



President's Message

Hello from your Englewood Democratic Club! This is not really a letter, but a collection of random thoughts:

- ♦ America was traumatized Tuesday, May 24th by another mass shooting just ten days after the one in Buffalo. Republicans' unwillingness to call for gun reform has compounded the tragedy. This gun-obsessed culture has to change. I ask all EDC members and friends to call these Republicans and urge them to support gun control.

Marco Rubio: 305-596-4224

Rick Scott: 202-224-5274

Ron DeSantis: 850-717-9337

- ♦ If you live in Sarasota County, please go to sarasotavotes.gov where you can find important information about the upcoming elections. If you live in Charlotte County, please go to <http://www.soecharlottecountyfl.gov/>. In addition you can update your Vote by Mail application and Register to Vote. I think it would be a good idea to check your Vote by Mail status to see if you need it updated because some voters status' has expired.
- ♦ A Celebration of Life will be held on June 10, 2022, for Ceil McCloy. Details of the services are as follows:
Service: June 10, 10:00 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 701 North Indiana Ave. Englewood
Luncheon: June 10, 11:30 AM at Boca Royale Country Club, 1601 Englewood Road, Englewood
- ♦ Please RSVP no later than June 3rd to Dave Dobson at dcdobson@aol.com or Nancy Shoemaker at njshoemaker@comcast.net.
- ♦ Sarasota School Board Candidate Lauren Kurnov has provided the EDC with yard sign for her campaign. If you would like to display her sign, please contact David Evans at 941-223-7789 to arrange a pick-up. If you are willing to help erect these signs, David could use your help. The Sarasota School Board election is August 23, 2022.
- ♦ Take a look below to see the new book recently published from our own Tony Dunbar who is an EDC board member.



Upcoming Events

Voter Registration every Monday from 10:00–12:00 at Elsie Quirk Library on 100 W. Dearborn St. Contact chriskenealy@msn.com if you would like to volunteer.

Drinking Liberally on Thursday, June 2nd starting at 4:30 at Paraiso Mexican Grill, 2639 Placida Rd. Englewood. To sign up, contact Karn at cunninghamkarn@gmail.com or Joanie at jchilllis@gmail.com.

EDC Supports Small Business Contest Winners

The EDC honors and supports the winners of the Small Business Contest. Memory Care Solutions may be a life-saver to you or someone that you know that is struggling with a family member with dementia. Spread the word!

Mango Bistro has **wonderful food** and has allowed our club to meet for our Coffee Time. Bring your friends and family for a delicious breakfast or lunch. Better yet, tell all your friends.

Fduhgj#ir#d#p l#p hp eh#z kr#v#xihubj#
iurp #ghp hqwd#v#g#l#f#o#r#u#k#h#f#d#h#j#y#h#b#g#
wkh#shuvrq#v#xihubj#i###

Don't do it all alone!

MEMORY CARE SOLUTIONS, LLC

Memory Care Solutions can provide healthcare management, dementia support and assessment and education as well as other services for seniors.

Memory Care Solutions, LLC, has worked as a community educator with the Alzheimer's Association as well as pro-bono services for individuals.

CALL (941) 460-0395

Email: MemoryCareSolutions@gmail.com

Website: <https://memorycaresolutions.net/>

Mango Bistro!

Mango Bistro is the place where the Englewood Democratic Club has chosen to hold our Coffee Time because of the terrific food and welcoming staff.



The Mango Bistro offers a variety of freshly made specialty foods in a fun atmosphere that includes a colorful decor, artful gifts and world music. They love to create foods that are as inventive as they are authentic. They specialize in combining fresh ingredients in flavorful ways, always looking out for optimum taste and freshness.

301 W. Dearborn St. — (941) 681-3500

Upcoming Events (continued)

Coffee Time on Tuesday, June 21st at 9:15 at Mango Bistro at 301 W. Dearborn. This is a happy time to spend with like-minded folks. Please RSVP to Karn at cunninghamkarn@gmail.com

EDC Membership Meeting on Wednesday, June 22nd at 5:30 via Zoom. Sign up at www.englewooddemclub.org Our speaker will be Andrea Kale from District 17 who is running against Republican Rep. Greg Steube.

Adopt-A-Road — Clean up Pine Street on Saturday June 18th at 9:30. Please let David Evans know if you can help. Drboxster01@aol.com.

Tony Dunbar has a Great NEW BOOK!

