

DONKEY TRACKS

NOVEMBER, 2024

#bluetothe core

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Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



@womensdemocc



Tuesday, November 5, 2024
VOTE!



Carolyn Murray
President



Ida Gaines
1st Vice President



Rita Ransom
2nd Vice President



Dawn Dudas
Treasurer



Chris Miller
Corresponding Sec.



Judy Klein
Recording Secretary



Caren Levenson
Inspirationalist



Monday, November 11, 2024
Veteran's Day



President's Message

Carolyn Murray



November 1, 2024

As I began to write this message to you, I looked at my desk calendar for the month of November. I saw November 5th - Election Day; November 11th - Veterans Day; and, November 28th - Thanksgiving Day. There are many lessons to be learned from each of these special days, but for me, the overriding thought for the entire month is the true meaning of thanksgiving.

Simply put, it is the act of acknowledging and giving thanks for things we already have. Let us turn our attention to giving thanks by being mindful of the many blessings we have as a club, a community, and a nation. For instance, in each of those areas we have open and free elections. If you haven't already voted in our Presidential Election I hope you will decide to do it soon. We need you at the polls **NOW!**

We can give special thanks for Veterans who served our country to protect our rights and freedoms. Now, let's show these men and women we are acting responsibly by voting and supporting our community. Let's continue to teach the next generation of citizens to participate in their responsibilities by being informed voters and getting out the vote to elect candidates who will respect all of us; candidates who introduce and pass legislation of the people, by the people, and for the people. Veterans have shown us the way to be productive citizens, and we should be mindful of how we take care of our country. Thank you to all our veterans today and every day.

Again, I encourage you to be mindful and thankful for Election Day and Veterans Day this month while also giving thanks for your family, friends, neighbors, jobs, and our elected officials. Let us remember our club officers, advisers, and new members as they become beams of light to an even brighter future for all of Clark County.

Happy November!

Carolyn Murray

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County - President

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



ELECTION RECAP



OFFICER ELECTIONS

This meeting is also our annual meeting where we will conduct officer elections for the 2024-2025 term.*

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

BAHAMA BREEZE ISLAND GRILLE

**REGISTER & PAY
HERE**

375 Hughes Center Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89169
Members = \$30
Guests = \$40

**RSVP - Pay at Door
2ndVP@womensdemo.com**

ALL DEMOCRATS WELCOME!

*Must be a current member in good standing to be eligible to vote

www.womensdemo.com



Women's Democratic Club of Clark County's

Annual Holiday Party Potluck

Sunday, December 15, 2024
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

At the Home of Shelley Berkley
(In Queensridge - Use Charleston Gate)

Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or desert, to share!

[RSVP HERE and Let Us Know What You Are Bringing](#)

We MUST HAVE YOUR NAME or you won't be admitted
through the guard gate!

**We'd Like to Thank Past President and Senator, Roberta Lange
For Sponsoring**

And

**Shelley Berkley and Dr. Larry Lehner For Hosting
This Year's Annual Holiday Party**

Letters To An American By Heather Cox Richardson

Beginning in 1943, the War Department published a series of pamphlets for U.S. Army personnel in the European theater of World War II. Titled *Army Talks*, the series was designed “to help [the personnel] become better-informed men and women and therefore better soldiers.”

On March 24, 1945, the topic for the week was “FASCISM!”

“You are away from home, separated from your families, no longer at a civilian job or at school and many of you are risking your very lives,” the pamphlet explained, “because of a thing called fascism.” But, the publication asked, what is fascism? “Fascism is not the easiest thing to identify and analyze,” it said, “nor, once in power, is it easy to destroy. It is important for our future and that of the world that as many of us as possible understand the causes and practices of fascism, in order to combat it.”

Fascism, the U.S. government document explained, “is government by the few and for the few. The objective is seizure and control of the economic, political, social, and cultural life of the state.” “The people run democratic governments, but fascist governments run the people.”

“The basic principles of democracy stand in the way of their desires; hence—democracy must go! Anyone who is not a member of their inner gang has to do what he’s told. They permit no civil liberties, no equality before the law.” “Fascism treats women as mere breeders. ‘Children, kitchen, and the church,’ was the Nazi slogan for women,” the pamphlet said.

Fascists “make their own rules and change them when they choose.... They maintain themselves in power by use of force combined with propaganda based on primitive ideas of ‘blood’ and ‘race,’ by skillful manipulation of fear and hate, and by false promise of security. The propaganda glorifies war and insists it is smart and ‘realistic’ to be pitiless and violent.”

