

GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!

July 23, 2019

SPECIAL FEATURE: D. COLE PHELPS!



SIXTH ANNUAL COLE PHELPS SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET!

When a 30 year-old Democratic County Commissioner raises money to present \$1,000.00 Scholarships to fifteen high school graduates, it is a remarkable achievement! When this is the sixth year that he has been presenting scholarships, it is amazing!

This means that Attorney D. Cole Phelps has been staging a scholarship banquet every year since he graduated from the NC Central School of Law.

Cole could have easily gone to work with a big law firm in New York or Washington. However, he returned home to Washington County with the goal of lifting other young people in his home county. Cole lives in Creswell and his law office is in Plymouth.

This year's banquet was attended by about 325 people in the Fellowship Hall of the Plymouth Church of Christ.

In the picture above, Cole is on the far left with the 15 Scholarship recipients. Master of Ceremonies Rodney Bullock is on the far right.

Highly meaningful: Fifteen former winners of the Phelps Scholarships came on stage to tell about their academic progress since receiving their scholarships. Then each former winner presented a scholarship to a new high school graduate.

Cole's scholarships have already impacted the lives of a lot of young people. We can eagerly await hearing how his scholarships bless the lives of this year's recipients.



Left: State Auditor Beth Wood gave an impactful talk to the high school grads. Right: In the five previous years, Cole has brought a well known speaker to deliver the Keynote Speech at his Scholarship Banquet.

This year he gave the Keynote Speech himself.

His speech was entitled: "IT DIDN'T KILL ME" and it was one of the most emotional speeches ever delivered in North Carolina. It will forever be remembered and treasured by every person who heard it!



Lt. Governor candidate Allen Thomas stands behind State Senator Don Davis, Rocky Mount City Council Candidate Gwen Wilkins, and State Auditor Beth Wood. Allen Thomas and Cole Phelps were roommates at East Carolina University.

Cole with Justin, Kyler, and Ryan Davis, the three sons of State Senator Don Davis

Democrats may write to Cole at: AttorneyPhelps@DColePhelps.com



Rev. Corey Goss told the audience about his life since he received a D. Cole Phelps Scholarship. Even though he is in his early 20s, he is the Senior Pastor of his church in Plymouth.



Heartwarming: Cole's mother, Michelle Phelps, introduced Cole's Keynote Speech.



Professional photographer Tim Bowser of Raleigh has been the official photographer for all of Cole's Scholarship Banquets. Tim also designed the cups which were presented as souvenirs to all guests. Many of the pictures in this article were made by Tim.



Cole with Jen Alexander, First Vice Chair of Third Congressional District Democratic Party



Cole welcomed Monica Gibbs, a Social Justice Advocate & Community Activist from Charlotte.



MEREDITH CUOMO

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY!

On July 13th the Executive Council of the North Carolina Democratic Party met at the Wake County Democratic Party Headquarters in Raleigh where they voted to approve State Party Chair Wayne Goodwin's nomination of Meredith Cuomo to be Executive Director of our Party.

Meredith is familiar to many Democrats. For several years she has been NCDP Finance Director. In 2018 she headed the coordinated drive which raised more than \$17,000,000.00 for Democratic candidates in North Carolina. That's seventeen million dollars, folks!



**Left: Nida Allam, Wayne Goodwin, Jackson Goodwin, John Verdejo, & Jacob Verdejo
Right: Rev. Ray McKinnon & State Representative Graig Meyer**



Part of the Executive Council Attendees



Left: Brenda Pollard, Cliff Moone, John Verdejo, & Wayne Goodwin



Right: Julia Buckner, Anne Evangelista, Clay Eddleman, & Jeff Rose



NCDP Officers at Executive Council meeting



MATT HUGHES HEADLINES BUNCOMBE DW DINNER!

First Lady Kristin Cooper welcomed the Democratic Women of Buncombe to the Governor's Western Residence in Asheville for their June meeting. She joined the DW Members as they listened to NCDP Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes deliver an inspiring and invigorating talk. The First Lady also addressed the DW Members.