The Story of the Sarasota Assassination Society

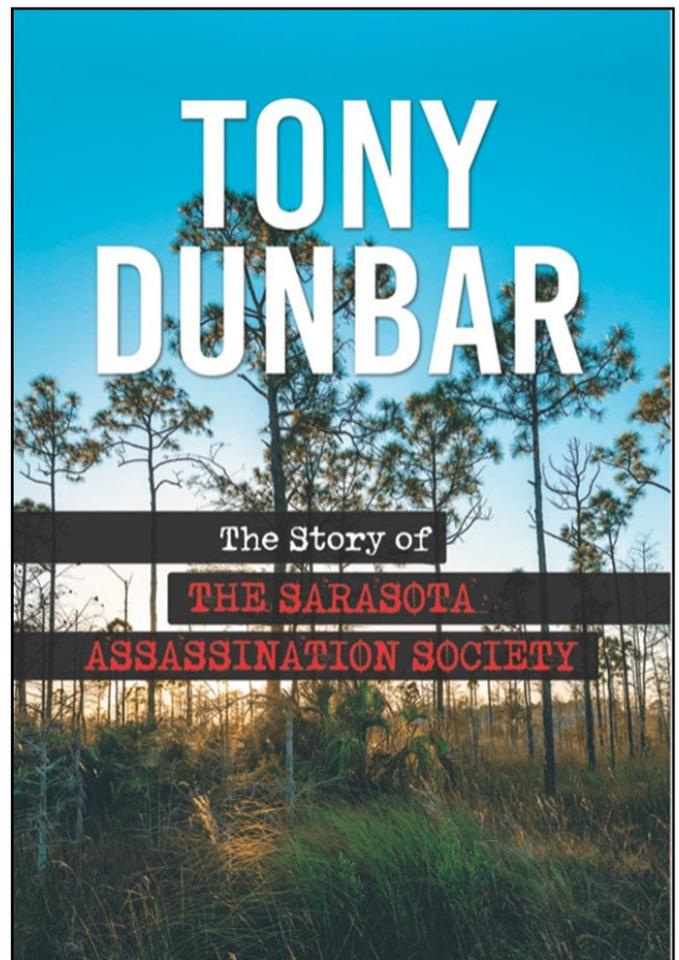
A work of historical fiction, this is the first in a series of Florida Fables set in and around Sarasota, following Gawain MacFarlane's storied career as a lawyer. All these novels are based on true crimes and events.

Advance Praise:

Tony Dunbar has managed a deft blend of fact and fiction in his latest novel, *The Story of the Sarasota Assassination Society*. He paints a fascinating portrait of the good, the bad, and the ugly of Sarasota during its pioneer days, and it makes for a great read...Jeff LaHurd, author of *Hidden History of Sarasota & Gulf Coast Chronicles*

The illimitable Tony Dunbar charges forward with another spectacular work, this time a historical fiction—a Southern, as this new genre is being called--about the most alluring of places, Old Florida. Lovingly researched and beautifully imagined, Dunbar brings to life a history that cannot stay buried, a moving and explosive story of murder, love, and redemption in the bizarre and rich landscape of the frontier. This fateful and gripping story is about the dramatic entanglements that kill us and those that save our lives...Janisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood & Wild Spectacle*

Ever the consummate storyteller, Tony Dunbar power-dives into Florida history to produce a crime thriller that makes you want to say, "Wow! That really happened here?" Can't wait to see how the series unfolds! Julie Smith, *Edgar Award* winning author of bestselling mystery series featuring *Skip Langdon* and *Rebecca Schwartz*.



You can buy the paperback from your bookstore or directly from Blind Pass Publications, LLC. <http://blindpasspublications.com/>

You may also order the paperback or Kindle version from Amazon at:

[Tony Dunbar](#)

The Story: In the early days, Sarasota was a tropical outpost for cowboys and mullet fishermen. In the 1880s, as “pioneers” with money began moving in from the North, jealousies, political differences and greed gave rise to a secret Vigilance Society whose members plotted to assassinate competitors and foes. The murder of the town’s first postmaster launched young Gawain MacFarlane’s tireless pursuit of the assassins across the wild scrub prairies of Southwest Florida. At the end of the chase, he was able to answer the question that has plagued historians since — what the true motive behind this murderous conspiracy was

Forthcoming Florida Fables:

The Story of the Sarasota Celery Fields and other Mysteries
The Story of Whiskey Corners

We Appreciate and Thank all our Readers!

**CHECK OUT THESE LINKS FOR
MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP**

Click [HERE](#) for the Charlotte County Democratic Party website.

Click [HERE](#) for the Sarasota County Democratic Party website.

