



www.manisteecountydemocrats.us

Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting Date:
July 23rd
(4th Thursday of month)
6 pm

Stronach Township
Picnic Membership
Meeting

Meeting Agenda includes
Guest Speakers -
Democrat County
Commissioners

Officers

Chair- Gary Madden
genie42br@gmail.com

Vice Chair-
Laurel Mason

laurele52@charter.net

Secretary- Peg Raddatz
peg.raddatz@gmail.com

Treasurer-
Judy Cunningham
jpc4466@gmail.com

Membership Chair
Shirley Madden
gspmadden@gmail.com

Garlin Gilchrist,

Michigan Lieutenant Governor

To Be Keynote Speaker at

17th Annual Don Jennings Dinner



Lt. Governor Gilchrist studied computer engineering and computer science at the University of Michigan, graduating with honors, and later had a successful career as a software engineer at Microsoft, helping to build SharePoint into the fastest growing product in the company's history.

Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist has dedicated his career to fixing problems for hardworking families. From spearheading campaigns for equality and justice to harnessing technology to solve everyday problems for Detroiters, his focus has consistently remained on serving the public by getting things done.

Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist and his wife, Ellen, currently reside in Detroit where they are raising their twins, Emily and Garlin III, and newborn daughter, Ruby.

The 17th Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner will be held September 12th at the Manistee Golf and Resort. Tickets will be \$60 and go on sale the end of July.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR



I am sorry to have missed everyone at last month's membership meeting in Arcadia. I hadn't been feeling well and thought it might be wise to avoid going out. Because of the symptoms I was experiencing, it was decided that I should get tested for the COVID-19 virus. Luckily, I tested negative, recovered and doing fine. The experience did, however, bring me to a new, more, personal awareness of how much our lives have changed in the last few months and

Gary Madden how vulnerable our country is in dealing with this crisis, especially at the national level. The spectacle of our President, first ignoring the early signs, then playing down the seriousness of the crises, all the while doing everything he could to avoid any responsibility and even politicizing the issue, is a national disgrace. When we think of the devastating impact that the COVID-19 virus has had on our society we need to be grateful that, while deadly, it did not bring with it the lethality of say, the Ebola virus. Where would we be now if it had?

Yet, all indications are that this virus, as with the 1918 pandemic, will be with us for some time to come. Is a society that so strongly values its personal freedoms over the welfare of its collective whole, really prepared for a protracted struggle against this deadly enemy? I have my doubts, judging by the number of people I see around me, when I go out, not taking the very simple, known effective steps to prevent the spread of this disease. Learning to live with this new reality is going to require us all to recognize our connections to and dependency upon each other and adjust our behavior accordingly. Fortunately, most of us understand this, but there are many people in our society who still cling to the fantasy of independence. They believe that individuals can and should be completely free of outside controls and infringement on their domain. They feel that being forced to wear a face mask is an assault on their right to live free and independently of everyone.

The ridiculousness of this view was made clear to me in a recent piece I listened to on NPR. The speaker described how, during his isolation at home, he decided to keep himself occupied with a special project, by attempting to personally thank everyone who was responsible for providing him with the cup of coffee that he took such pleasure in each morning. This led him to the grocery store where he thanked the workers there. This of course made him realize that the coffee had to be delivered to the store by someone, i.e. truck drivers, road builders, factory workers, wholesale dealers and on and on. Eventually he was led to travel to Columbia to thank the owner of a coffee plantation who reminded him of all the workers that he employed. It seems his morning cup of coffee that he so enjoys connects him directly to an international network of people! Of course, we were also reminded of this supply system when we went to Meijers two months ago to buy hand sanitizer, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc. and found empty shelves. How really independent of each other are we?

So, it seems, that all the clichés we hear every day around the idea of humanity's connection and unity are really true. We truly are our brother's keeper, and he is ours. My wellbeing is your wellbeing. What diminishes me, diminishes us all. This is really the idea that is driving the mass demonstrations going on around the country and the world during this time. It is also the truth that will move us all safely through this current threat to public health. Stay safe everyone and take heart.



The 17th Annual Don Jennings Award Nomination Form

Please Print:

I nominate: _____

for political activism and the pursuit of social justice

Because: _____

(if you need more space, please continue on a separate sheet of paper)

My Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail completed nomination by **August 18, 2019** to: Manistee
DEMS/DJN -- P.O. Box 65 – Manistee, MI 49660

Or go online at manisteecountydemocrats.us and fill out this form online.

Previous Winners of the Don Jennings Award:

Judy Cunningham

Peggy Raddatz

Jeanne Butterfield

Ellen Somsel

David Berns

Alan Marshall

Allan O’Shea

Tim Joseph

Glenn Lottie

Lee Trucks

4th Annual Membership Picnic

Join Us Thursday, July 23rd at 6:00 pm

Stronach Township Park Pavilion

Water Street & 4th Street -- Stronach

Democratic County Commission Candidates to Speak:

Allan O'Shea, Rolf Wucherer, Gene Lagerquist, Karen Goodman, & Meg Batzter

Brats Served

Bring own table service, beverage and a dish to pass.

Bring a lawn chair to make Social Distancing easier.

Social Distancing and Face Masks Required to Keep Everyone Safe.

Arcadia Summer



**Strawberry
Social**

A Success!

Over forty people gathered and heard

Beth McGill-Rizer, Candidate for the 101st House District

& Jay Alam, Candidate for Arcadia Supervisor speak.



Notes of solidarity and encouragement

Robert Weissman – Public Citizen

First, the protests worked.

The police officers responsible for the murder of George Floyd have now all been charged.

The Louisville police chief has been fired, after it turned out that officers who killed David McAtee, a protester who ran a barbecue stand, had turned off their bodycams.

