

## Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA



### Falmouth Democratic Town Committee news for month of October, 2017

This was a busy month for Falmouth Democrats with three events during October.

The first event was a presentation for the Upper Cape Democratic Coalition on October 5 at the Morse Pond School. The speaker was **Dr. John Holdren**, Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, Harvard University and Director Emeritus and Senior Advisor to the Director of the Woods Hole Research Center. **Dr. Holdren** was the Assistant to President Obama for Science and Technology and Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy from January, 2009 to January, 2017. His topic for the evening was, “Science and Environment in the White House. What did Obama do? What is Trump doing? What should we do?”



John Holdren and Megan English Braga

**Dr. Holdren's** power point presentation can be found by googling the Woods Hole Research Center and searching for “Holdren-Science-Environment-in-the-White-House.” You can download the presentation to review all that he said.

Some important points were: **President Obama** understood the centrality of science to the national agenda and wanted to restore science to its rightful place. **Trump** has no science advisor. **Obama** directed all government agencies to incorporate climate change preparedness and adaption to support resilience. **Trump** is removing protections for climate change and in his worst move, has withdrawn our country from the Paris Climate Agreement. **Holdren** has some optimism in that industry and the military see the importance of climate change preparedness, and he points out that the costs of responding to climate change are going down ( solar and wind power growing and cheaper). He also noted that innovation has been underestimated so it really will take less than we think to work on the issue. The real resistance to tackling the problem is ideological. Republicans hate regulations which are essentially “protections” for us all. So his recommendation is to elect more Democrats!! There is also a movement to keep states in the Paris Climate Agreement titled, “We’re Still In.” Our own representative, **Dylan Fernandes**, has cosponsored a bill titled, “ An Act Relative to Massachusetts Participation in the Paris Climate Agreement.”

Overall, it was very inspiring to learn how strongly **President Obama** supported science in the White House, and what good service **Dr. Holdren** provided to us all by being such a key member of the Obama White House and providing such excellent advice on all important science based topics for the former President. We can see what a vacuum we now have in the new administration of **President Trump** without any protections based in scientific understandings. And of course here on Cape Cod we need to pay good attention to climate change. This will be harder to do with the new administration.

Our second event of the month was a celebration of the life of **Thelma Goldstein** on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Art Guild. The date was chosen as it would have been the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Thelma Goldstein** who died in 2016. The event featured lots of tributes to Thelma, including one by **Bill Keating**, good food and drink, and a slide show of her Falmouth Democratic life prepared by **Martha Gillis**. Over 100 people attended



Crowd at Thelma Goldstein Celebration

and almost \$3000 was raised for the Thelma Goldstein Scholarship for a Falmouth High School Senior who displays civic engagement and interest in social sciences and political issues. **Judy Fenwick**, with the help of a strong committee, planned the quite wonderful event.



Planning Committee for TG celebration



Bill and Tevis Keating at TG celebration

Our final event for October was a presentation on October 25<sup>th</sup> by former State Senator **Dan Wolf** at our monthly meeting. He is the CEO and founder of Cape Air and has been busy for a number of months working in the Caribbean where many of his



Tom Moakley, first recipient of TG Scholarship

offices are located in the hurricane zone.

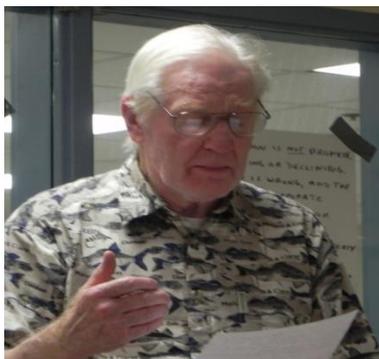
A number of speakers presented short topics before the **Wolf** talk. First, **Deb Rudolf**, spoke about her run for State Senator for Plymouth-Barnstable district. Next **Ben Gubits** spoke about overturning Citizens United. He works with a group, American Promise, that is trying to get a ballot question on the MA ballot to overturn Citizens United with a 28<sup>th</sup> amendment. The group needs 40,000 more signatures in the next four weeks in MA (a petition was circulated). An amendment requires 2/3 of Congress and 38 states for approval. This amendment, if passed, would help get money out of politics. Our Falmouth Town Meeting has approved the concept. If you are interested in helping this movement you can email