Click [HERE](#) for the Englewood Democratic Club website.

Click [HERE](#) for the Englewood Democratic club Facebook page.

**The following articles are from
the Sarasota County Democratic Precinct Newsletter.
It was so good, we needed to share!**



Our Hearts Are Ripped Out....Again and Again

We have been awed and inspired by the courageous Ukrainian people, supported by much of the world, uniting against Putin's genocidal invasion. Then came the massacres in Tops Market, Buffalo, and Robb Elementary, Uvalde. We are appalled by the paralysis of our legislative bodies, with Republican legislators in thrall to NRA cash and the radical right wing agenda of the GOP. We grieve the politicization of the Judicial branch of our government. Two branches needed for checks and balances are out of balance.

Time for a reset.

Nonetheless, Democrats are working for commonsense gun safety legislation. Nonetheless, Democrats are working to protect women's rights to make decisions over their own health and autonomy. Democrats are fighting for equal freedom and equal respect for all Americans--freedoms with responsibilities to self as well as community.

We see the fault lines in Florida--the ugly actions by the Governor and Republican-controlled Legislature. And right at home here in Sarasota County--uproar at School Board meetings and a developer-dominated County Commission.

Some might despair that "*all parties are the same; nothing will ever change; why bother to vote?*" But in 2022, that is far from true. The parties re NOT the same. Democratic candidates offer a profoundly different set of values and vision for positive change. Meet our local candidates, below, by clicking on their websites. Each one of us must vote, **in the August 23rd and November 8th** elections, for good change. Join us to work for change, even if just by informing our families, friends and neighbors.

If you have not signed up to Vote by Mail, please do it now.

If you are not volunteering with the Democratic Party or for a candidate you support, please do it now.

Work to save democracy, now.

VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS ARE MAILED JULY 14 AND CANNOT BE FORWARDED. BE SURE YOUR CORRECT SUMMER ADDRESS IS ON FILE WITH THE ELECTIONS OFFICE.

UNIFY AGAINST EXTREMISM Before It Destroys Our Schools

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Non-partisan school board elections should be ONLY about quality education for all our children, but the school board has been politicized by Republican politicians Joe Gruters, Bridget and Christian Ziegler, and powers on the far right whose agenda is to subvert public education and divert taxpayer money to for-profit charter schools that are not under local control. This is no wild conspiracy theory, but an actual campaign funded by millions of dark

dollars from for-profit charter school operatives with ties to vested interests in Tallahassee.

Are you one of the exhausted majority of voters who have had it with political chaos and right-wing extremism in Sarasota County? With chaotic school board meetings purposely disrupted by a small vocal faction thrusting Sarasota into embarrassing national news? Seize this moment for a major reset in Sarasota County politics. Start with the School Board elections on August 23rd. ALL voters in the county vote in all 3 elections to elect 3 new school board members.

What is the school privatization agenda?

1. Propagandize non-existent culture war issues.
2. Found, fund, and incite fringe groups to disrupt school board meetings. District 1 candidate Bridget Ziegler founded Moms for Liberty, a group that stokes the chaos against the school board she sits on. See her on Fox News throwing Sarasota schools under the bus.
3. Falsely accuse moderate school board members of communism, perversion, and various other ridiculous yet atrocious things.
4. Intimidate teachers and administrators via DeSantis Administration anti-public school edicts and punitive financial penalties.
5. Appoint Manny Diaz, Jr. Commissioner of Education. Ultraconservative Diaz, who worked for a for-profit charter corporation, has conflicts of interest.
6. Elect right-wing school board members. If Bridget Ziegler wins re-election and one more privatizer is elected, our school board tips.

Presto! Quality public education—for every child, from every kind of family background—is simply GONE.

Skeptical? Attend a school board meeting and just listen. And then come together to elect the strongest pro-public education candidates: **Singleton, Kurnov & Cietek**. No extremists here, just deep experience in public education, commonsense educational ideas to benefit every single child, and determination to preserve taxpayer dollars from plundering.

Take Action:

Tell our School Board to Vote NO on for-profit charters: Schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net

Rally against a for-profit school application in North Port:



June 7, 2022 □ 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm □ Sarasota

Stop Wellen Park Charter School USA Rally!

