

# THE NEXT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025



A Democratic Party Newsletter Made for  
and by Gratiot County Members  
Chief Editors, Nancy O'Brien & Lisa Gregory



## Chair Chat

By Christie Freestone

**“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.”**

**--Plato**

As we confront the current state of our nation, we must face a harsh reality: Donald Trump, in his 2025 presidency, poses an existential threat to our democracy. His dangerous rhetoric, blatant disregard for the rule of law, and history of corruption have shown us exactly what kind of leader he is—one who prioritizes his own power over the well-being of the American people. If we fail to act, the chaos we have seen the first month of his second term will only intensify, pushing our country to the brink of authoritarianism.

Leadership requires competence, integrity, and the ability to make decisions that benefit the majority. Trump has failed on all counts. Since his inauguration on January 20, 2025, he has signed dozens of executive orders and presidential directives on topics including energy and the environment, immigration, international trade, foreign policy, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), transforming the civil service and federal government, and technology. Instead of choosing experts dedicated to the American people, Trump has appointed unqualified individuals based on their loyalty to him, with disastrous results.

Trump's hypocrisy knows no bounds—he calls for prosecuting political opponents while demanding immunity for his own crimes. He rants about law and order while inciting an insurrection and then pardons all criminals found guilty of breaking the law during that insurrection. He ran his 2024 campaign promising to lower prices and ease the financial burdens of working Americans. Yet, as soon as he took office, he shifted the blame for economic struggles onto Biden, despite Biden's administration successfully reducing inflation and stabilizing high prices. Instead of implementing policies to lower costs, he has further deregulated industries, allowing corporate greed to flourish at the expense of everyday Americans. This blatant reversal is yet another example of how Trump scams the American people—making grand promises to get elected and then refusing to take responsibility when he fails to deliver.

How do we bring truth to those who do not watch reliable news or fact-check Trump's statements? We must take the facts directly to them—through community engagement, social media activism, and persistent fact-based discussions. We cannot allow misinformation to go unchecked. We cannot afford to be complacent.

Here's how we can take action:

1. **Stay Informed** - Read credible news sources, educate your neighbors, and call out misinformation when you see it.
2. **Engage in Local Politics** - Attend county meetings, support progressive candidates, and hold officials accountable.
3. **Vote in Every Election** - Local, state, and national elections all matter. Encourage voter registration and fight voter suppression efforts.
4. **Organize and Mobilize** - Join grassroots movements, write to your representatives, and participate in peaceful protests.

Donald Trump and his administration are not just incompetent; they are dangerous. They spread lies, destabilize democratic institutions, and place our country's future at risk. We cannot look away and hope this chaos disappears. It is up to us—the citizens—to fight back, organize, and ensure that our democracy survives.

# POSTCARD WRITING PARTY

Join us for a fun and meaningful evening of postcard writing to make a political impact--one postcard at a time.

With our great bunch of Democratically inspired friends we can work together to encourage our legislators to act.

Bring your enthusiasm and let's make a difference - one postcard at a time!

<https://turnoutpac.org/postcards-faq/>



---

**February 10 | 4PM-6PM**

---

**GCDP Office**

---

1686 Wright Avenue, Alma

---

**Donations for postcard stamps are accepted and appreciated**

---



# 5 Calls

**Spend 5 minutes, make 5 calls**

**Make your voice heard**

**5calls.org**



## Find and contact your elected officials Use USAGov's Contact

Use USAGov's Contact Your Elected Officials tool to get contact information for your members of Congress, the president, and state and local officials.

[usa.gov/elected-officials](http://usa.gov/elected-officials)

# PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Renewing your membership is **quick and easy**, and it helps us to understand your interests and keep in touch. You can renew by doing **any** of the following:

1

Fill out the membership renewal form you received in the mail and return it using the self-addressed stamped envelope provided.

2

If we do not have your mailing address, you have been emailed a membership form. Just fill this out and return.

3

Go online to [gratiotdems.org](http://gratiotdems.org) and fill out a renewal registration form there.

If you have questions, give us a call at 989-285-1212 or stop in during office hours:  
Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 or Saturday from 10:00-12:00

## Crafting with the Dems



On January 23, we gathered to make "Retro Valentines Wreaths." Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and a chance to do a little crafting.

## FROSTY CANDLE CRAFTING



February 25  
4:00-6:00 PM

Join us at the office for our next craft workshop. Light up your winter evenings with a frosty candle or two. You bring a wide mouth clear jar or two and we provide the rest of the materials. The cost is \$15 to participate.

Best Wishes,  
Bobbie and  
Martin!



# MT DEMS

CALL TO CONVENTION

## Michigan Democratic State Convention February 22 | Detroit

### 2025 SPRING STATE CONVENTION



**Rural Caucus**  
Michigan Democratic Party

### RURAL SUMMIT 2025

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2025 RURAL SUMMIT  
THE GREAT RURAL REVIVAL  
April 10, 11 & 12th

Registration opens February 1

**NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS through March 31st!**

# **DOG/CAT FOOD & SUPPLIES NEEDED!**



**All proceeds Benefit  
the  
Gratiot County Humane Society**

Needed:  
Cat Food, Dog Food, Toys, Blankets, Treats,  
Cat Litter, etc.