Ben Gubits

**Ben Gubits** at [beng@americanpromise.net](mailto:beng@americanpromise.net) or phone him at 508-612-

0438. Next **Judy Fenwick** reported on the **Thelma Goldstein** celebration as described above. She noted that anyone can continue to make contributions to the Thelma Goldstein Scholarship Fund through the FDTF. **Lou Turner** rose to speak about four petitions he is circulating, including one to raise the minimum wage and another to deal with paid medical leave. **Peter Waasdorp**



Lou Turner



Peter Waasdorp

announced the 11<sup>th</sup> standout on the Green this Saturday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. for Move to Remove. This weekend's standout will have a Halloween theme with Trump masks available. A speaker briefly



Deb Rudolf

discussed the Restorative Justice Omnibus Bill. Another speaker, **Cindi Bucken**, announced support for **Setti Warren** for Governor and mentioned she would hold a phone bank in East Falmouth, Mondays 6-8 pm on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> with weekly phone banks in January. You can email her at [cabucken@comcast.net](mailto:cabucken@comcast.net) if interested. **Nan Denton** spoke about the campaign in California started by **Tom Steyer** to impeach **Trump**. There is a petition circulating on the internet to sign to support this move.

**Senator Wolf** made important and relevant points. He urged Democrats to start out by “just telling the truth” and advocated a return to values we hold as key....values such as trust, honesty, fairness, inclusion, and equality. Our healthcare system is completely broken, opioids are a huge issue, and the key question is how can we maintain a democracy when 1% of the people hold so much of the country's wealth. Democrats say they “saved” the economy but the people who voted for **Trump** felt they did not find a role in the new economy. **Trump** is seeding incivility and lack of trust. He is a symptom of many of the problems in the country. **Wolf**

asked how we might take back our party to make it electable again. We need to stop making the economy our enemy. We can use it to create a good life. oversight. “



Dan Wolf

Questions for **Dan Wolf** from the crowd included questions on values, ways Democrats should be advertising themselves, the excessive length of campaigns, codes of conduct for campaigners, term limits, mandatory civics classes in high schools, etc. **Dan Wolf** noted the serious problem of homelessness in our country and the danger of the wealth of the **Koch** brothers. Other problems which we need to work on are gerrymandering and the healthcare morass. Overall Democrats have to work on “cognitive dissonance” which means we say one thing and create a reality that is another. We must articulate our vision in a better way. Finally he noted that we must hold our local representatives responsible at all times, holding their feet to the fire!

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, newsletter editor and photos by **Martha Gillis**, FDTC photographer.

### **Calendar Events of Interest**

Saturday, October 28th, Falmouth Town Green from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Rally for Move to Remove. Halloween theme with Trump masks available.

Thursday, November 2th at 7 p.m. Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA. An Evening with AG Maura Healey and Rev. Liz Walker on Justice and Healing, presented by the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2:30 pm, Falmouth Public Library. Program presented by the Falmouth League of Women Voters, "Extreme Events and Climate Change, Boston Area and Cape Cod: What we Know and What we Can Do. "

Thursday, November 9 at the Gus Canty Center, 7 to 9 p.m. Community Forum with Donald Terry and Troy Clarkson, "Politics in the Age of Trump."

Wednesday, November 15, at Gus Canty Center at 7 p.m., monthly meeting for FDTC.

Thursday, November 30 at Falmouth Academy, at 6 p.m. Showing of film *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* with comments by John Holdren.

December : FDTC Xmas Party, date and venue to be announced.

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**Annual membership Fiscal Year: April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018**

Name: Address:

Precinct:

Email Address:

Phone:

Elected Committee Member: \$25 a year

Associate Member: \$15 a year

Newsletter by U.S. Mail is \$10 extra a year

Total Donation: Please mail to FDTC, PO Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541

