

# C'VILLE DEMS

Join our  
Newsletter



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Website

## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (3/02/2023)

### 2 easy ways you can support Cville Dems today:

- Forward this to friends who aren't politically engaged but might want to know what the Cville Dems do and stand for
- Like/Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Mastodon](#), and [Instagram](#) (and like some of our posts!)

### Mark Your Calendars!

- **3/2** (tonight!) [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#) at Cabell Hall (sold out but there'll be a stand-by line)
- **3/3 - 3/5** celebration of Liberation and Freedom Days (see below)
- **3/28** Bryan Stevenson (Equal Justice Initiative) and UVA Pres. Jim Ryan in conversation "[Act Justly, Love Mercy](#)"
- **4/25** 9am [Rescheduled] Rally in support of Swords into Plowshares, court support afterwards
- **5/05 - 6/17** Early Primary Election Voting (see registration and voting info below)
- **6/02** Cville Dems 2023 *Summer Bash* fundraiser (see below)
- **6/20** June Primary election (see info below)
- **9/30** 5th District Gala (details TBD)

**Meet the June Candidates  
(6/20 Primary!)**



We'll be tracking the local primary electoral races on our [website](#), but as of the time this newsletter was finalized, here's what we knew about the 2023 Charlottesville election races (partisan races only, we won't be disseminating information about the non-partisan, but important, races for City of Charlottesville School Board and Jefferson District Soil and Water Board):

### **Virginia Senate District 11**

Delegate Sally Hudson (<https://sallyforvirginia.com>)

Senator Creigh Deeds (<https://www.senatordeeds.com>)

### **Virginia House of Delegates District 54**

Bellamy Brown (<https://www.bellamybrownfordelegate.com>)

Dave Norris (<https://votefordave.org>)

Katrina Callsen (<https://www.katrinacallsen.com>)

Dashad Cooper (<https://www.dashadfordelegate.com>)

Note: David Brown withdrew from the House race on Feb. 22.

### **Charlottesville City Council (3 seats)**

Lloyd Snook (<https://www.lloydsnookforcouncil.com>)

Michael Payne ([michaelpayneforville@gmail.com](mailto:michaelpayneforville@gmail.com))

In addition to what's on the web and in our social media, we're giving each candidate some space near the bottom of each newsletter to communicate with you; this feature is just getting started, there likely will be more in the next issue.

Note: as a matter of policy, the Cville Dems don't take sides in primaries. We'll continue to cover these races through June in an even-handed way (see 2/27 Meeting Report below).

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*[In each issue we're flagging an Action Item for our members to do something concrete; show up, contact people, make a donation, whatever feels right to you.]*

## **Action Item: 2023 Liberation and Freedom Day Commemorations**

Take in one or more of these public events if you can:

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**Friday March 3 Noon — DEC-  
UVA 2023 Liberation and  
Freedom Days** events featuring

the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters.

Liberation and Freedom  
Days Celebration



FEATURING THE  
GEECHEE GULLAH RING SHOUTERS

Program:



Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters

Moment of Silence as the  
Chapel Bells Ring (12pm)

Performance by Chihamba

Welcome Address

My Serpentine Reading  
by Jayla Hart

Performance & Presentation by  
Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters

Friday, March 3rd | 12pm  
Memorial to Enslaved Laborers  
Invitation to Gather at 11:45am



Chihamba

*Liberation and Freedom day*  
*Reparations Run/Walk 2023*  
Saturday, March 4th 2023

In support of:  
101.3 JAMZ  
AATF  
JSAAHC  
NAACP  
Prolytyck  
Tonsler League  
Vinegar Hill Magazine





Use the QR Code to register today.  
Learn more about how to get involved on our website  
[jeffschoolheritagecenter.org/culture-and-heritage](http://jeffschoolheritagecenter.org/culture-and-heritage)

**Saturday March 4 7-9am** — The Jefferson School African American Heritage Center is sponsoring its annual *Reparations Run/Walk* fundraiser to benefit Black-led organizations (listed in the graphic).

**Sunday March 5 2-6pm** — Join Niya Bates (PhD Candidate at Princeton University, Founding Member of DEC-UVA), James French (Montpelier Foundation Board Chair), Matthew Reaves (Director of Archaeology, Montpelier), and moderator Justin G. Reid (Cultural Organizer, Griffin Blvd Archives) at Montpelier as they discuss *Descendant Power: A Rubric for Engaging Slavery Descendant Communities*.