Fascists understood that “the fundamental principle of democracy—faith in the common sense of the common people—was the direct opposite of the fascist principle of rule by the elite few,” it explained, “[s]o they fought democracy.... They played political, religious, social, and economic groups against each other and seized power while these groups struggled.”

Americans should not be fooled into thinking that fascism could not come to America, the pamphlet warned; after all, “[w]e once laughed Hitler off as a harmless little clown with a funny mustache.” And indeed, the U.S. had experienced “sorry instances of mob sadism, lynchings, vigilantism, terror, and suppression of civil liberties. We have had our hooded gangs, Black Legions, Silver Shirts, and racial and religious bigots. All of them, in the name of Americanism, have used undemocratic methods and doctrines which...can be properly identified as ‘fascist.’”

The War Department thought it was important for Americans to understand the tactics fascists would use to take power in the United States. They would try to gain power “under the guise of ‘super-patriotism’ and ‘super-Americanism.’” And they would use three techniques:

First, they would pit religious, racial, and economic groups against one another to break down national unity. Part of that effort to divide and conquer would be a “well-planned ‘hate campaign’ against minority races, religions, and other groups.”

Second, they would deny any need for international cooperation, because that would fly in the face of their insistence that their supporters were better than everyone else. “In place of international cooperation, the fascists seek to substitute a perverted sort of ultra-nationalism which tells their people that they are the only people in the world who count. With this goes hatred and suspicion toward the people of all other nations.”

Third, fascists would insist that “the world has but two choices—either fascism or communism, and they label as ‘communists’ everyone who refuses to support them.”

It is “vitally important” to learn to spot native fascists, the government said, “even though they adopt names and slogans with popular appeal, drape themselves with the American flag, and attempt to carry out their program in the name of the democracy they are trying to destroy.”

The only way to stop the rise of fascism in the United States, the document said, “is by making our democracy work and by actively cooperating to preserve world peace and security.” In the midst of the insecurity of the modern world, the hatred at the root of fascism “fulfills a triple mission.” By dividing people, it weakens democracy. “By getting men to hate rather than to think,” it prevents them “from seeking the real cause and a democratic solution to the problem.” By falsely promising prosperity, it lures people to embrace its security.

“Fascism thrives on indifference and ignorance,” it warned. Freedom requires “being alert and on guard against the infringement not only of our own freedom but the freedom of every American. If we permit discrimination, prejudice, or hate to rob *anyone* of his democratic rights, our own freedom and all democracy is threatened.”

OPINION: Trump's Alarmist 'Enemy Within' Disinformation Echoes Through Nevada

By John L. Smith



Go to bed a skeptic of the extremist politics of former President Donald Trump, and one day you just might wake up to find yourself considered [“an enemy from within.”](#)

Sounds dystopian, even like something Mussolini would have said, but it's merely the latest dark and noxious rhetoric Trump is using as he stokes paranoias and sows conspiracy on the way to Election Day.

In an interview with *Fox News*, he said, “I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within, not even the people that have come in and destroying our country, by the way, totally destroy-

ing our country. The towns, the villages, they're being inundated. But I don't think they're the problem in terms of Election Day. I think the bigger problem are the people from within. We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they're the — and it should be very easily handled by — if necessary, by National Guard or, if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen.”

Labeling anyone who disagrees with your politics a godless socialist or communist and a danger to America isn't new. Historically speaking, the “enemy from within” meme could have its own T-shirt. The difference is the scale of the liar and the size of his mass media bullhorn.

The Know-Nothings of the mid-1800s were certain the Irish, other immigrants, and Catholics generally were going to ruin their America. As Lorraine Boissoneault writes in [Smithsonian Magazine](#), “Party members supported deportation of foreign beggars and criminals; a [21-year naturalization period](#) for immigrants; mandatory Bible reading in schools; and the elimination of all Catholics from public office.” But they had to get the word out with pamphlets, posters, a limited press and the public square.

All pro-fascist [Father Charles Edward Coughlin](#) had a radio show and Sunday pulpit. He found the inside enemy in the Jews and assured his millions of listeners democracy was doomed and fascism was the way forward. Communist snipe hunter Joe McCarthy got by with a seat in the U.S. Senate and a gaggle of reporters taking notes about his list of card-carrying commies inside the U.S. Department of State.

Trump receives all the help he needs in amplifying his conspiracies and hate speech from *Fox News* and America's X man, [Elon Musk](#). He's not only a top Trump fanboy, but has been busy amplifying harmful [disinformation](#) in the aftermath of deadly hurricanes.

