



[www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us)

### Monthly Meetings

Don Jennings Award Dinner

September 11, 5:00 pm

Manistee National Golf &  
Resort

Ticket Price: \$65

Tickets are available for purchase at:  
[www.manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us)

### Leadership Team

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#### Blue Tigers Chair

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#### Communications Chair

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#### Volunteers Chair

Al Frye

## Princess of Manistee Sunset Cruise

On Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> the Manistee County Democratic Party set sail upon the Princess of Manistee on a sunset cruise. To our delight, two thirds of the guests were not MCDP official members, which meant our goal of an outreach event was a success. Ninety-four guests enjoyed live music by Tim Krause and Bob Bowne and for two hours we enjoyed the gorgeous views of Manistee's finest natural beauty. Although the first hour brought choppy seas and a rocking boat, a fun time was had by all.



# COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

## Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself



John Helge

Fear can be a very strong influencer in the kind of life we choose to live. When confronted with fear, some people almost instinctively lash out in anger and aggression while others tend to draw back seeking safety in avoidance. For too long, fear has been utilized in American politics to artificially widen the perception gap voters have of candidates and their issues. When you combine the power of fear with the power of social media to spread misinformation, we obviously have a very volatile situation.

We had some very interesting conversations at the Manistee County Democratic Party booth during the Manistee County Fair in August. I can assure you that not everyone who stopped by the booth was a staunch Democrat. What struck me most was the difference in the attitude between those who supported Democrats and those who did not. Those supporting Democrats were much more upbeat and excited about finally getting something going in both Washington and Lansing. The major thread of

similarity woven into the fabric of the non-supporters was fear caused by what they referred to as facts that had been obtained from social media or radio/television talk show pundits. From the non-Democrats I heard about fear of immigrants pouring into the country to take their jobs through an un-controlled border with Mexico. Fear was expressed about white people becoming a discriminated minority in this country. We heard fears about socialism and communism coming from Washington, DC in the disguise of infrastructure and climate change legislation. Fear about increased governmental intervention into their lives which would infringe on their basic freedoms was also heard.

This is not to say that the Democrat supporters did not also express some fears. Their fears included a repeat of the January 6, 2021, riot at the US Capitol. Fear about voter suppression legislation that seek to provide solutions for problems that do not exist. Fear for the safety and security of our elected officials and their families. Fear that we are not working hard enough or fast enough to address climate change. Like it or not, fear is always going to be there. The difference is in how we choose to handle it!

When you hear or see an issue that causes the fear reaction it is often best to first determine if the threat is real or perceived. In many cases this requires some research using trusted, non-biased sources. Change the TV channel. Read a different newspaper. Use a different Google source. Once you get enough contrasting information then you can make an informed decision as to whether the issue is real and worthy of your action. Another thing to remember is that much of what happens in our federal and state representative legislative process is complicated and often has a long-range outcome. This makes it much more difficult to distill down to a 90-second sound bite on the evening newscast. This provides a rich environment for misinformation and misunderstanding that can take off like a wildfire on social media channels.

The fear of uncontrolled immigration at the border with Mexico is the result of refugees currently fleeing poverty and violence in Central American countries. The border with Mexico is controlled by US Border Control officers who have apprehended a record number of illegal entrants each month utilizing mobile high tech surveillance equipment. Those seeking asylum are properly processed, assigned a court hearing date, and tested for Covid-19 prior to being released in the USA. Families are not being separated, but unaccompanied minor children are being processed at a record level as their families desperately try to give them a better life.

The preliminary 2020 Census figures indicate that people identifying as Caucasian in America will represent barely 50% of the total population. That fact indicates that this great country, which has always been known as the great melting pot of people and cultures, is mirroring the rest of the world's diverse population. Diversity is what makes America great in so many ways. Our ability to assimilate multiple cultures into our daily lives has fueled our economic engine in the past and will continue to do so in the future. All any American citizen wants is an equitable chance to succeed regardless of race, color, or ethnicity. We must be diligent to identify and eliminate any discrimination on these grounds. Those who identify as Caucasian will not lose their rights, they will just have to share them.