Liberation and Freedom Days Celebration

**DESCENDANT POWER:  
A RUBRIC FOR ENGAGING SLAVERY  
DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES**

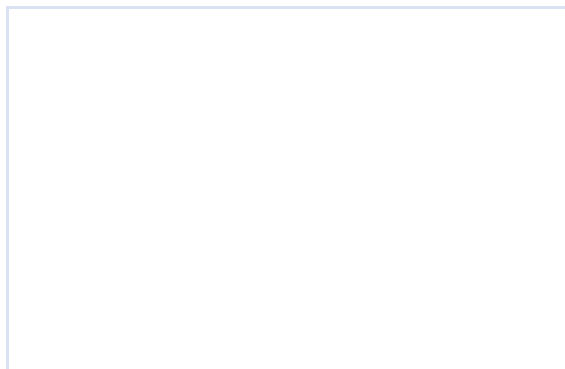
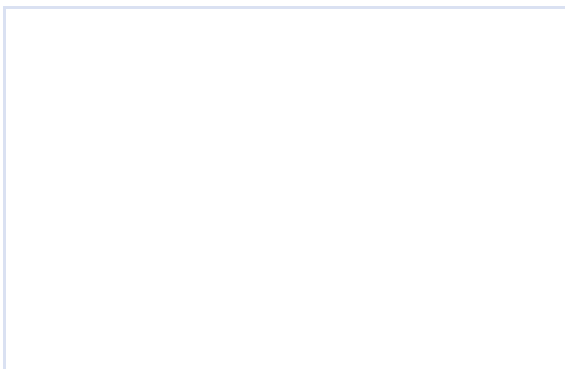


Transportation will be provided with buses leaving from the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center beginning at 12:30pm. Take a Highlights of Montpelier Tour or East Woods Hike at Montpelier starting at 2pm. Highlights of Montpelier Tour slots continue until the Rubric conversation at 4pm. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments provided.

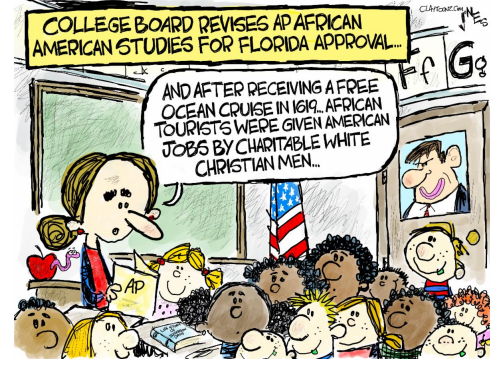
## Meeting Highlights: Executive Committee (2/27)



- Our party must collect the paperwork from all primary candidates between March 20 and April 6, and immediately afterwards verify the petition signatures to get each candidate on the ballot. It's fun, and much quicker, as a group project; please email [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com) for information if you might be able to pitch in a few hours.
- We'd like to organize some candidate forums in April, possibly in collaboration with the Albemarle Democrats. Details will be announced when they're worked out.
- Nancy Damon updated us on the upcoming annual dinner fundraiser, tentatively scheduled for Friday June 2 (see below). Thanks to Nancy and the committee for doing all the planning!
- We want to increase our efforts at community engagement to get more people (and more diversity!) in our membership. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining this effort, please contact [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com).
- We've formalized some [policies and procedures](#) for covering the primary candidates, so we can pass on information to our members without showing favoritism to any candidate.
- Kate Vasiloff, a local activist working with Compassion and Choices to expand end-of-life options, briefed us on a proposed bill that would allow for assisted suicide in very narrowly prescribed cases of incurable terminal illnesses. In past years, the General Assembly hasn't passed similar bills, despite large majority support from both Democratic and Republican voters. The Charlottesville Democrats have not taken any position on this issue. If you'd like to learn more, or to participate in this effort, you can contact Kate: [kate@untoldresearch.com](mailto:kate@untoldresearch.com)
- Erin Monaghan gave 5th District and DPVA reports (see below).