Some of Trump's darkest scenarios are aimed at the federal government, which Trump and his allies are bent on destabilizing or dismantling altogether. It's hard to name an agency that he hasn't vilified during his endless grievance campaign. It's no coincidence many ideas he's claimed as his own amount to [Project 2025](#) talking points.

Trump has no sense of decency, but they don't care. He speaks their language, and it sounds a lot like their America.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Readers Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

Nevadans know plenty about this kind of reactionary rhetoric. There was a time the disparaging of other races, shouting sepia-toned conspiracy theories and declaring wide-open white supremacy were common in the state's political class. Many of the best-known practitioners were Democrats of a previous generation, U.S. Sens. Francis Newlands and Pat McCarran, and Rep. Walter Baring among the most noted. Whether they were championing racial restrictions, searching the sagebrush for commies or denouncing civil rights as anti-state's rights, those famous fellows were hard to top.

Add to that the reactionary politics of the followers of the cowboy-themed [Sagebrush Rebellion](#), recalcitrant ranchers Wayne Hage, Dick Carver and Cliven Bundy among them, and "the enemy from within" American society talk with its nativist themes is well worn in the Silver State.

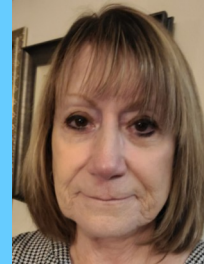
But they all look like political pikers next to Trump, who will go on claiming pet-eating immigrants and socialists are taking over the nation. Why? Because a substantial percentage of the public will be inclined to believe him.

We should believe retired Gen. Mark Milley when he tells writer Bob Woodward in his book [War](#) that, "No one has ever been as dangerous to this country as Donald Trump. Now I realize he's a total fascist."

His base is OK with him encouraging a deadly insurrection and attempting to stop the peaceful transfer of power and calling it "[a day of love](#)." His diehards cheer when he declares those who oppose him are criminals and the skeptical, fact-checking press is the "enemy of the state."

Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



Past President of Women's Democratic Club, Chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party, Deputy County Assessor, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. That was our dear friend, Jan Jenkins and so, so much more!

Renee Diamond and I will hold on to all our memories of Jan that spanned decades. We will remember the feisty Jan that was a fierce warrior and advocate for women. We will smile when we think of the countless "girls days" we created and the work we did, together, to make serious change. Our motto, without saying it was, "if one is in, we are all in!" Our lunches were filled with laughter, stories, and love for one another that would never be broken. We were friends, sisters, and women that respected each other and that would never diminish no matter what!

Everyone should have a Jan Jenkins in their life. She was a precious soul that was good natured, loved her family, and lived a life filled with joy. How fortunate we were that we found each other and shared our lives. These are the memories we hold on to as we say, rest easy, Jan and may her memory be for a blessing as the angels bring her home.

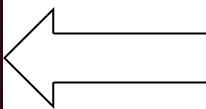


If you would like to join us in honoring Jan, then take your family and friends to Early Vote. Jan would love that. Talk to neighbors, friends, and family and help them with the Ballot Questions and Democratic candidates. For just a moment, be a Jan Jenkins and give her the one thing she, like all of our "Lunch Bunch" group worked towards, and as we are all working towards... the first female President of the United States!

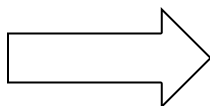
When we speak about the legacy of the Women's Democratic Club of Clark County, we are honoring women, like Jan, that came before us and brought us to today!



Mimi Katz, Nancy Harkess Dill, Jan Jenkins, Barbara Aupperle, Renee Diamond, Dorothy Eisenberg, Judy Klein, Morgan St. James, and Helen Myers.



Nancy Harkess Dill, Barbara Aupperle, Beverly Carlino Banta, Jan Jenkins, Harriet Trudell, Renee Diamond, Dorothy Eisenberg, Judy Klein, and Mimi Katz.



Memos From Morgan

By Morgan St. James



BE AFRAID, BE VERY AFRAID

What Many Republicans Don't Seem To Consider

In the event he wins, or launches another attempt to steal the Presidency, it isn't hard to figure out what it would mean to have Trump as the 47th President of the United States, and the picture is not pretty.

Due to his immense ego and disdain for everyone else's intelligence, he is very up front about all of the authoritarian objectives he has and his mission to be in absolute control. Or at least as much in complete control as he can pull off. It's clear to anyone who cares to really listen to him (and that seems to exclude MAGAs) that he is living in a world of his own making where his lies are truth, and everyone is out to get him without reason.

