the Euclid Democratic Club newsletter you at least check in from time to time. As an informed citizen you will see things that anger you and see things that make you happy. Most of the last four years have been on the anger side but now that we're in the Biden administration hopefully we can smile a bit more frequently. You will also see elected officials debating and preparing to vote on legislation. This is where your phone comes in and it is quick and very effective. Using your phone to call an elected official gives you the power of hundreds or thousands of constituents. The reason is that the person you talk to knows that for every call logged there are hundreds or thousands of people who feel the same way. When legislation is being debated a quick call that simply says " I am a constituent and I urge you to vote for / against whatever bill is being debated " You can go into detail if you want to but that simple message will be logged by the person you talk to or the voicemail you leave if no one picks up. As we continue the Biden administration's first 100 days of action a good number to have in your phone is Rob Portman's (202 224 3353). If the Impeachment trial is still going on when you receive this please give him a call and urge him to vote to convict.

Speaking of Rob Portman On January 25 the great news broke that he would not be seeking re - election in 2022. On the Monday after the inauguration in 2017 CCPC was proud to have been a part of the first



mass visit to his office as resistance to the Trump administration began. For those of you that may have been there or made numerous calls and / or visits to his office the last four years January 25 was indeed a sweet day! Dealing with the resistance may have been a part of his decision to retire. Although many of us relished the thought of working to defeat him in 2022, an open seat makes the odds of a Democrat (hopefully a progressive) winning much better. National outlets that already have the 2022 Senate race map

up immediately moved Ohio from safe red to lean red after the announcement. Depending how the race develops it could move to toss up with Ohio being center stage for control of the Senate in 2022!

Next Month: We'll preview the upcoming 11th Congressional District Special Election and CCPC's role in it.

Let's Talk About It....

State Representative Stephanie Howse



February is the month where we celebrate love and acknowledge the contributions of African Americans in our American History. While we are getting into the groove of 2021, we are still dealing with the impacts of two pandemics: COVID-19 and the social unrest in our country due to systematic racism that unfolded in 2020. With the collision of the two pandemics, I was compelled to further engage in many conversations about race and systematic racism and its impact on our community, state and country. These conversations were met with a mix of reactions, from supports of solidarity, to dismissiveness, to intrigue

in wanting to understand, to downright hostility. The wave of reactions has led me to a place of wanting to engage in more conversations on race, but taking some different approaches to get beyond initial reactions and help community members work collaboratively to address systematic racism in their own personal and professional lives.

There was a song that was released by Salt-N-Pepa called “Let’s Talk About Sex” the chorus goes like this “Let’s talk about sex baby, let’s talk about you and me, let’s talk about all the good things, and the bad things, that may be, let’s talk about sex”. Being inspired by love and my quest to take different approaches to addressing systematic racism, here’s my remix to the song “Let’s talk about race baby, let’s talk about you and me, let’s talk about all the good things, and the bad things, that may be, let’s talk about race”. I do believe that the remixed song gives a guide on how to engage in conversations about systematic racism: evaluate and talk about your experience with racism, evaluate and talk about the experience of others you are connected to with systematic racism (family, friends, work colleagues, etc.) and explore your community’s advancements and setbacks in addressing systematic racism.

Just as the topic of sex can be taboo, so are the conversations around race and systematic racism. Even if you don’t talk about sex, the issue can still have an impact on your life and those around you. Sex is connected to so many life occurrences: satisfaction/dissatisfaction, makeups/breakups, pregnancy/abortion, marriage/divorce, career advancement/demotion, criminal justice and healthcare. Similarly, avoiding the conversations about race and systematic racism, won’t change the impacts of race and systematic racism on you and those around you. Avoidance does not equate to solving the problem. The more we ignore the negative impacts of systematic racism, the more our communities will have to deal with the collateral damage of systematic racism. Health disparities, housing, the wealth gap, education disparities, poverty, an unjust criminal justice system, unemployment, inequities in business investments, and life expectancy are all issues that are interconnected with systematic racism.

I know it can be difficult to start to have the talk about race, but there’s no better time to start the talk than now. For individuals who want to engage in the conversation(s) about race, but don’t know where to start, I want to extend to you an invitation to participate in the 21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge. The challenge is presented by the Greater Cleveland YWCA with the purpose of helping people build more effective social habits centered on race, power, privilege, and leadership. The 21 Day Challenge will start on March 1, 2021 – March 29, 2021. For more information go to www.ywcaofcleveland.org/eliminate-racism/21-day-racial-equity-challenge.



[equity-challenge](http://www.ywcaofcleveland.org/eliminate-racism/21-day-racial-equity-challenge). For the past three years, I have participated in the challenge and have found it to be a useful tool in helping me to better understand how systematic racism is engrained in everyday life and strategies to begin to address it. If you participate in the challenge (or even if you don’t, but have feedback for me in my quest to address systematic racism), I would like to

connect with you on your experience. Feel free to connect with me at stephhowse@gmail.com or @stephaniehowse on social media and let's talk about it.....race, that is.