Former State Democratic Party Chair Patsy Keever brought her campaign for State Senate in District 48 to the dinner.



State Democratic Women leader Leila Tvedt(center) greeted DW Members and helped with the registration.



This picture shows part of the crowd of more than 100 Democrats as they listened to Matt Hughes' highly motivational speech.



ROBERT REIVES KEYNOTES LEE COUNTY EVENT!

State Representative Robert Reives II, Deputy Democratic Leader of the NC House, delivered the Keynote Speech at the June 29th meeting of the Lee County Democrats at their County Headquarters in Sanford. From the left in the picture above are Pat Kirkman, Rep. Reives, and County Chair John Kirkman.



From the left these happy Lee County Democrats are County Party Secretary Crissy Miller, County Commissioner Cameron Sharpe, Representative Robert Reives, County Chair John Kirkman, and Lee County GOTV Chair Gladys McAuley.

Did you know this? Roy Cooper would not be Governor today if Lee County Democrats had not turned out 11,369 votes for him in 2016!



STATE SENATOR ERICA SMITH KEYNOTES

TRI-COUNTY DW DINNER!

State Senator Erica Smith took her US Senate campaign to the most Western counties in the state when she addressed the July meeting of the Tri-County Democratic Women in Murphy, NC. This organization is made up of DW members from Cherokee, Swain, and Graham counties. In the picture on the left Judy Wikstrom and Barbara Lanwermyer are welcoming Erica.

Erica was glad to see that this DW club always welcomes men. This meeting marks the first time in recent history that Democrats from all three counties attended. Five new members joined at this meeting!



Cedric and Lynne Stevens, Kathy Keefer, and Judith Wikstrom enjoyed the meeting. Susan Landis is President of the Tri-County DW. Public Relations Chair Diane Snyder sent the information in this article.

Senator Erica Smith delivered a ten minute talk. Then she hosted a question and answer session.



STEF MENDELL FILES FOR RE-ELECTION TO RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL!

Raleigh City Councilor Stef Mendell officially filed for re-election for Raleigh City Council, District E, on July 8th. She was elected to her first term in 2017.

Joining her in the picture above are Field Director Grayson Barnette, Campaign Manager Paula Wolf, and Stef's husband, Richard Johnson.

Stef's major goals for her second term are: Managing growth, affordable housing, environmental stewardship, public transit, and constituent engagement. She pledges to continue her outstanding advocacy for and communication with her constituents, her deep involvement with the issues, and to continue to be a results-oriented team player.

Stef has lived in Raleigh since 1964. She earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill. In 2013 she retired from a career as an international communications executive with GlaxoSmithKline.

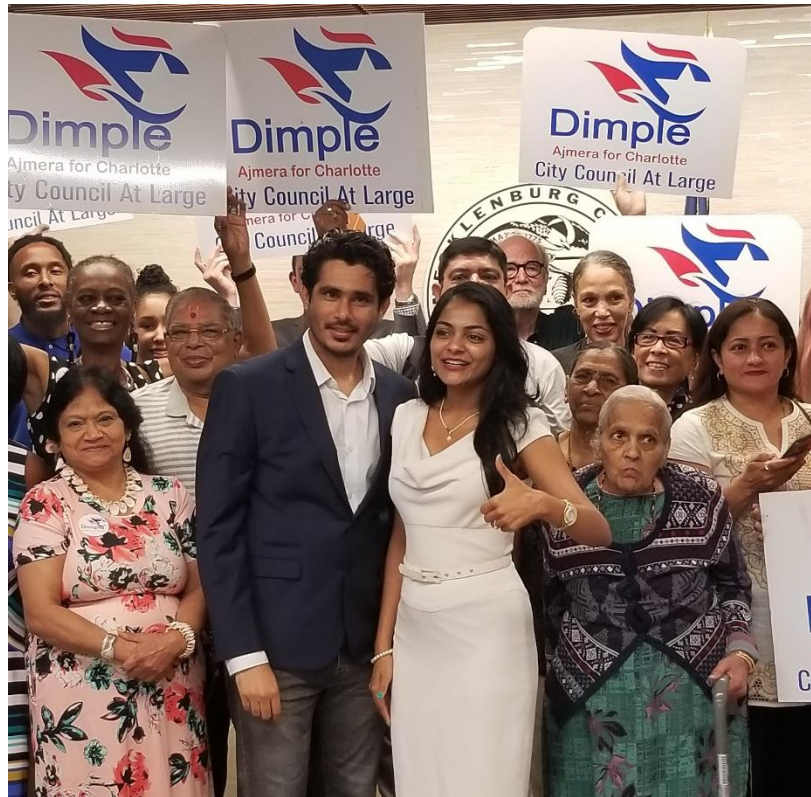
Her website is: www.StefMendellForCouncil.com