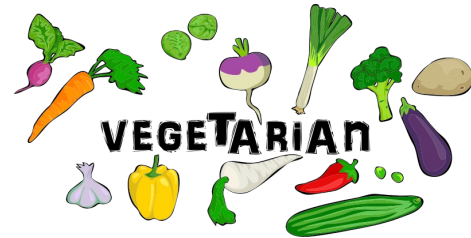


## Cville Dems Summer 2023 Bash (Annual Fundraiser)

We've tentatively scheduled Friday, June 2, for our annual dinner/fundraiser. The plan is to once again have it outside on the lawn of the Jefferson School, this year with chicken and vegetarian dinner options.



We'll share further details as they fall into place. It's not too early to sign up as a sponsor, and it's not too early to be an early bird from your precinct! So sign up today using [ActBlue](#)!!



### Dues are Due!

Treasurer Jason Vandever reminds us that 2023 dues (kept at the same affordable \$15 rate for many years) can be paid via [Act Blue](#) or by mailing a check payable to Cville Dems to PO Box 916, Cville 22902.

If you're already set up in Act Blue for a monthly donation, that recurring donation covers you and you needn't do anything (convenient!).

## Election Time = Voter Registration Time!

Suzanne Michels flags all the ways you can register to vote:

- Now through 5/30 at [the Registrars' Office](#), or online, or at a registration drive

- When you early vote at the Registrar's Office, 5/31-6/17
- On Election Day 6/20 at your local precinct (same-day registration results in use of a provisional ballot, which are counted).



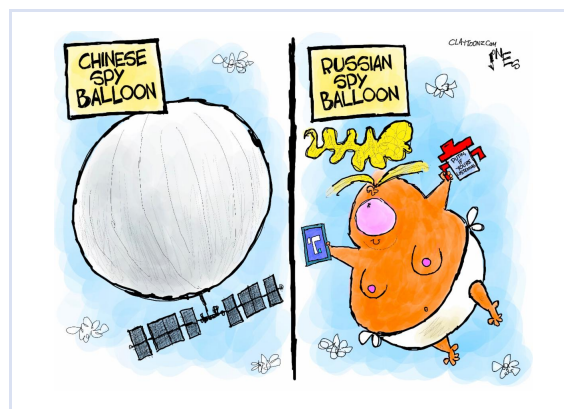
And as for actually voting:

- Early voting for the Primary is done 5/31-6/17 at the Registrars' Office (Monday-Fridays, and there will be some Saturday times announced too).
- On (Primary) Election Day, 6/20, go to your local precinct polling place any time from 6am-7pm.

Important:

- Whenever you cast your ballot, bring an ID that meets Virginia's criteria (see lists in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), and [Vietnamese](#))!
- Some precinct boundaries are being redrawn and some local polling locations will be moved; be on the lookout for more information later this spring
- For more information, call the City of Charlottesville Registrar's Office at 434-970-3250 (unless you're one of our **Albemarle** friends, in which case call the County at 434-972-4173).

NOTE: Our mighty and always-active VR Team welcomes new members. It's fun to be out talking to people in the spring, and there are few things more satisfying than signing up a new voter! If you might be interested email Suzanne: [suzemichels@gmail.com](mailto:suzemichels@gmail.com)



## 2023 General Assembly Spring Session Ends

The spring Virginia legislative session is over, with plenty of sturm und drang but no budget thanks to Gov. Youngkin's political posturing



around tax cuts. One sample headline: "[Va. General Assembly ends session with no budget deal, leaving money unspent](#)"). Nathan Alderman and the Albemarle Dems do a great job covering the nuts and bolts of what's going on in Richmond, we're waiting to see his latest recap [here](#).

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## Report: Jennifer McClellan Rolls in 2/21 Special Election

Congratulations to Jennifer for winning (75% of the vote!) the special election to serve the unfinished US House of Representatives term of the late Rep. Donald McEachin, thus becoming the first Black woman to represent Virginia in Congress. Next up: a 3/28 special

election to replace her!

