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# Democratic Women's Forum of San Francisco

May/June 2010

*"I remember what it was like the first time my husband ran for the State Senate ... I think my feelings have always been much as they were the first time. I think I can say with honesty: "May what is best for the country happen today and may we all remember that whatever happens, this is just the beginning of some years of useful work!"*

Eleanor Roosevelt, My Day, November 5, 1940

## Sixty Seconds with the President

Another year ends; a new Board will be in place. Yesterday's promises are now reality. Have we been successful! Our membership says YES, but our hearts tell us we can and should do more. Health Reform, Immigration, Fiscal Responsibility, Education still continue to be front page issues. What are we waiting for – it's time to work to retire these issues to the back

p a g e s  
Joan Simmons, President

### DWF endorsements\* are as follows:

County Committee: 12th District

Mary Jung  
Hene Kelly  
Jane Morrison

County Committee: 13th District

Rafael Mandelman  
Carole Migden  
Debra Walker

Superior Court Judge, Seat 6 and Seat 15

No endorsements

Measures on San Francisco Ballot

Yes on A - School Facilities Special Tax  
Yes on B - Earthquake Safety and Emergency  
Response Board

State Ballot Propositions

No on Proposition 16 - Imposes New 2/3 Voter  
Approval Requirement for Local

Public Electricity

Providers

Statewide Elective Offices

Conspicuous, for the most part, by members not  
voting.

San Francisco Bay Area: U.S. House, State Senate,  
State Assembly

All endorsed: Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, Leland Yee,  
Fiona Ma & Tom Ammiano

### \*Special Notes:

Our bylaws require 60% of ballots cast for an  
endorsement.

In the 12th District there was wide sentiment for Ron  
Dudum, Milton Marks, Melanie Nutter, Connie  
O'Connor but not enough to endorse.

In the 13th District there was wide sentiment for Michael  
Goldstein and Linda Richardson but, again, not enough  
to endorse

Superior Court Judge, Seat 6 - Wide sentiment for Linda  
Colfax, but not enough to endorse.

Superior Court Judge Seat 15 - wide sentiment for  
Michael Nava, but not enough to endorse.

Joan Simmons, President and Counter  
Cheryl Willis, Recording Secretary and Counter

"The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still  
lives and the dream shall never die." –Ted Kennedy  
at the 1980 Dem.Nat'l Convention

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On March 10, 2010, the Nominations Committee  
(Cheryl Willis, Evelyn Wilson, Bernice Biggs, Lorrie  
Kalos, Jim Roe met to discuss the members to be  
solicited for officers and board members of the  
Forum. We arrived at a selection, and I contacted  
the proposed nominees. Prior to the April board  
meeting, one proposed candidate declined the  
position, and another current board member  
expressed an interest in retiring from the board. I  
continued to make inquiries of the proposed  
candidates from the original list of the Nominations  
Committee. The following members have agreed  
to stand for election, as follows:

President  
Vice President

Joan Simmons  
Paula Kitses

Vice President	Michelle Aldrich
Treasurer	Cynthia Travis
Corresponding Sec'y	MaryO'Riordan
Recording Sec'y	Cheryl Willis
Past President	Lorrie Kalos
Parliamentarian	Evelyn Wilson

Board Members: Dawn Walker, Carmen Campollo, Robin Brasso, Susan Flakus, Linda Richardson, Katie Hickox, Suzanne Bushnell

All will be installed at our Eleanor Roosevelt Luncheon, June 12. Invitations will be mailed around May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**"In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice ... the path of faith, the path of hope and the path of love toward our fellow men."--**

delivered by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, original source unknown

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#### **Social Security Isn't in "Crisis" – But, Older Women Are.**

By Stacy Sanders  
National Elder Economic Security Initiative  
March 27, 2010  
<http://wow-eesi.blogspot.com/2010/03/social-security-isnt-in-crisis-but.html>

This week, with health care reform passed, the [New York Times](#) speculated that Social Security, "the other big entitlement program," would be the next big program to "tackle," specifically within the context of reducing the nation's debt. Reports followed that suggest the program is in crisis, despite the fact that predictions show Social Security can pay benefits in full until 2037.