The fact that in our contemporary world so much is memorialized on film, audio or print is brushed to the side when time after time Trump or his surrogates insist that we have not seen or heard what is irrevocably there to be seen or heard. They will grasp at the straws of AI or unfair editing to validate the bogus claims.

But here's the greater worry.

First of all, AI is a factor that was not as active in prior elections. It has gotten so sophisticated that sometimes it is hard to determine whether the person on the video is real or a creation so lifelike it is believable. That creation delivers all sorts of propaganda in a convincing manner and sadly a great portion of the population who do not do additional research believe it. Russian involvement has been exposed.

Every day more and more deception by prominent Republicans is uncovered and made public, but in fits of rage the surrogates swear that this is all fake and not to be believed. Again, those who don't research deeper tend to believe the lies. And oh those lies. So many outrageous lies are offered on the spur of the minute, often not even thought through thoroughly, and these lies are frequently transference. Things the MAGAs have said or done that they are now attributing to Democrats. Or, if after months of enduring bad mouthing in every possible way a Democrat retaliates, that is condemned as being horrible. A good example is all of the vile names Trump has called Kamala Harris over and over again. Then, she dared to point out that his goals reek of Fascism. You know how the media, that is not covering both candidates equally, has been reporting that.

But, the greatest threats of all, in my opinion, are JD Vance and Elon Musk. If Trump is elected it is fairly unrealistic to think he will complete all four years. While he is coherent enough to put up the front, Musk will be the power behind the President. He craves power, cannot be elected to that office, but with so many government contracts, has poured millions into Trump's campaign and is set to receive *quid pro quo*. If Trump doesn't make it four years, we get President Vance combined with Musk. Vance is younger, smarter and far more articulate, and dangerous as he appears to be completely in tune with Project 2025. That's when I say, "be afraid, very afraid."

Thankfully many lifelong Republicans have stated they are voting for Kamala Harris to put country over party. They may not agree with many things in her platform, but recognize that Trump has made it no secret he wants to convert our country into a dictatorship. We must hope there is a huge Blue turnout and that a portion of the unprecedented Red turnout may have voted for down ticket Republicans, but also for Kamala Harris



Former interior designer MORGAN ST. JAMES, lives in Las Vegas with her rescue dog Cucumber and has been writing for over twenty years. She has 21 books in publication and over 600 published articles on diverse subjects. Morgan has appeared on radio, podcasts, television and author's panels. Her books include the Silver Sisters Mysteries series co-authored with her real life sister Phyllice Bradner, the Revenge is Fun series, stand-alone novels, the Writers' Tricks of the Trade book and short stories in six Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Morgan co-authored the multi award-winning memoirs: Rob and Cheryl Cuccio's Incest, Murder and a Miracle and Bella Capo's No More Crying Angels.

www.morganstjames-author.com

<http://writerstricksofthetrade.blogspot.com>

[http:// https://morgan-stjames.blogspot.com/](http://https://morgan-stjames.blogspot.com/)

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Xochitl Torres Small



The Axis of Tyranny in America and Russia

By Robert Reich



We've learned from a forthcoming book by journalist Bob Woodward that in 2020, while he was president, Trump secretly shipped Covid-19 testing equipment to Russian president Vladimir Putin for his own personal use at a time when Americans could not get it.

The author of *The Art of the Deal* did not demand in return that Putin forego attacking Ukraine or release Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed, two Americans being held by Russia at the time and later released under the Biden administration.

The Trump campaign denies this story, but on Wednesday the Kremlin confirmed it.

Woodward also reported that Trump and Putin have had "as many as seven" personal conversations since Trump left office in 2021.

Let's be clear about the implications of all this: If Trump wins the election, he'll likely do whatever Putin wants, including allowing Putin to take much, if not all, of Ukraine.

Trump has repeatedly avoided criticizing Putin, even going so far as to praise him as a "genius" and "very savvy" for his unprovoked invasion. At the same time, Trump has been critical of the Biden administration's aid to Ukraine in the wake of Russia's invasion.

During the presidential debate against Vice President Kamala Harris last month, Trump refused to say he wanted to see Ukraine win the war against Russia.

Earlier this year, Trump suggested he'd encourage Russia to do "whatever the hell they want" if a NATO ally wasn't paying their fair share to the alliance.