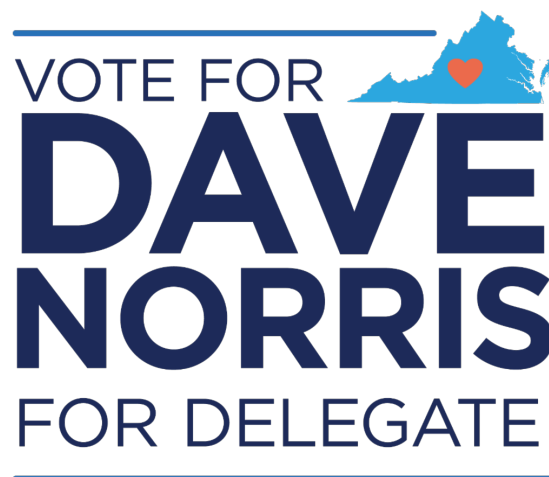
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## Help Wanted: Co-Chair

We have an opening for a party co-chair! Good people skills (we always have bridges that need building) and good organizational skills are two very desirable qualities. If you or someone you know might be a good candidate, please let us know by emailing John at [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com).



## Messages from our June Candidates (see above)





# MEET KATRINA CALLSEN

Candidate for the House of Delegates, 54th District

I am a Deputy City Attorney for Charlottesville and Chair of the ACPS School Board. I am running for Delegate because many of the basic rights and opportunities that allowed me to get to where I am today are at risk. My grandparents were denied the right to marry because of their race and my dad was put up for adoption. Both of my parents dropped out of high school as a pregnant teenage couple. I attended Yale and UVA Law and have dedicated my professional career to providing families like mine opportunities and support. As a woman and a mother I am adamant about protecting a woman's right to make her own reproductive health choices. I believe supporting inclusive and robust public education is crucial to our democracy. I believe environmental justice is social justice. And I believe investing in people pays off in a brighter future for us all.



Check out our events page to find a Meet-and-Greet near you!

**WWW.KATRINACALLSEN.COM**

## MICHAEL PAYNE

Charlottesville City Council

I decided to run for re-election for City Council to finish the work we've started on affordable housing, climate

action, criminal justice reform, and economic inequality. We've made significant strides in recent years, but Charlottesville remains a city where too many people lack economic opportunity. But over the next four years, I believe we can turn our affordable housing plans into reality, take bold action on climate change, invest in community wealth building strategies, and support our schools. Together as a community, we have major opportunities to make Charlottesville a better city. Let's finish the work and get it done!

You can connect with our campaign at:

- [twitter.com/MPayneCville](https://twitter.com/MPayneCville) or [Facebook.com/MichaelPayneCville](https://facebook.com/MichaelPayneCville)
- donations: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/michaelforcville>
- or e-mail us at: [michaelpayneforcville@gmail.com](mailto:michaelpayneforcville@gmail.com)

**SALLY HUDSON**  
STATE SENATE

--- end of Candidate Messages ---

**A "Tree-mendous" Free Offer**



## from the City

The City Utilities Dept. is once again providing 200 free trees to City customers to strategically plant on their properties to help conserve energy and reduce energy bills. Details at



<https://www.charlottesville.gov/civicalerts.aspx?AID=1339>

Note: "tree-mendous" is the City's phrase; we would never expose our readers to such (wooden) punnery were it not hard news and *clearly* unavoidable.

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### Volunteer Profile: Dell Erwin

Dell grew up as a white evangelical (but with Democratic influence, was named Delano after FDR!) just west of Selma, Alabama. Racism was all around, yet she perceived from a young age that there was

something wrong about these inequities. She left home in 1954 to attend her sect's Bible college in Chicago, planning to become a missionary.

There, she met her husband-to-be, John Erwin, who somehow survived living in eight foster homes and four public institutions before he graduated high school. His story is told from her then-evangelical perspective in her 1979 book [The Man Who Keeps Going to Jail](#). John served decades as a chaplain in Chicago's Cook County Jail, expanding his ministry by founding PACE Institute and building buildings to provide education and vocational training for prisoners.

Dell helped by teaching classes, writing Bible studies, recruiting and training volunteers.... and raising their three children, who often accompanied their parents to the jail (and ex-prisoners sometimes lived with the family after their release). The family learned a lot about social inequality during those years; most of her husband's congregants were poor young Black men who had missed many opportunities that white privileged people had. As a feature writer for a Chicago newspaper chain, Dell wrote a series of articles on the jail that her editor submitted in a national newspaper contest, and it won first prize!

Through that work, they became involved with the conservative Prison

Fellowship program of the Fellowship organization (aka "The Family" profiled in an eye-opening [documentary](#) about one of the roots of the modern conservative movement), founded by Chuck Colson after imprisonment for his Watergate crimes (and his religious conversion). They didn't know much about the organization, just that it did some good work for prisoners. Eventually she and John took jobs with the organization and moved to Northern Virginia, where Dell was National Training Director—one of the very very very few Dems working there.