**With thirty years to attend to the program's ability to pay benefits, there's little evidence to suggest that Social Security is in trouble. On the contrary, there is real data that shows its beneficiaries, particularly older women, are in crisis. Though never intended to be the only source of income in retirement, many find themselves solely reliant upon Social Security**

**as they age. In fact, Social Security provides more than 90 percent of income to three out of ten retired elders. And, due to time spent out of the workforce for caregiving and lower lifetime wages, women are even more dependent on Social Security. Last year, the average annual Social Security payment was only \$11,316 for an older woman. According to the [Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index](#) (Elder Index), a new measure of what it costs to age in place, a single elder who rents needs \$20,248 to make ends meet, almost twice the average annual Social Security payment for women. Developed by [Wider Opportunities for Women](#) (WOW) and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the Elder Index is a bare-bones measure of basic needs in retirement.**

The data shows that, for older women, Social Security provides a life line. It offers a secure, reliable and necessary income base in retirement. But those who rely only on Social Security must make difficult sacrifices – such as choosing between groceries and essential medications or going without heat.

As Congress and the Administration take up the nation's deficit, they ought to consider the real, day-to-day crisis of our nation's older women. Doing so means making responsible choices to safeguard and strengthen Social Security benefits while addressing its long-term stability.

(contributed by Hene Kelly & Robin Brasso)



“Change does not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”  
- Barack Obama

### The ABC’s of Ageing Gracefully

**Avoid Collagen**

**Bloom late**

**Celebrate**

**Dance at Weddings**

**Eat more chocolate**

**Fall in love again**

**Go Grey**

**Hold hands**

**Inspire**

**Jettison grudges**

**Kiss like you meant it**

**Laugh**

**Mend fences**

**Nurture friendships**

**Open doors**

**Perspire with aplomb**

**Quit whining**

**Rekindle romance**

**Spoil babies**

**Teach someone to read**

**Upset convention**

**Volunteer**

**Wear red**

**eXpect joyu**

**Yield gracefully**

**Zing**

Introducing **Jeanmarie (Jeannie) Maher**  
“Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year”

Learning from her parents that one of the most important things any of us can do is to help those who can’t help themselves, **Jeannie Maher** was attracted to politics and civil liberties issues at an early age. She was on the student body government at the University of Santa Clara, involved as the university representative for the LBJ campaign, and she wrote her thesis (a requirement at a Jesuit university) on Supreme court decisions on civil rights, from *Plessy v. Ferguson* to *Brown v. Board of Education*. Law school was an option, but Jeannie found herself with a more enticing opportunity to work with educational programs in Asia through The Asia Foundation. And she was asked by the National Academy of Sciences to

coordinate a conference in Indonesia – despite the fact that her biology teacher told her she would never have a future in science.

Upon her return from visiting nine other Asian countries in addition to Indonesia, Jeannie began working full time with the Democratic Party, managing campaigns, handling press work, and fundraising. When the “charm” of politics lost its luster, she went to work for various large corporate law firms. Despite her intense work schedule, Jeannie was able to participate in three peace missions to Northern Ireland in conjunction with the American-based Irish Forum. Forum members met with representatives of government agencies charged with running Northern Ireland, heads of state, political leaders, peace advocates, and the leaders of the warring paramilitary factions. Jeannie remembers tanks in the streets of Belfast, armed soldiers on patrol turning 360 degrees with rifles at their shoulders, fingers on the trigger, and of people she met who were subsequently blown up. Now, the peace sought by the Irish Forum is a reality, and the Irish American Democratic Club which Jeannie heads in San Francisco is actively involved in passing a resolution in the California Legislature urging the reunification of Ireland.

### Meet Your Board♥

- ♥Joan Simmons, **President**
- ♥Paula Kitses **VP – Public Relations**
- ♥Julie Soo, VP – **Political Action/Endorsements**
- ♥Cynthia Travis, **Treasurer**
- ♥Mary O’Riordan, **Corresponding Secretary**
- ♥Cheryl Willis **Recording Secretary**
- ♥Lorrie Kalos, **Immediate Past President**
- ♥Evelyn Wilson, **Parliamentarian**
  
- ♥Marie Angell, **Legislative Chair**
- ♥Michelle Aldrich, **Legislation Co-Chair**
- ♥Marti Dinan, **Hostess Chair**
- ♥Katie Hickox, **Voter Registration Chair**
- ♥Nancy Larson, **ER Nominations Chair**
- ♥Membership Chair - Everyone
- ♥Patricia Montague, **Finance Chair**
- ♥Cheryl Willis, **Nominations Chair**
- ♥Dawn Walker, **Event Coordinator**

♥[Check us out at DWForum.org](http://DWForum.org)

♥[Renew or join us on-line!!!!!!](#)



Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year  
Luncheon, June 12, 2010  
Marine's Memorial Club  
Honoring Jeanmarie (Jeannie) Maher  
Plus Installation of Board, 2010-2011

You cannot afford to miss the drama!

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**Democratic Women's Forum**



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