I used to believe seven things about the 21st century that Putin's invasion of Ukraine and Trump's presidency and current neck-and-neck race with Kamala Harris have shown me to be false. I assumed:

1. Nationalism is disappearing. I was wrong.

I expected globalization would blur borders, create economic interdependence among nations and regions, and extend a modern consumer and artistic culture worldwide.

But both Putin and Trump have exploited xenophobic nationalism to build their power. (Putin's aggression has also ignited an inspiring patriotism in Ukraine.)

2. Nations can no longer control what their citizens know. I was wrong.

I assumed that emerging digital technologies, including the internet, would make it impossible to control worldwide flows of information and knowledge. Tyrants could no longer keep their people in the dark or hoodwink them with propaganda.

But Trump and Putin have filled the media with lies. Putin has also cut off Russian citizens from the truth about what's occurring in Ukraine. Putin filled American social media with lies in favor of Trump and against his opponent in the 2016 election and apparently is doing so again.

3. Advanced nations will no longer war over geographic territory. I was only partly right.

I thought that in the “new economy,” land was becoming less valuable than technological knowhow and innovation. Competition among nations would therefore be over the development of cutting-edge inventions.

I was only partly right. While skills and innovation are critical, land still provides access to critical raw materials and buffers against potential foreign aggressors.

4. Major nuclear powers will never risk war against each other because of the certainty of “mutually assured destruction.” I was wrong.

I bought the conventional wisdom that nuclear war was unthinkable.

I fear I was wrong. Putin is now resorting to dangerous nuclear brinkmanship in Ukraine.

5. Civilization will never again be held hostage by crazy isolated “strongmen” with the power to wreak havoc. Wrong.

I assumed this was a phenomenon of the 20th century and that 21st century governments, even totalitarian ones, would constrain tyrants.

Trump and Putin have convinced me I was mistaken.

6. Advances in warfare, such as cyber-warfare and precision weapons, will minimize civilian casualties. I was wrong.

I was persuaded by specialists in defense strategy that it no longer made sense for sophisticated powers to target civilians.

Utterly wrong. Civilian casualties in Ukraine are huge. Meanwhile, since October 7, 2023, Benjamin Netanyahu has created a bloodbath in Gaza as well — another arena where xenophobia and a “strongman” unconstrained by democratic norms have wrought havoc.

7. Democracy is inevitable. I was wrong about this, too.

I formed this belief in the late 1990s, after the Soviet Union had imploded and China was still poor. It seemed to me that totalitarian regimes didn’t stand a chance in the new technologically driven, globalized world. Sure, petty dictatorships would remain in some retrograde regions of the world. But modernity came with democracy, and democracy with modernity.

Both Trump and Putin have shown how wrong I was on this, too.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians have demonstrated that Trump’s and Putin’s efforts to turn back the clock on the 21st century can be addressed only with a democracy powerful enough to counteract autocrats like them.

They have also displayed with inspiring clarity that democracy cannot be taken for granted. Democracy is not a spectator sport. It’s *not* what *governments* do. Democracy is what *people* do.

The resistance to Putin in Ukraine should remind us that democracy survives only if people are willing to sacrifice for it.

Some sacrifices are smaller than others. You may have to stand in line for hours to vote, as did tens of thousands of Black people in America’s 2020 and 2022 elections. You may have to march and protest and even risk your life so others may vote, as did iconic civil rights leaders like the late John Lewis and Martin Luther King Jr.

You may have to knock on hundreds of doors to get out the vote. Or organize thousands to make your voices heard. And stand up against the powerful who don’t want your voices heard.

You may have to fight a war to protect democracy from those who would destroy it.

The people of Ukraine have also reminded us that democracy is the single most important legacy we have been bequeathed by previous generations who strengthened it and risked their lives to preserve it. It will be the most significant legacy we leave to future generations — unless we allow it to be destroyed.

Putin and Trump have convinced me I was wrong about how far we had come in the 21st century. Technology, globalization, and modern systems of governance haven't altered the ways of tyranny.

In a few weeks, we will see how much the people of the United States value democracy — for ourselves, for Ukrainians, and for others around the world.