After leaving Prison Fellowship, Dell was Director of Christian Education for Leesburg Presbyterian Church while John worked for The Salvation Army. When their daughter got tenure as a professor at UVA's McIntire School, they moved to Charlottesville. Dell worked as a professional editor/writer/consultant (e.g. consulting for The National Guard's Youth Challenge Program for at-risk youth, writing all their operations and training manuals and editing other books written about at-risk youth around that time) and John worked as a paid employee for The Salvation Army until literally the day he died at age 84.

She remains committed to social justice work, affiliating with Sojourners UCC Church due to its activism. She writes environmental articles for its newsletter and also supports social justice issues, including racial, LGBTQ, separation of church and state, and environmental. She's also been a leader and spokesperson for Virginia Organizing for many years.

She started a local group called 4Ws (Wise, Witty, Whacky Women), which meets monthly at her house to share their lives, discuss political issues and ways to be local activists, including writing hundreds of letters and postcards for Democratic campaigns.

Dell also spends time with her children Gayle and Gregg who live in town (the 3rd child, Vance, is in the Chicago area) and is engaged with seven grandchildren (ages 16-31), ornamental gardening, and painting with acrylics. Before COVID, she played piano for local hospitals and the UVA Cancer Center.

We are very lucky (should I say blessed?) to now have her sharp eyes and energy as part of our Communications team; at age 86 she's still more than keeping up with people half her age. Welcome Dell!

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## **Preaching BEYOND the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)**

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"The national NAACP is "outraged" that Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin has ordered a review of the College Board's Advanced Placement African American studies course, which is only in its first year of



existence....Youngkin's 2022 executive order requires the state education secretary identify and remove "inherently divisive concepts" – specifically highlighting critical race theory – that appear in Department of Education policies, best practices, training and websites, as well as any curriculum in any of Virginia's public K-12 schools. Additionally, the order prohibits public school executives from encouraging students to independently learn "inherently divisive concepts." [Daily Progress](#),

3/1/23

"...a controversial new member of the ruling body of the University of Virginia plans to start a "battle royale for the soul of UVA"... [Ellis] sparked public outcry in 2020 after traveling to university Grounds with a razor blade in hand. According to his own account, he intended to use the blade to remove a sign that read "F—k UVA" that had been posted on the Lawn room door of student. [Daily Progress](#), 2/23/23 (NOTE: Bert Ellis is the fat cat financier that Youngkin nominated to the Board of Visitors and Republicans confirmed over the objections of the UVA faculty and students).



"News Corp. Executive Chairman Rupert Murdoch declined to rein in Fox News hosts who spread false claims of widespread voter fraud in the days after the 2020 election despite privately expressing that he had seen little evidence for then-President Donald Trump's claims and that he found half of them 'bulls--- and

damaging'...Murdoch acknowledged in testimony that some of those hosts, including Sean Hannity, Lou Dobbs and Maria Bartiromo, had done more than just give a platform to baseless claims of voter fraud. 'Yes,' Murdoch said, according to the documents. 'They endorsed.'" [NBC News](#), 2/27/23

"Rep. Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) has acknowledged he previously misstated his college degree, noting that he received a degree in liberal studies and not international relations, as questions swirl regarding his background....The correction comes as Ogles faces skepticism about his resume. Earlier this month, [Tennessee station WTVF published an extensive report](#) detailing 'exaggerations' from the GOP lawmaker's personal story, zeroing in on claims that he is an economist and a human trafficking expert, among others." [The Hill](#), 2/27/23



*[Shockingly, a Republican Party that doesn't care about telling the truth is filled with liars; it's not just George Santos and the Trumps and Lindsey Graham and Moscow Mitch and Ted Cruz and and and...]*

## Partner Organizations

Our friends the [UVA Dems](#), [Albemarle Dems](#), [Greene County Dems](#), [Nelson County Dems](#), and (the new!) [Charlottesville Area Young Democrats](#) are doing good things too, check them out!

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### **Charlottesville Democratic Party ("Cville Dems")**

<https://cvilledems.org>

PO Box 916, Charlottesville, VA 22902

**Contact us: [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com)**

**Add me to the [mailing list](#)**

**Thank you for your support!**

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