



Dear Members, Associate Members, and Friends,

29 November 2023

We are excited to establish a new tradition for our wonderful Framingham Democratic Committee and to celebrate our collective hard work and dedication before the year's end!

In spite of the pandemic and ongoing threat of Covid that required us to meet on Zoom, we continued to focus vigorously on the goals that connect us all -- political/legislative, environmental, social, and civic. The energy of our diverse membership has been exhilarating! Each month our screens filled with eager and energetic souls who continued to strive for the democratic values and principles that we share so deeply. We are thrilled, finally, to be meeting in a hybrid format but our hats are off to all of you who continued the humane work of the FDC when it just was not possible to gather safely together.

Our Anti-Racism workshops in 2022 guided our actions in a variety of ways and, in particular, led us to craft vision and mission statements. We begin each business meeting by observing our essential purpose to "promote racial, ethnic, social, and economic equality for the people of Framingham, our Commonwealth, and our nation."

Looking back at the last two years, we find that we have done this in a number of significant areas that warrant our careful and considered attention. We continue to welcome a variety of speakers who present compelling offerings that elevate our commitment to diversity, equality, inclusion and justice.

Our political and legislative endeavors include ballot initiative presentations, legislative resolutions, candidate forums, campaign initiatives local, statewide, and nationwide. We thank party leaders and elected officials from Framingham and our Commonwealth whose tireless work, often unsung and uncelebrated, has immeasurably improved all of our lives.

Environmental, social, and civic issues continue to engage us in vital ways. We address the egregious climate crisis that, indeed, will not wait for us, as well as

the issues that threaten the well-being our citizenry, documented and undocumented, and, above all, the promotion of the education of our youth -- the future for all of us! The excellent presentation from Superintendent Tremblay was particularly timely as book banning nationwide began to imperil our educational systems and libraries.

We were enlightened by informative legislative presentations from Senator Spilka and Representatives Lewis, Donaghue, Gregoire, and Sousa. Equally valuable were the presentations on the Fair Share Amendment, Fair Dental Insurance, and Family Mobility Act, the Transportation Network Driver Bill of Rights, and a variety of key political initiatives including those led by MetroWest Blue and Beyond and Together We Elect.

We were moved by the poignant presentations from Menakshi Verma Agrawal and Framingham Families for Racial Equity in Education (FFREE), and Mayor Sisitsky on the critical refugee crisis in Framingham. We continue to learn from the work of 350.org and we were grateful for the educational presentation offered by Larry Stoodt. Our civic endeavors include providing our high school upper-level Civics Education classes with copies of the constitution in several languages. The youth will lead us!

These are but a few examples of what it means to be the FDC. We are dedicated activists. Collectively we participate in grassroots endeavors as we knock on doors, make phone calls, write post cards, and join stand outs. We do so with tenacity and joy on local, statewide, and national campaigns for the good of the electorate. It was a delight to celebrate together this past August at our annual BBQ hosted by Adam Steiner. Yummy food and inspiring political presentations encouraged our commitment to progressivism and diversity!

We look forward to our holiday gathering in December to celebrate all that we have done and seek to do in a resolute spirit of democratic unity. With great sadness we acknowledge a world beset by unspeakable sorrows from war to famine and beyond. We endeavor to support those who suffer, however we can. We will continue to foster and heed Democratic principles. It is at the core of our work. It is the sacred bedrock of our principles. It is who we are!

Best,

Rozzy Hooper-Hamersley (she/her), FDC Co-chair
Cesar Stewart-Morales (he/him), FDC Co-chair