NEW MEMBERS

December Misty Haji-Sheikh Jovan Jackson Jonathan Jones Iman Joseph Babette Seuman Nana Jimmy Vega Launa Waldrop	January Tricia Braxton Mikki DeJurnett Lynn Wolfe	February Madilyn Cole Judge Cynthia Cruz Melynda Flaggard Julia Salas	March Joe Dalia Assemblyman Max Carter Michael Haji-Sheikh Venise Karris Mishon Montgomery Assesblyman Duy Nguyen Deidre Radford Maura Shapiro Nancy Sherer	April Christine Datian
May/June	July Tea Dahlby Rosa Mendoza	August Tonia Holmes-Sutton Alexandra McLeod Tina Past Iris Revels	September Heidi Foglia Ashley Lovell Jason Smith Staci Walters	October Kathy Blair Ashley Dotson John Kubota Amanda Throne

November

Thursday - November 14th

Election of 2025 Board

2024 Election Recap with
Jon Ralston

December

No Meeting in December

Saturday—December 14th

Annual Holiday Party
Must RSVP

January

Thursday - January 9th

Installation of 2025 Board

Program to be Announced

Letters From An American By Heather Cox Richardson

Former Republican representative Liz Cheney of Wyoming joined Vice President Kamala Harris on a stage hung with red, white, and blue bunting and signs that said “Country Over Party.” As Cheney took the stage, the crowd chanted, “Thank you, Liz!” The two were on the campaign trail today in Ripon, Wisconsin, the town that claims to be the birthplace of the Republican Party. It was in that then-tiny town in 1852 that Alvan E. Bovay, who had recently emigrated from New York, called for a new political party to stand against slavery.

The idea of a new party took off in 1854 when it became clear the Kansas-Nebraska Act permitting the westward expansion of human enslavement would become law. When they met in February of that year, people in Ripon were early participants in the movement of people across the North to defend democracy. Rather than standing against slavery alone, those organizing in 1854 stood against an entire political system, opposing the small group of elite enslavers who had taken over the U.S. government in order to establish an oligarchy and were quite clear they rejected the self-evident truth in the Declaration of Independence that all men were created equal. Instead, they intended to rule over the nation’s majority, whose labor produced the capital that southern leaders believed only elites should control.

In the face of this existential threat to the country, party divisions crumbled.

Pundits have described today’s event as a component of Harris’s ongoing outreach to Republicans, and in part, it is. That outreach, begun under President Joe Biden and continuing even more aggressively under Harris, is bearing fruit as in an open letter today, two dozen Republican former officials and lawmakers in Wisconsin endorsed Harris and her running mate Minnesota governor Tim Walz. “We have plenty of policy disagreements with Vice President Harris,” the Republicans wrote. “But what we do agree upon is more important. We agree that we cannot afford another four years of the broken promises, election denialism, and chaos of Donald Trump’s leadership.”

Lately, there have been indications of what returning Trump to office might mean.

On Tuesday, Trump suggested that the U.S. soldiers who sustained traumatic brain injuries (TBI) when Iran attacked an Iraqi base where they were stationed were not truly injured, but simply had “headaches.” Trump’s statement brought back to light a 2021 CBS report by Catherine Herridge and Michael Kaplan that found the injured soldiers had not been recognized with a Purple Heart, awarded to service members wounded or killed in the line of duty, despite qualifying for it. This slight meant they were denied the medical benefits that come with that military decoration.

The soldiers told Herridge and Kaplan that they were pressured to downplay their injuries to avoid undercutting Trump’s attempt to keep the casualty numbers in that incident low. With the story back in the news, Kaplan posted that after the report, the Army awarded the soldiers the Purple Hearts they deserved.

Journalist Magdi Jacobs recalled the argument of Trump’s lawyers before the Supreme Court that Trump could not prod a SEAL team to assassinate a rival because service members would adhere to the rules of their institutions. The Army officers’ bowing to Trump’s political demands proved that argument was wrong and set off “[m]ajor alarm bells,” Jacobs posted, suggesting that the military would not stand firm against Trump in a second term, especially now that the Supreme Court says a president cannot be prosecuted for crimes committed as part of official duties.

Scott Waldman and Thomas Frank of Politico’s *E&E News* covering energy and the environment reported today that two former White House officials said that Trump was “flagrantly partisan” when responding to natural disasters. One said that in 2018 Trump refused to approve disaster aid after wildfires to California, perceiving it as a Democratic state. To get disaster money, the aide showed Trump polling results revealing

that Orange County, which had been badly damaged in the fires, “had more Trump supporters than the entire state of Iowa.”

Defending the Big Lie that Trump had won the 2020 presidential election, former Colorado county clerk Tina Peters in 2021 gave a security badge to a man associated with MyPillow owner Mike Lindell to enable him to breach the county’s voting systems in an unsuccessful attempt to find evidence of voter fraud. A jury found Peters guilty of four felonies related to the scheme. Today, District Court Judge Matthew Barrett sentenced Peters to nine years in prison.