Covid 19 in our Community



Minister Taneika Hill

For most of 2020 the world has been held hostage by COVID 19. With over 400 thousand deaths in the US alone, COVID changed the world forever to say the least. I personally lost two friends and watch as others struggle to recover from the effects of contracting this horrible virus. While we have spent most of 2020 separated from loved ones, friends, and co-workers, 2021 brought the hope of a new day, with the release of the vaccine. As many frontline workers began to celebrate because they could finally see the light at the end of the tunnel, knowing that with the vaccine would come herd immunity and with that the slowing and eventually the stop of the spread of this vicious virus. With COVID hitting the black and brown community the hardest due to health disparities and pre-existing conditions such as Asthma, Diabetes, and heart disease. Finally, it seemed that hope had arrived. The plan was to distribute to those that were at a higher risk first. which would include those in these

communities. But do not move too fast.

Immediately after the announcement of the vaccine's arrival the walls went up. Many were skeptical, had questions and some simply refused to take it. You see those in the African American community particularly, do not trust the vaccine and some would say with good right. After all,



it's only been 49 years since the Tuskegee Syphilis Study ended. A study that took 600 impoverished African Americans in Macon County Alabama and enrolled them into a study with promises of free health care in exchange, but instead these men were infected with Syphilis and never treated, even after penicillin had become widely available in 1947. Their suffering continued until the study was shut down in 1972 due to a leak to the press. That unethical disaster caused the death of 128 patients. Add to that fact that non-Hispanic Black women

in America are three times more likely to die during childbirth than white women and that trend persists. While it's understandable that many would be hesitant to take the vaccine, if we want to stop the spread, and return to some normal sense of life, herd immunity is necessary and must be reached quickly. I along with many others across Northeast Ohio have partnered with Greater Cleveland Congregations and the Union of Concerned Scientists to combat the disinformation about COVID 19 Vaccines. We want to make sure that we are armed with the latest science about the COVID-19 vaccines so that individuals can make an informed decision about whether or not to get vaccinated. People should not be making decisions about their health based on opinions that are not supported by science, memes, and Facebook jokes. Soon I will host a series of sessions to address some frequently asked questions so that people will walk away empowered by knowledge and science backed facts. The purpose is not to convince anyone to take the vaccine, but to empower them with the information to make an educated decision regarding their health. The date of the first session is TBD, but you can soon check the Faith in the City Facebook page, Imani UCC website and the city of Euclid site for more information. As always, I encourage you to stay involved, stay informed and stay engaged, you owe it to yourself.

Cuyahoga County Democratic Party



What's happening in the office?

As you may know, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party's former Executive Director, Ryan Puente has left CCDP to pursue other endeavors. Stepping in to help out the party is Hayley Johnson. Hayley is the new interim Office Manager and will oversee the administrative aspects at the office. If you'd like an event shared, need access to VoteBuilder, or would like to place an ad in our 2021 yearbook please email Hayley at hjohnson@cuydem.com. You can also reach her at the office telephone (216-621-9750). Please first direct all political questions to your City & Ward Leaders or the Vice Chairs.

Recommendations for the full-time Executive Director position at CCDP have started coming in. A new Executive Director will not be chosen until late spring.

What's happening with fundraising?

We are excited to inform you that the CCDP'S 2021 Ad Book is underway and would like to invite you to participate again by purchasing ad space this year! The yearbook is distributed countywide. It provides contact information for Democratic Clubs and Elected Officials and is an opportunity for you to say "thank you" to your supporters.

If you decide to support the 2021 Yearbook, please complete the order form on our website and mail back to Democratic Headquarters with your artwork and check/money order by **February 26th, 2021**. You may also choose to pay via our website at www.cuydem.com. If you have questions regarding the yearbook, please contact Hayley Johnson at hjohnson@cuydem.com.

Thank you again for your support of this very important tool for the Democrats of Cuyahoga County!

What's happening in city meetings?

On February 6th, 2021 Councilman Stafford Shenett became the new City Leader for the City of Maple Heights.

On February 3, 2021 Kamile L. Shuman was appointed to fill the vacant Parma City Council Ward 7 seat. Meetings to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee will not be conducted until spring.

Other notable information:

CCDP is proud to co-sponsor the new Ohio Democratic Party Chair, Liz Walters. Join us for a discussion of Ms. Walters' plans and strategies for Ohio on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM, hosted by the Shaker Heights Democratic Club.



Forward this newsletter, far and wide! Help us get the word out!

Inauguration Day 2021



Euclid Democratic Club
ZOOM Agenda
Thursday, February 18, 2021- 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Certification of a Quorum
4. Speaker(s)-Shontel Brown, Jeff Johnson and Shirly Smith will be speaking at designated times during the meeting. All are running for congress in OH-11.
5. Certification of Minutes from January 21, 2021 Meeting
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Correspondence Secretary Report
8. Committee Reports- Report of the Audit Committee. Update from By-laws Committee
9. President's Report
10. 1st Vice President's Report
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Open Forum
14. Announcements- Fund Raising Committee reminder. Nina Turner candidate for OH 11 will be speaking at March's meeting
15. Adjournment

Next meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m., March 18, 2021, via Zoom

The January minutes are for your review, we will be voting on them at the February meeting.



