

## *Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA*



### **Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Monthly Meeting: June 20, 2018**

**Megan English Braga**, Chair, called the meeting to order and introduced **Dan Gessen**, the recipient of the Thelma Goldstein Civic Engagement Award for this year. Dan actually skipped his high school graduation to attend the MA Democratic Convention this June. Over the summer he is working for **Julian Cyr** and will start as a sophomore this fall at UMass, Amherst on an ROTC Scholarship.



**Dan Gessen**

**Ann Stone**, chair of the Falmouth Gun Buyback Coalition, reported on the success of the recent gun buyback held at the Police Station with the aid of the Waquoit Congregational Church. This was a win win for our community as many individuals and organizations came together to support the buy back and many unwanted guns and ammunition were removed from the streets and destroyed.

**Judy Fenwick** announced she was leading the drive to elect **Jay Gonzalez** as the Democratic candidate for Governor to run against **Charlie Baker**. Please contact her for more information on meetings.

Our two speakers for the meeting were **Deb Goldberg**, State Treasurer of the Commonwealth, and the incumbent running for reelection, and **Ron Bergstrom**, running for Barnstable County Commissioner against **Ron Beaty**.



**Deb Goldberg and Skip McCormack**

**Deb Goldberg**, from Brookline and Falmouth, introduced herself by thanking **Skip McCormack**, of the FDTC, for the many years of friendship between their families and for his support in her election campaign. Her family business was running Stop and Shop until there was a hostile takeover in 1988. Her family used their business to stabilize the middle class by paying fair wages and feeling the moral responsibility to create opportunities for all workers.

She described how her own office, that of the State Treasurer, now runs currently on Beacon Hill. She has had a wage audit in her office so that there would be no wage gap among her 500 employees. She instituted 12 weeks of paid parental child leave and has a very diverse office. Her toughest job so far is to make sure that her 12 different departments are all working according to her values.

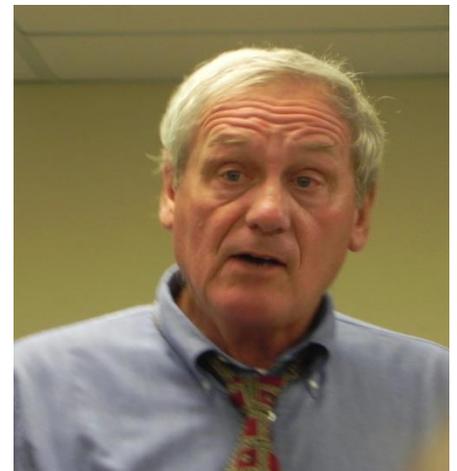
Another challenge is to implement successfully the state wide marijuana issue.

Some of her initiatives for the State include starting an Economic Empowerment Trust Fund which raises private resources for colleges and has seeded projects in poorer cities in MA. Her overall goal is to

connect with towns on their local issues, such as educational planning, and connect the mission of her office to the values of the local people. She has expanded programs to vets who have challenges, has targeted the needs of older folks, and has started programs to expand student financial literacy. She has filed a bill to divest from gun stocks. She advocates free community college and more vo tech schools. She is running against the Republican National Committeewoman and State Representative from Lakeville, Keiko Orrall, who is an anti-choice person. To sum up her job, as State Treasurer, the Legislature spends the money but she raises it.

When asked during the question and answer period to describe working for **Charlie Baker, Goldberg** noted that we need to think how he would become more conservative if he is reelected and thus not running again for office. She said that no Democrat should vote for him and that he is more conservative than he appears. We need to ask exactly what he has really accomplished at this point. She points to a need for concrete measure to create a stable middle class. Our MA economy is the best in the country but there is not enough revenue because of our debt. She also mentioned the need to give kids a more fundamental basis for literacy. She ended by advocating for women's empowerment through public and private partnerships.....examples are projects with Citizens Bank and our own Falmouth based advocacy group SWIFT (Supporting Women in Financial Transition).

Next we heard from **Ron Bergstrom**, running for Barnstable County Commissioner. He is running against **Republican Ron Beaty** and wants to counter the alt right views of **Beaty**. He advocates accessing federal and state funds so that towns across the Cape can share projects such as dredging, water management, Americorps, affordable housing, and The Children's Cove in an attempt to relieve individual towns of facing these burdens alone. The county can apply through **Elizabeth Warren** for funds to combat the drug epidemic. Towns can together use the Human Rights Commission mediation if needed. Bergstrom has lived on the Cape for 43 years, now in Chatham, where he has advocated for affordable housing, the bike path and Wastewater Managements Plans. Consult his website: [www.electronbergstrom.org](http://www.electronbergstrom.org) for further information.



Ron Bergstrom

Finally, **Sandy Faiman- Silva** updated us on a few matters. The millionaire's tax will not go on the state ballot, but the increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, the paid family and medical leave policy, and a provision for a state sales tax holiday have passed through the legislature and are on the way to Charlie Baker's desk.

In closing, **Megan English Braga** reminded us that we will have a local fundraiser for the FDTC election work ,( funding an office, etc.) in late July, and that our annual summer picnic will be August 15 at Dillingham Place. Details will be sent out via Dmail.

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

**Calendar:**

July: Fundraiser to be announced via Dmail.

August 15: Annual FDTC picnic at Dillingham Place, 6 pm. Details to follow via Dmail.

**FDTC Officers:**

Chair: **Megan English Braga** at 508-540-3434 Ext. 4 and attyme@gmail.com

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Treasurer: **David Barrat** at 508-392-9914 and dbarrat5@gmail.com

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Affirmative Action/Outreach Advisor: **Hugh Gregory** at 508-548-4696 and moohu38@yahoo.com



Dick Kendall at the FDTC meeting

**Please note that annual dues for April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 should be submitted as below. Contributions to the Thelma Goldstein Scholarship Fund can also be made at any time and submitted to the address below . Include the following:**

**Name: Address: Precinct**

**Email Address and Phone**

**Elected Committee Members: \$25 a year**

**Associate Member: \$15 a year Newsletter by U.S. mail is \$10 extra a year**

**If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, email David Barrat, Treasurer, contact noted above.**

**Please mail to FDTC, PO Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541**