But there are other stories these days of what the government can accomplish when it is focused on the good of all Americans.

About 45,000 dock workers in the International Longshoremen’s Association went on strike Tuesday when the union could not reach an agreement with the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) employer group over a new contract. The strike shut down 36 ports from Maine to Texas, affecting about half the country’s shipping just as the areas hammered by Hurricane Helene desperately needed supplies. Dockworkers wanted a pay increase of up to 77% over six years and better benefits, as well as an end to the automation that threatens union jobs.

President Joe Biden reiterated his support for collective bargaining despite the threat to an economic slowdown from the strike. The *Wall Street Journal* editorial board excoriated Biden and the union, saying: “President Biden wants unions to have extortionary bargaining power, and he’s getting a demonstration of it on election eve. Congratulations.”

But today the International Longshoremen’s Association suspended the strike after USMX agreed to wage increases of 62% over six years. The two sides agreed to extend the current contract until January 15 to address the issues of benefits and automation. Administration officials White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients, top White House economic advisor Lael Brainard, Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg helped broker the temporary agreement.

The government’s power to make things better is also on display amid the rubble and ruin left behind by Hurricane Helene. Yesterday evening, after taking an aerial tour of western North Carolina to survey the damage and receiving a briefing in Raleigh, President Biden thanked both “the Republican governor of South Carolina and the Democratic governor of North Carolina and all of the elected officials who’ve focused on the task at hand. In a moment like this, we put politics aside. At least we should put it all aside, and we have here. There are no Democrats or Republicans; there are only Americans. And our job is to help as many people as we can as quickly as we can and as thoroughly as we can.”

Biden explained that the federal government had 1,000 first responders in place before the storms hit, and that he had approved emergency declarations as soon as he received the requests from the governors. Yesterday he directed the Defense Department to move 1,000 soldiers to reinforce North Carolina’s National Guard to speed up the delivery of supplies like food, water, and medicine to isolated communities, some of which are accessible now only by pack mule.

He has already deployed 50 Starlink satellites for communication, and more are coming.

Teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency are offering free temporary housing, as well as delivering food and water. They are helping people apply for the help that they need.

While Trump and MAGA Republicans insist that Biden is botching the response to Helene, CNN fact checker Daniel Dale noted that the response has gotten bipartisan praise. Republican governors Henry McMaster of South Carolina and Glenn Youngkin of Virginia both thanked Biden by name for what McMaster called a “superb” response.

So today's bipartisan event in Ripon suggests far more than Democratic outreach to Republicans. It appears to be a commitment to a government that advances the interests of ordinary people, and protects the right of everyone to be treated equally before the law and to have a say in their government. Republican Abraham Lincoln articulated this worldview for his fledgling party in 1859 as it took a stand against oligarchs. Believing these principles accurately represented the aspirations of the nation's founders, Lincoln called them "conservative." People from all parties rallied to the party that promised to defend those principles.

"The president of the United States must not look at our country through the narrow lens of ideology or petty partisanship or self-interest," Harris said today. "The president of the United States must not look at our country as an instrument for their own ambitions. Our nation is not some spoil to be won. The United States of America is the greatest idea humanity ever devised: the nation that inspired the world to believe in the possibility of a representative government. And so in the face of those who would endanger our magnificent experiment, people of every party must stand together."

"In this election, putting patriotism ahead of partisanship is not an aspiration. It is our duty," Cheney said. "I ask all of you here and everyone listening across this great country to join us. I ask you to meet this moment. I ask you to stand in truth, to reject the depraved cruelty of Donald Trump.

"And I ask you instead to help us elect Kamala Harris for president. I know...that...a president Harris will be able to unite this nation. I know that she will be a president who will defend the rule of law, and I know that she will be a president who can inspire all of our children—and if I might say so, especially our little girls—to do great things. So help us right the ship of our democracy so that history will say of us, when our time of testing came, we did our duty and we prevailed because we loved our country more."

OPINION: Presidential Campaigns Work at ‘Turning’ Nevada

By John L. Smith



(Vice President Kamala Harris speaks to members of the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 on Jan. 3, 2024. (Jeff Scheid/The Nevada Independent))

As if Sunday’s scheduled [campaign stop](#) in Las Vegas by Vice President Kamala Harris weren’t a clear enough sign that all roads lead to Nevada in the 2024 presidential campaign, canvassers for both presidential candidates are busy searching to secure votes that just might be the difference-makers in November.