No one in any elected office is seriously advocating for changing our economic standards to socialism or our form of government to communism. This fearmongering has been especially lucrative for several right-wing TV pundits who also have books to sell. Progressive elected leaders see the opportunity to upgrade our aging infrastructure systems while creating good-paying jobs. Human infrastructure is also included in these projects with funds being allocated to support paid family leave, public education, childcare, and improved access to healthcare. These massive projects will be paid for by making our tax system more equitable, insuring the people with the highest incomes are paying their fair share while simultaneously insuring hard working families can find affordable housing, feed their children, get them a good education, and take care of aging parents. Trickle-down tax breaks for the rich have proven to be failures in growing the US economy. It is now time to invest in the 99% of the US citizens who really make this country run!

No one is coming for your guns! We just want common sense gun laws that will help to keep military-style weapons out of the hands of those who would use them to harm other humans. The politicization of the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted great damage to our public health system that is so necessary to keeping us safe from future epidemics that could be even more rampant and deadly. When our elected leaders purposefully mislead us about the virulent virus and then selfishly stand in the way of simple common-sense, science-based recommendations putting their constituents in harm's way, there is certain to be a loss of trust in our system of government.

Fear is a very real human response to change or the unknown. We must be very careful not to use fear as a weapon as it can very quickly become a weapon of mass destruction to our political system. We can overcome fear by taking the time and effort to check the facts and ignore the misinformation being maliciously spread on social media.

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Manistee County Democratic Party hats and t-shirts are each available for a \$15 donation on the MCDP website. You can also find "Thank you Governor Whitmer" signs for a \$10 donation. Your items will be personally delivered. Check out the inventory at: [www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/](http://www.manisteecountydemocrats.us/)



**You are cordially invited to attend the  
18<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner**

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Manistee National Golf and Resort  
4797 Grant Highway, Manistee

Social Hour 5:00 PM

Dinner 6:00 PM

Ticket Price: \$65

Tickets Available Online at:  
Manisteecountydemocrats.us  
(Tickets Held at the Door)

Keynote Speaker: Mark Brewer



The Manistee County Democratic Party is pleased and proud to announce the keynote speaker of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner will be Mark Brewer, lawyer, political consultant and a member of the Democratic National Committee. He is the former chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and a past chair of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. He has received the Champion of Justice Award from the Michigan Association for Justice and the Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Education Association. Brewer has been honored by the State Bar of Michigan and the ACLU of Michigan for his pro bono legal work.

Recently, Brewer has started a podcast with former Executive Director of the Michigan Republican Party Jeff Timmer. With episodes released every Tuesday and Wednesday, “A Republic, If You Can Keep It” features an astute analysis of Michigan’s political and social climate as well as Michigan’s impact on national politics.

## 2021 Don Jennings Award Recipient



The Manistee County Democratic Party is proud to award Shirley Madden this year’s Don Jennings Award. Shirley was born in Detroit and was educated in the Detroit Public Schools system. A graduate of Wayne State University, she holds two degrees in teaching and guidance counseling. She also holds a degree in Education Psychology. She worked for 34 years with the Detroit Public School system as a math teacher and a counselor. She has also worked in private practice, counseling adults and children.

Shirley consulted with the State Department of Education to develop standards for the State's guidance program and to critique the MEAP test for the State's testing program. She has also taught at several universities around the Detroit area.

Shirley served as the President of the Michigan School Guidance Association and the Guidance Association of Metropolitan Detroit. In recognition of her professional accomplishments, she has received the State of Michigan's, "Counselor of the Year" award, and the "Innovative Guidance Program" trophy from former Governor John Engler.

After moving to Manistee, Shirley became deeply involved in the Manistee County Democratic Party, serving as the Membership Chair for four years. During that time the party membership rose to nearly 250 more than doubling what it had been prior to her service. She has been one of the party's most reliable volunteers, marching in parades, assisting with mailings, supplying refreshments at meetings, and generally being there whenever something needs to be done. Her contributions at Executive Committee meetings have been critical in keeping our party on the move.

Locally, she serves on the Board of Canvassers to help oversee elections and certify the results. Their work helps insure a safe and secure election process.

As Chairperson of the Blue Tigers committee, Shirley has almost single handedly created the "Little Big Shots" talent show featured during the Manistee Forest Festival each year. For three years now this event has given our talented young people an opportunity to gain valuable performance experience and to enhance their self-esteem in a non-competitive, supportive environment. This event has also raised considerable funds that the local party has used to award several small scholarships and provide support to St. Joe's Pantry, the Friendship Society, and Five-Cap.