BRYON BUCKELS FILES FOR RE-ELECTION!

Citizens in Sanford are rejoicing over the news that Bryon Buckels filed for re-election for Sanford City Councilman in Ward 4.

**Bryon's wife, Sheila,
and granddaughter, Khalia Cox,
joined in the celebration.
Byron has been a City Councilman
since December of 2015.**



DIMPLE AJMERA FILES FOR RE-ELECTION TO CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCIL!

On July 9th a crowd of supporters cheered Dimple Ajmera as she filed to run citywide for re-election as an At-Large Member of the Charlotte City Council. Her husband, Dr. Vaibhav Bajaj, proudly stood beside her. Dr. Bajaj is a dentist.

Charlotte City Council Members will never forget Dr. Bajaj asking to speak at the July 24, 2018 City Council meeting. Instead of a speech, he asked Dimple to marry him!



This happy picture shows more of the people who gathered at the Board of Elections to support Dimple.

She was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council in January of 2017. In November, 2017 the people of Charlotte elected her to a full two-year term.

Dimple and her supporters are excited about re-electing her to another two-year term in November of this year!



SAM HERSHEY IS RUNNING FOR RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL!

Sam Hershey is one of three candidates who are campaigning to represent District A on the Raleigh City Council. There is no incumbent in this race.

Sam is a first time candidate who got into this race because he has found that his current council member was unresponsive to the constituents of District A.

He is a 42 year old stay-at-home dad with a four year old son. He owns and operates a small software startup, Evim Solutions, that focuses on helping people with end-of-life care & planning.



This picture shows Sam speaking at a Democratic Meet The Candidates Forum.

Sam is enjoying making personal contact with as many voters as humanly possible. He has spent years coaching high school sports, officiating, and playing goalie in beer-league hockey.

He knows that Raleigh is growing and he knows that growth needs to be channeled in smart directions that promote business and opportunity for everyone.

His website is: <https://SamForRaleigh.com>. Voters can send emails to him at: Info@SamForRaleigh.com



LAW PROFESSOR DR. YA LIU KICKOFFS CAMPAIGN FOR CARY TOWN COUNCIL!

Duke Law Professor and political newcomer Dr. Ya Liu officially filed for the District D seat on the Cary town Council on July 19th.

Dr. Liu says she came to the United States to pursue graduate studies in 2003 and “ended up raising my family in in a beautiful town called Cary.”

She earned a Ph.D. in sociology from North Carolina State University and earned a J. D. degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law while working fulltime at Duke.

Her academic work focuses on aging, caregiving, public health, judicial behavior, and government agency rulemaking. She has spent many years volunteering as an activist and community organizer for cultural, political, and educational events. She lives in Cary with her husband and three beautiful, young children.



NC State Senator Wiley Nickel (on left) has enthusiastically endorsed Dr. Liu saying “When I first met her, her passion for her community and for Cary was evident. We need Ya Liu on the Cary Town Council. She has a tremendous opportunity to win this seat. This is a great opportunity to help Mayor Harold Weinbrecht and Mayor Pro Tem Lori Bush and to give them an ally on the Cary Town Council.”