Investigations are underway of the police killings of McAtee and Breonna Taylor, a woman killed in Louisville after police barged into her home at 1:00 a.m. without — according to Taylor's boyfriend who was with her at the time — announcing themselves.

Cities across the country are quickly instituting policing reforms — including Louisville, which has suspended use of “no-knock” warrants.

In a sign of just how powerful the protests have become, cities are also beginning to move to redirect resources away from police departments to social needs.

This is a dramatic political and cultural shift. And it portends more to come.

Social change always comes from the ground up. We're seeing that happen, yet again, before our eyes.

Second, Trump's authoritarianism was dealt a major blow.

There have been few times when the establishment and a meaningful number of Republicans have denounced Trump for crossing democratic red lines.

But bringing out the military to patrol our streets has become one such occasion.

Trump's maneuver to clear peaceful protesters from Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House — so that he could stage his cynical photo-op in front of a historic church — backfired dramatically.

Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis forcefully denounced Trump, as have other former Pentagon leaders.

Even the current Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper, has tried to distance himself from Trump.

It's impossible to exaggerate the importance of these developments, because Trump's authoritarian instincts are not subject to self-restraint.

There's every reason to think he believes it is a good idea to have U.S. soldiers patrolling our cities.

Third, we must remain vigilant against Trump's proto-fascist tendencies.

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With the deadly toll of the coronavirus pandemic, soaring unemployment and mass protests, the Trump team knows it is in political trouble.

The polls confirm their worry.

Trump officials are now making clear that they — and Trump himself — see only one path to political success: run as a “law-and-order” candidate.

Trump, of course, is almost certainly the most lawless president the country has ever known, evidenced by everything from his solicitation of political favors from Ukraine, to his ownership of the Trump Hotel in property leased from the U.S. government, to his failure to enforce environmental, civil rights and consumer protection laws.

“Law-and-order” has nothing to do with the law or democratic order.

It is shorthand for Trump’s blend of racism, proto-fascism and militarism.

The rhetoric alone is toxic enough, encouraging racist violence and dividing the nation.

But a desperate Trump will not, on his own, stop with just words.

He’ll look for excuses to deploy the military.

He’ll seek to clamp down on the press and protesters.

He’ll work to undermine fair elections and the guarantee that everyone has the right to vote and that every vote will be counted.

We know Trump is capable of all these things, because he has already done each of them.

But fearful of political defeat, he’s going to unleash words and policies that reflect his most dangerous and loathsome instincts.

Together, we can stop him.

We know we can stop Trump, because for all the damage this administration has inflicted — up to and including its deadly bungling of the pandemic response — we have prevented Trump from doing even worse.

Above all, the protests remind us of our power when we join together.

And I know that, together, we will face the immense challenges ahead.

Stay safe.



Manistee Democratic To Open Campaign Office
Located in the former Hokanson's Camera Shop Building
308 River Street -- Manistee

Move in date July 15th

Campaign office schedule: Wed-Sat 12pm-6pm

VOLUNTEER OFFICE STAFF NEEDED

CALL OR EMAIL: ELLEN SOMSEL

Between 9am to 9pm

(231) 392-6679 or ellensomsel61@gmail.com

THE OFFICE SHOULD BE WELL STOCKED WITH CAMPAIGN SIGNS

BY JULY 20TH -- STOP IN AND PICK SOME UP

JOE BIDEN, BETH MCGILL-RIZER, AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TOO.

Volunteers for placing door hangers needed

Call or email: Judy Cunningham

(231) 794-0005 or jpc4466@gmail.com

*Social Distancing, Masks, and CDC Protocols will be observed at all times
in the office.*

2020 Manistee DEMS Membership Year
MDP memberships included for the Huron Club and above

How do you benefit from being a member of the Manistee County DEMS?

- Influence local policy and candidates
- Receive email, phone, and newsletter notifications about upcoming **Democratic** events
- Attend the monthly business meeting featuring Guest Speakers (Third Thursday of each month at 7 pm, at the Dial A Ride Building.)
- Volunteer opportunities for specific events, i.e. Parades, County Fair and Blue Tigers

Optional: set up payment plan with your bank or with our internet: manisteecountydemocrats.us

Ontario Club (Basic) \$25 per person
Grass Roots - \$0
Young Democrats - (18 - 25) \$5
newsletter / eblasts

Erie Club \$50 per person
newsletter / eblasts

Huron Club \$100 per household
Payments of \$10 for 10 months
Names listed in Don Jennings Dinner Program
One (1) Free Drink at D.J. Dinner

Superior Club \$250 per household
Payments of \$25 for 10 months
Names listed in Don Jennings Dinner Program
One (1) Free Drink at D.J. Dinner
One (1) Ticket to Don Jennings Dinner

Michigan Club \$500 per household
Payments of \$50 for 10 months
Names listed in Don Jennings Dinner Program
One (1) Free Drink at D.J. Dinner
Two (2) Tickets to Don Jennings Dinner
with Reserved Seating

Donation to Blue Tigers
Scholarship Fund \$ _____
(We support students getting their GED,
via transportation and emergency funding)

-----Check all that apply, cut and send back bottom portion-----

Last Name _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Other joining member in same household _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PH#() _____ Cell#() _____ Email _____ @ _____

2020 Membership Level:

Ontario Club
 Erie Club
 Huron Club
 Superior Club
 Michigan Club
 \$10 / 10 mos
 \$25 / 10 mos
 \$50 / 10 mos

Donation for Blue Tigers \$ _____

AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK \$ _____

Signature

_____/_____/2020
Date

Make checks payable to **Manistee County Democratic Party**
Mail to : Manistee County Dems, P.O. Box 65, Manistee, MI 49660