Shirley has worked tirelessly through four campaign cycles supporting candidates for local, state, and federal offices. She has knocked on doors, hosted fundraising parties, passed out literature, attended state party conventions, volunteered at the party's office, posted signs, worked on phone banking, and stuffed envelopes. The MCDP congratulates Shirley Madden and thanks her for her years of selfless service.

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Don Jennings Award Dinner will be Saturday, September 11, 2021 at the Manistee National Golf and Resort. Social hour begins at 5:00 PM. Ticket price is \$65 and are available for purchase at [manisteecountydemocrats.us](http://manisteecountydemocrats.us)

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR PROJECT

The Manistee County Democratic Party is setting up a Letter to the Editor writing Project. Every Monday a Messaging MEMO is distributed by the Michigan Democratic Party LTE Program and specifically, the 101st District Committee. Members of the four counties in the 101st will all be writing letters based on these talking points to provide a unified message throughout the district.

We need your help to keep democratic good news in the forefront and hold republicans' feet to the fire. The research is done for you. Just put pen to paper. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Raddatz at [peg.raddatz@gmail.com](mailto:peg.raddatz@gmail.com).

# MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATS IN ACTION



The MCDP had a booth at the 150<sup>th</sup> Manistee County Fair. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible.



The MCDP sponsored the lumberjack show at the Manistee County Fair on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.



MCDP walked in the Bear Lake Days parade on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.



Annual Dems Summer Picnic in Onekama with State Representative Rachel Hood.

## 2021 MCDP SOCIAL EVENTS

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Jennings Award Dinner      September 11, 2021, Social hour 5pm, Dinner 6pm  
 Manistee National Golf and Resort

Joseph Farm Country Picnic                      October 3, 2021

Manistee Dems Holiday Celebration              December 18, 2021



The Manistee Area Racial Justice & Diversity Initiative (MARJDI) billboard has been installed and welcoming people to Manistee County. The location is 2.7 miles south of South Countyline Road on the west side of the road. MARJDI was launched in September 2019 by concerned citizens who wanted to work together to make the Manistee area a more racially just, diverse, and welcoming community for all.

## Democratic Challenger to Run Against Bergman



A Marquette County doctor has announced he is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Dr. Bob Lorinser, 65, introduced himself as a democratic congressional candidate for Michigan’s 1st District on Tuesday.

“I would be honored to represent all the residents of the District, including the young and old, people of all genders, those who agree and disagree with me, moderates, and progressives,” said Lorinser.

“I am also committed to working towards engagement with Conservatives if we hope to unite the District.”

Lorinser has been a resident of Marquette since 1989, married for 40 years, and has attained advanced degrees in public health, social work, and medicine. After a career in many health care roles, he joined Marquette County Health Department as its medical director during the COVID-19 pandemic last year. The seat Lorinser is running for is currently held by Republican Congressman Jack Bergman, of Watersmeet Township.

If unopposed as a democrat, Lorinser would carry a primary in August and move on to the general election on Nov. 8, 2022.

## Manistee DEMS Membership Year

January 1- 2021 - December 31, 2021

Michigan Democratic Party membership 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 6:30 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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ontario Club</b> (Basic) \$25 per person | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Erie Club</b> \$50 per person         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass Roots - \$0                           | newsletters / ebcasts   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Young Democrats</b> (18 – 25) - \$5      | One (1) Free Drink at D.J. Dinner                                 |
| all receive newsletters / ebcasts                                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Huron Club</b> \$100 per household       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Superior Club</b> \$250 per household |
| Payments of \$10 for 10 months                                       | Payments of \$25 for 10 months                                    |
| Names listed in Don Jennings Dinner Program                          | Names listed in Don Jennings Dinner Program                       |
| One (1) Free Drink at D.J. Dinner                                    | One (1) Free Drink at D.J. Dinner                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Michigan Club</b> \$500 per household    | One (1) Ticket to Don Jennings Dinner                             |
| Payments of \$50 for 10 months                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Donation to Blue Tigers</b>           |
| Names listed in Don Jennings Dinner Program                          | <b>Scholarship Fund</b> \$_____                                   |
| One (1) Free Drink at D.J. Dinner                                    | (We support students getting their GED, and                       |
| Two (2) Tickets to Don Jennings Dinner                               | college students via transportation and emergency                 |
| with Reserved Seating  | funding and community endeavors)                                  |

-----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 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

- Membership Level:**       **Grass Roots**       **Young Democrats**
- 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

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/ 2021  
Date

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