Chapel Hill Town Councilor Dr. Hongbin Gu (next to Dr. Liu) has endorsed Dr. Liu. She says: “Dr. Liu is a talented lawyer, and educator, a young businesswoman, a community volunteer and organizer, a mom, and our dear friend and sister. She cares about the people, the environment, and wants to create more opportunities for everyone in Cary.

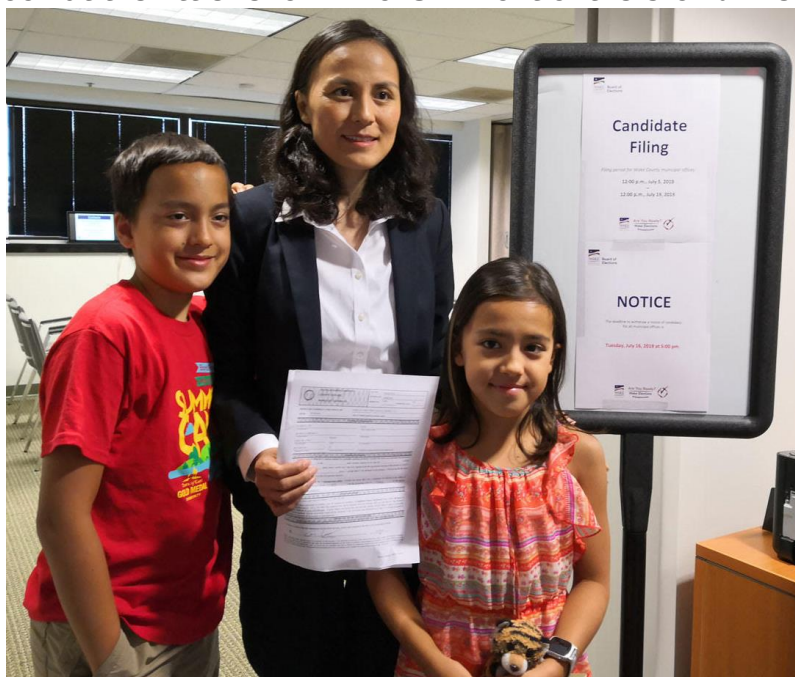
The gentleman on the right above is Tony Yao, of the Chinese American Friendship Association. Mr. Yao has worked with Dr. Liu on cultural events in Cary for 10 years and he has happily announced his support for her campaign.



This picture shows part of the crowd of more than 200 family, friends, and supporters at the Dr. Liu's Kickoff Rally at Sertoma Amphitheater at Bond Park in Cary.

Dr. Liu told that crowd that "I am one of you. I have served the community. I truly believe our community needs to be more involved in the political process. More people need to get out and vote. I promise you that I will vote with integrity, with sound judgment, and in good conscience. I promise to be a voice for the people."

Editor's note: Look at the little fellow who is in front of the crowd. He stole the show!



Two of Dr. Liu's three children accompanied her to the Board of Elections when she filed for the District D seat on the Cary Town Council. They are proud of their mother!



BRENDA POLLARD ON NC SPIN!

Our super-energetic Democrat, Brenda Pollard, was a guest on NC Spin with Tom Campbell on Friday, July 12th, and Sunday, July 14th.

She joined former Speaker of the House Joe Mavretic, Chris Fitzsimon, and John Hood in a discussion of the budget battle between the General Assembly and Governor Cooper. They also discussed the pros and cons of expanding Medicaid.



MECKLENBURG DEMOCRATS SPEAK OUT TO SAVE ACA!

On July 8th Mecklenburg County Democrats held a press conference supporting the Affordable Care Act. Their action was in response to the Texas v US court challenge to the ACA which was being heard that week.

State Representative Christy Clark is at the microphone in the picture above. Other Democrats in this picture include Precinct 204 Chair Antoinette Mingo, Stacy Staggs, and Precinct 85 Vice Chair Margie Storch.

Stacy Staggs is the mother of 5 year-old twins who were born prematurely. The medical bills for one of her twins has surpassed TWO MILLION DOLLARS. The Affordable Care Act has been a life saver for Stacy's children and for millions of other Americans.