Please attend this important rally prior to the School Board meeting at their Chambers to stop Charter School USA from setting up a for-profit managed charter school in Wellen Park, North Port. [Details & Sign up here.](#)

MEET THESE FINE CANDIDATES

on Your August 23 Ballot

(Vote By Mail Ballots mailed July 14)

Sarasota County School Board

Every voter in the county votes in each of 3 elections for 3 seats

Dawnyelle Singleton, District 1 singleton4schoolboard.com

Lauren Kurnov, District 4 laurenkurnov.com

Nora Cietek, District 5 electnora.com

Democratic Primary

Board of County Commissioners, District 2

Fredd Atkins <https://www.freddatkins.com/>

Hagen Brody <https://www.facebook.com/MayorBrody/>

Mike Cosentino <https://www.ilikemikesrq.com/>

Sarasota City Commission

Jen Ahearn-Koch <http://website> <https://voteforjen.org>

Sheldon Rich <http://www.SheldonRichForSarasota.com>

Debbie Trice <http://www.DebbieFortheCity.com>

Newsletter Info

Send comments, suggestions and articles to englewooddemclub@gmail.com.



June 7, 2022 □ **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**
□ **Sarasota Housing Crisis Town Hall**

Fogartyville Center invites you to a Housing Crisis Town Hall sponsored by the Sarasota County Democratic Party. We'll focus on ways out of the current housing crisis. It's time to listen, talk about solutions, and get organized! [Details & Sign up here.](#)



Culture Wars, Corruption and Chaos

2022 Florida Legislative Session/Special Session Update

The Republicans conducted a master class in performative politics, passing bills that addressed imaginary problems while neglecting to address the real problems that confront our state. They continued heartless and cruel attacks on the LGBTQ community, women, the poor, and communities of color. These bills would have been even worse, if not for the efforts of our Democratic legislators. Much of the session was wasted on the culture wars, debating bills that are divisive and hurtful. Just plain mean.

Bills that have been signed by the Governor

- Book banning in schools (HB1467).
- Prohibit teachers and children from discussing / acknowledging gender identity (HB1557).

- Prohibit schools from teaching anything that may make a student feel responsible for “historical wrongs”.
- Prohibit businesses from conducting sensitivity or diversity training (HB7).
- SB758 & HB225 - These bills greatly diminish the power of local school boards to authorize and supervise charter schools. Charter schools will be supervised by the FL Department of Education, headed by Manny Diaz, tied to the "for Profit" charter school industry.

These bills will result in costly litigation, allowing parents to sue teachers, school systems, and employers. Court challenges may lead to costly litigation that taxpayers pay for.

- A 15 week abortion ban, HB5, was also passed, with no provision for rape, incest, or human trafficking.

Corruption was the driving force of this legislative session. Industry lobbyists and legislators wrote and promoted legislation that benefited themselves:

- Nursing home industry lobbyists' bill decreases the time CNA's must spend with patients by 20% (SB804).
- “Big Ag” environmental legislation takes control of the Everglades Restoration Project from SFWMD and gives to the next Commissioner of Agriculture, a 5-generation Florida farmer (SPB 2508).
- DeSantis' \$500 million Emergency Response slush Fund, under his sole discretion (SB 96).

Voter suppression remains a high priority for the Republican legislators. SB524 creates a new election police force to investigate voter fraud; 15 investigators and 10 sworn peace officers from FDLE under Secretary of State Cord Byrd. Byrd, who expresses extremist beliefs and racism, belittled and swore at members of the House Black Caucus during session. The governor rewarded him by naming him Secretary of State, a powerful Cabinet position that presides over elections throughout Florida. Republicans ceded to the wishes of DeSantis and passed a new Congressional map that will decrease the Florida Black Congressional delegation by half, giving Republicans a 20-8 majority in the US House of Representatives. The map and some aspects of SB524 are currently being challenged in court.

Bills awaiting signature as of May 23, 2022

- SB620 - Businesses can sue local governments if a local rule causes a 15% decrease in its profits and severely limits home rule.
- SB1796 - Curtails Alimony; mandates 50/50 child custody vs. what is in the best interest of the child. The bill is retroactive, leading to re-opening of tens of thousands of settled cases and the termination of income for mainly elderly women.

Bills that were vetoed

HB741 - Anti-solar, anti Net metering bill: vetoed by the Governor after extreme pressure from the public. Yes! Evidently public outcry worked.

Property Insurance Special Session, May 23, 2022

A Special Session addressed the property insurance crisis in Florida. None of the pending bills will offer direct relief to the public, but aim to stabilize the collapsing property insurance market in Florida.



Silly EDC women having some fun at Muriel Glaim's home. (l-r) Holly DeVogt, Joanie Hillis, Muriel Glaim, Karn Cunningham, Chris Kenealy