The national press is weighing in on the importance of Nevada in the electoral fight and the efforts of both candidates to pull off an effective ground game. Much of the attention is directed at the efforts of the political behemoth Culinary Workers Union Local 226. And for good reason. Its system of energetic and bilingual neighborhood sweeps is campaign tested.

More recently, the conservative [Libre Initiative](#) has also made news. Working in 13 states including Nevada, it is attempting to contact

and collect votes from Latinos that Democrats have long counted on for years.

Despite ample news coverage of outreach to new constituencies, and even stories that raise the specter of former President Donald Trump’s campaign foundering in a standard door-to-door canvassing of voters, I don’t think the former president is interested in courting new constituencies much. He’s drilling deeper into the base to hook disaffected voters and attracting those who’ve never cast a ballot.

In Las Vegas, former Trump voters, including some who have mothballed their MAGA hats, are already hearing from canvassers representing [Turning Point Action](#) a 501(c)(4) group, the political arm of Turning Point USA and its founder Charlie Kirk. Once known as a wunderkind of the far right devoted to firing up conservatives on high school and college campuses, Kirk continues to expand his political brand with incendiary rhetoric and positions reflective of Project 2025 and Trump’s talking points.

In 2020, Kirk emerged as a [prince of misinformation](#) after promoting untethered voter fraud claims on Trump’s behalf. With help from GOP megadonors, Turning Point USA has seen its annual revenues grow to \$40 million in recent years with its TPAAction.org increasingly relied on to bolster a flat-footed, ineffective ground game.

The challenge in 2024 appears to be how best to, as they put it, “chase the votes.” Not by invoking memories of the fraudulent “Stop the Steal” effort in the wake of the 2020 presidential election. Not by waxing nostalgic about those misunderstood Jan. 6 patriots. Or by acknowledging that, for a self-styled super-Christian Trump sure sounds like a felonious flim-flam man who has lost his mojo. Nothing of the sort.

At a recent Turning Point Action training seminar in Arizona, representatives from key battleground states assembled to learn the newspeak and skills believed necessary to persuade disaffected voters to set aside a mountain of contrary evidence and remember the good times during the Trump administration. Attendees received [Chase the Vote](#) “Bibles” containing impressive plot maps and instructions with a stated goal of “Mobilizing America’s Freedom Fighters to Chase Every Ballot.” Not to mention “Reclaiming America.”

This time they’re downplaying the wide-eyed outrage and veiled threats to democracy that marked 2020’s efforts.

Just play it cool and get that low-propensity voter off the couch and out to vote early.

That's another irony of this campaign season. Last election's bugaboos about the clear-and-present dangers of ballot harvesting and casting [mail-in ballots](#) have become an important part of team Trump's 2024 game plan. In the Arizona session, there was also talk of adding ballot drop-offs at cooperating churches and using other strategies that have been effective for Democrats.

What impressed my attendee was the attention to detail and precision of the canvassing training effort. TPA volunteers and paid staff, who I'm told make as much as \$1,500 a week, aren't just knocking on doors and chatting up anyone who answers, but making specific requests. With so many registered nonpartisans in Nevada, that precision is important.

And one more thing.

"We were told to make sure you only talk to the person you're looking for," one attendee says. "And never talk to a Democrat, you might wind up getting them out to vote."

That's because the race promises to be close.

About this time four years ago President Joe Biden had a 6.4 percentage point lead over Trump, according to a [fivethirtyeight.com](#) poll analysis. Biden beat Trump by fewer than 34,000 votes, or about 2.39 percent.

Setting aside the [enthusiasm](#) that has accompanied Harris' entry into the race, there's a good reason an [ABC News website](#) surmises that "This could be the closest presidential election since 1876." Entering this weekend, Harris led Trump by just 2.6 points (48.4-45.8 percent), according to the [fivethirtyeight.com](#) analysis. That's not only within anyone's margin of error, but it makes Biden's 2020 late-September advantage look like a blowout in a race that finished relatively tight.

In other words, all roads lead to Nevada, but the race here will be won door by door.

If the enthusiastic Democrats plan to spread their own joy on Election Day, they'll need to chase all their votes, and leave no one on the couch.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Readers Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print
2025

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Facebook _____ Twitter _____

Instagram _____ Date of Birth _____

I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes []
(Only a registered Democrat can be a member)

General Membership: \$35 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Past WDC Presidents and Current Students: \$15 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund Donation: Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash [] Online []

I am interested in participating on the following Committees:
(you will be notified if there are vacancies available)

Ambassador Committee [] Candidate Donation Distribution Committee [] Communications/Media []

Thank You For Joining
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