**Donation Table in Office...**  
**CONTACT NANCY GOTT OR RENEE FAUSTMANN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE DONATIONS AFTER OFFICE  
HOURS**

[4ngott@gmail.com](mailto:4ngott@gmail.com) 989-444-8144

or

[charlie\\_nay@yahoo.com](mailto:charlie_nay@yahoo.com)

989-463-8530



**GLPA offers training for potential candidates. Check it out here.**



***The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. -Barack Obama***

## **Office Volunteers Needed**

We are seeking volunteers to staff our office Wednesdays from 4-6 and Saturdays from 10-12. Even committing to one shift per month will be a great help. In the difficult times ahead, we want to be available.

Sign up using the link, or contact us at 989-285-1212.

**[CLICK HERE TO  
SIGN UP TO  
VOLUNTEER AS  
AN OFFICE  
WORKER](#)**



# The Next Chapter: A Book Club By Nancy O'Brien

## *Sing for the Lonesome Messenger* 4.8/5 By David Edward Edwards

Our book club met on January 4 to discuss this book by a Michigan author and former managing editor of *The Mining Journal* in Marquette. It begins in Chicago and travels to the U.P. going forward and backward in time to cover generations of two families caught up in small town life on the edge of Lake Superior.

This work of fiction centers on a young woman trying to make a living as a newspaper reporter and her attempts to understand and write the stories of 2 men raised in a small town during the Great Depression through their present lives in a nursing home. It covers tragedies, dysfunctional family life, alcoholism, orphans, World War II, a shipwreck, a murder mystery, and supernatural elements.

Our members had a great discussion of this book and rated it 4.8 out of 5 stars.

## *The Frozen River* 5/5 By Ariel Lawhon

We discussed this novel at our meeting on February 1 at our office. This historical fiction story is based on the journals of a real-life midwife in the 1700s from Maine. The main character is a strong female in a time when women were seen and not heard, and whose value was summed up by how they served their families and husbands. Martha Ballard is respected and given a place of importance in her small town because of her skills as a midwife and healer.

Our book club members had a discussion about the power dynamics from the 1700s and how it seems that sometimes little has changed in our society regarding men and women's roles. It is a powerful book that covers themes of family, gender roles, justice, disabilities, and loyalty. Our group loved this book and gave it 5 out of 5 stars.

Our next meeting will be March 1 at 10:00 in our office in Alma. We will be discussing the book ***The Blue Hour*** by Paula Hawkins. All of these books are available at Ballyhoo Books in Alma.

### 2025 BOOK CLUB CHOICES

MARCH 1  
*The Blue Hour*  
Paula Hawkins

APRIL 5  
*By Any Other Name*  
Jodi Picoult

MAY 3  
*Becoming Madam Secretary*  
Stephanie Dray

JUNE 7  
*Look for the Lie*  
Amy Tintera

JULY 12  
*The Briar Club*  
Kate Quinn

AUGUST 2  
*Wrong Place Wrong Time*  
Gillian McAllister

SEPTEMBER 6  
*The Woman with the Cure*  
Lynn Cullen

OCTOBER 4  
*The Giver of Stars*  
Jojo Moyes

NOVEMBER 1  
*The Ballerina of Auschwitz*  
Edith Eger

DECEMBER 6  
*Christmas Bells*  
Jennifer Chiaverini

*You're  
Invited!*



**Have coffee with us!**



# Coffee with the Dems

**Join us the first Tuesday of each month**

**February 4 | March 4 | April 1**

**9AM**

**Ballyhoo Books | Alma**



# EVENTS



- **February 10** - Postcard Writing Party  
4-6 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office
- **February 17** - GCDP General Membership  
7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office
- **February 22** - Michigan Democratic Party State Convention  
Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center
- **February 25** - Frosty Candle Crafts  
4-6 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office
  
- **March 1** - The Next Chapter Book Club  
10 a.m. - Gratiot Dems office | *The Blue Hour* by Paula Hawkins
- **March 4** - Coffee with the Dems  
9 a.m. - Ballyhoo Books and Brew | Alma
- **March 17** - GCDP General Membership Meeting  
7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office
  
- **April 1** - Coffee with the Dems  
9 a.m. - Ballyhoo Books and Brew | Alma
- **April 5** - The Next Chapter Book Club  
10 a.m. - GCDP office | *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Piloult
- **April 10-12** - MDP Rural Caucus Summit | Sault Ste. Marie
- **April 21** - GCDP General Membership Meeting  
7 p.m. - Gratiot Dems office

[CLICK HERE OR  
SCAN THE CODE  
TO VISIT OUR  
CALENDAR!](#)



FOLLOW, SHARE, AND LIKE US  
ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA  
NETWORKS



[CLICK HERE OR  
SCAN THE CODE  
TO VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE](#)



**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday-Friday | 12 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturdays | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gratiot County Democratic Office  
1686 Wright Ave.  
P.O. Box 154  
Alma, MI

**CONTACT: 989-285-1212**  
[gratiotdems@gmail.com](mailto:gratiotdems@gmail.com)  
[gratiotdems.net](http://gratiotdems.net)