EUCLID DEMOCRATIC CLUB Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Lana Caviness, Stephana Caviness, Sanza Clark, Schuyler Cook, Chris Ericksen, Jake Ericksen, Maria Ericksen, Carrie Hilif, William Hilif, Kandace Jones, Bonita Kale, Betsey Kamm, Joy Kennedy, Charlene Mancuso, Pamela Mason, Sue McGinn, Lynn Radcliffe, Retanio Rucker, Melody Stewart, Janenell Smith, Kent Smith, Larry Williams

Guest: Laura Lewis, Judge William Vodrey

I. Call to Order: 7:04pm, by Kandace Jones & President elect Chris Ericksen

II. Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

III. Certification of a Quorum: Satisfied

IV. Swearing in of Officers – Justice Melody Stewart administered the Oath of Office to EDC officers elected at the November 19, 2020 meeting. a. President – Chris Ericksen, 1st VP – Joy Kennedy, 2nd VP – Janenell Smith, Recording Secretary – Kandace Jones, Corresponding Secretary – Betsey Kamm, Treasurer – Schuyler Cook- Sargent of Arms – George Howard – absent, oath will be administered at a future date.

ii. Parliamentarian – Open position as of January 8, 2021

V. Approval of Minutes: November 2020 – passed.

VI. Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer sent out PDF of the treasurer report to club members in good standing. He reviewed the club and PAC account activities. The checks for the Georgia Senate candidates (Warnock & Oshoff) have not cleared as of this meeting. Schuyler will follow up with the bank regarding time duration before cancelling or stop payment. He will report back to the club at next meeting.

VII. Correspondence – Betsey reported club received 3 written communications regarding the EDC new newsletter. Christine McIntosh, Charlene Mancuso & Tim Fulghum responded with positive comments. Great way of communication, informative articles.

VIII. Committee: President Chris mentioned that he and 1st VP Joy Kennedy will have a President & 1st VP report section on the EDC monthly meeting agenda.

a. **President's Report** – Chris introduced himself, gave some background information for those that may not know. He is excited of the new year and look forward to the new national leadership (President Biden & VP Harris). He is looking forward to working club members on getting EFC engaged in various ways (newsletter, increasing membership, etc.). He would like for all of us to share where we would like to see the club focus our long-term efforts. He is interested in hearing what members are thinking. Look forward to hearing some responses starting art our next club meeting. We are working on streamlining the registration process for new members.

b. **1st VP Report** – introduced herself and shared some background information. Her goal is to be the absolute best backup to President and move forward with the club mission and goals. She has a strong interest in working to increase our membership and learn how to do so in the virtual environment we are living in now. She will work with Chris on getting the registration process out and available.

c. **Audit Committee** is due to report at the February meeting. Schuyler got the needed information to Audit committee members.

d. **Fundraising Committee** – we need to form a fundraising committee by our March meeting according to our by-laws. Please consider being a part of this committee. If interested, please inform President Chris.

IX. Old business – a. **Our Parliamentarian** – Elain Murphy has resigned from the board as of January 8, 2021, she has moved and will not be able to participate with EDC. We wish Elain best wishes in her new location. We will look to find a replacement for this position.

X. New business – a. **By-Laws Committee** – need to form a committee. The following have volunteered: Kandace Jones, Sue McGinn, Joy Kennedy, Betsey Kamm. Larry Williams has some suggestions regarding by-laws. He will forward his suggestions for the committee to review. Kandace will make sure committee members have current by-laws and we will meet within the next 2 weeks. Charlene will forward information that City Council uses for virtual meeting for committee to review.

b. **CCDP Yearbook Ad** - cost is \$300. The ad needs to be updated from last year. Betsey will create a draft and send to officers for review. EDC ad for the 2021 yearbook needs to be submitted by February 26th. Larry Williams made a motion to approve the \$300 for the EDC CCDP Yearbook Ad. Lynn Radcliff seconded, motion passed.

XI. Open Forum –

a. Maria Ericksen – shared that she invited 4 new people to tonight's meeting, 1 did join the meeting, welcome Laura. Maria encourages everyone to invite at least 1 or 2 new people to the next meeting.

b. Judge William Vodrey - Thank you to EDC for support during his election. He invites anyone to come visit his courtroom 18A once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

c. City Leader Kent Smith – shared congratulations on the inaugural ceremonies. For those that were not able to watch it is available on Youtube. Retanio Rucker asked status of HB304 – Ohio Equal Pay Act. Kent mentioned it would need to be re-introduced. Kent also shared that due to Congresswoman Fudge that will be appointed to position in Biden administration her Congress position will need to be filled. There will be Special elections 2021 (Primary & General) to fill this position. Until Congresswoman officially confirmed, we do not know what the dates for the special elections yet.

XII. Announcements

Raffle: N/A

XIV. Adjournment: EDC meeting adjourned at: 8:32pm,

Next meeting: Thursday February 18, 2021 –using Zoom.

Rec. Sec. Kandace Jones

*Thanks for reading and thank you to all of our contributors!
See you in next month's edition and on Zoom.*



-Euclid Democratic Club

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