CONSTANCE LAV JOHNSON CAMPAIGNS IN ROWAN COUNTY!

Constance Lav Johnson took her campaign for State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the July 11th meeting of the Salisbury-Rowan African American Caucus in Salisbury. She grew up in Salisbury and her parents live there now.

Constance says: “Our speaker was Dr. Grace Liem Galloway who was invited by Rowan AAC Chair Cynthia Pharr to share her cultural experiences as a Pacific Asian American. It was enlightening to learn that many heroic figures from the military, political, and entertainment fields were – and are – Asian. We all agreed that all cultures of people contributed to the victories and great innovations that made the United States the economic and military power it is today.”

Constance continues: “Culture and color are not a source or means for opposition and anger, but perceptions to recognize differences in geographies. These differences led us to share findings in medicine, military weaponry, technological innovations, and concepts and inventions from every field and service. Our united works have been successful and our collaborations are vital for all.”

She expresses the importance of education and harmony when she writes: “No man or woman is an island. No man or woman stands alone. No culture is an island. No culture stands alone. Earth is our home. We are Earthlings that abide together to find peace through unity.”

Constance says: “North Carolina has been the home state of more than eight generations of my family, both the Johnsons and the Partees. I stem from some outstanding noble folks and from many cultures of people including British, Native American, Asian, and Black who were merchants and teachers since the 1600s. Most of my ancestors were never enslaved. It is so important to study your own ancestry. You may stand in opposition to the very people and cultures that are a part of you. My thirst for the vocations of political service and teaching reach back many, many generations.”

Everyone is invited to go to her website: <https://ConstanceLavJohnson.com/>



WHO IS SHE?

That is the question several readers asked when this picture from West Jefferson's Christmas In July Festival was featured in the July 9th edition of the GOOD NEWS. We learned that she is Jane Lonon who retired on July 1st as Executive Director of the Ashe County Arts Council.

The gentleman on the left is State Representative Ray Russell who spoke at Jane's retirement celebration. Jane is on the Board of Directors of the Christmas In July Festival.



SENIOR DEMOCRATS OF HENDERSON COUNTY!

Beverly Cunningham, Executive Director of the Henderson County Board of Elections, was the featured speaker at the July 17th meeting of the Senior Democrats of Henderson County. She talked about Voter ID and new election laws. Interesting: Beverly said that in her entire career at the Board of Elections she had never encountered a single instance of voter fraud.

The picture on the left above shows the Officers of the Henderson County Senior Democrats. From the left they are:

Vice Chair – Donald Reid, Secretary Alan Edick, Chair Rose Stone & Treasurer Gayle Wayne





FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
JEANNE SUPIN OFF
TO A GREAT START!

Jeanne Supin has hit the ground running in her bid to unseat the ever-unpopular Virginia Foxx for US Congress.

A long-time Watauga Democrat, Jeanne has spent her career working with mental health and addictions agencies around the country, leading efforts around suicide prevention, trauma-informed care, health equity, and expanding access to community services.

She has also put her two degrees in political science to use in advocating for strong policies to enable individuals, families, and communities to flourish. Jeanne is fighting for universal healthcare, forward-thinking economic policies that support working and middle class folks and build a sustaining green economy, affordable education accessible to all, a strong democracy where every vote is encouraged and every vote counts. She is also promoting true dignity in this land of glorious diversity. She is building her presence quickly.

Follow her at www.JeanneSupinForCongress.com and across social media.



Jeanne with a group of happy Avery County Democrats!



MATT LEATHERMAN CAMPAIGNED IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY SUNDAY!

Matt Leatherman, Democratic candidate for State Treasurer, brought his campaign to the Brunswick County Democratic Party Headquarters in Bolivia, NC on July 21st.

He was welcomed by Brunswick Senior Democrats President Wesley Brown, County Party Treasurer Dwight Willis, County Party Chair Tom Sapp, and State Senate candidate Dr. David Sink. Brunswick County has lots of strong Democrats!



AAPI CAUCUS MEETS AT JYOTI'S WORLD CUISINE IN CHARLOTTE!

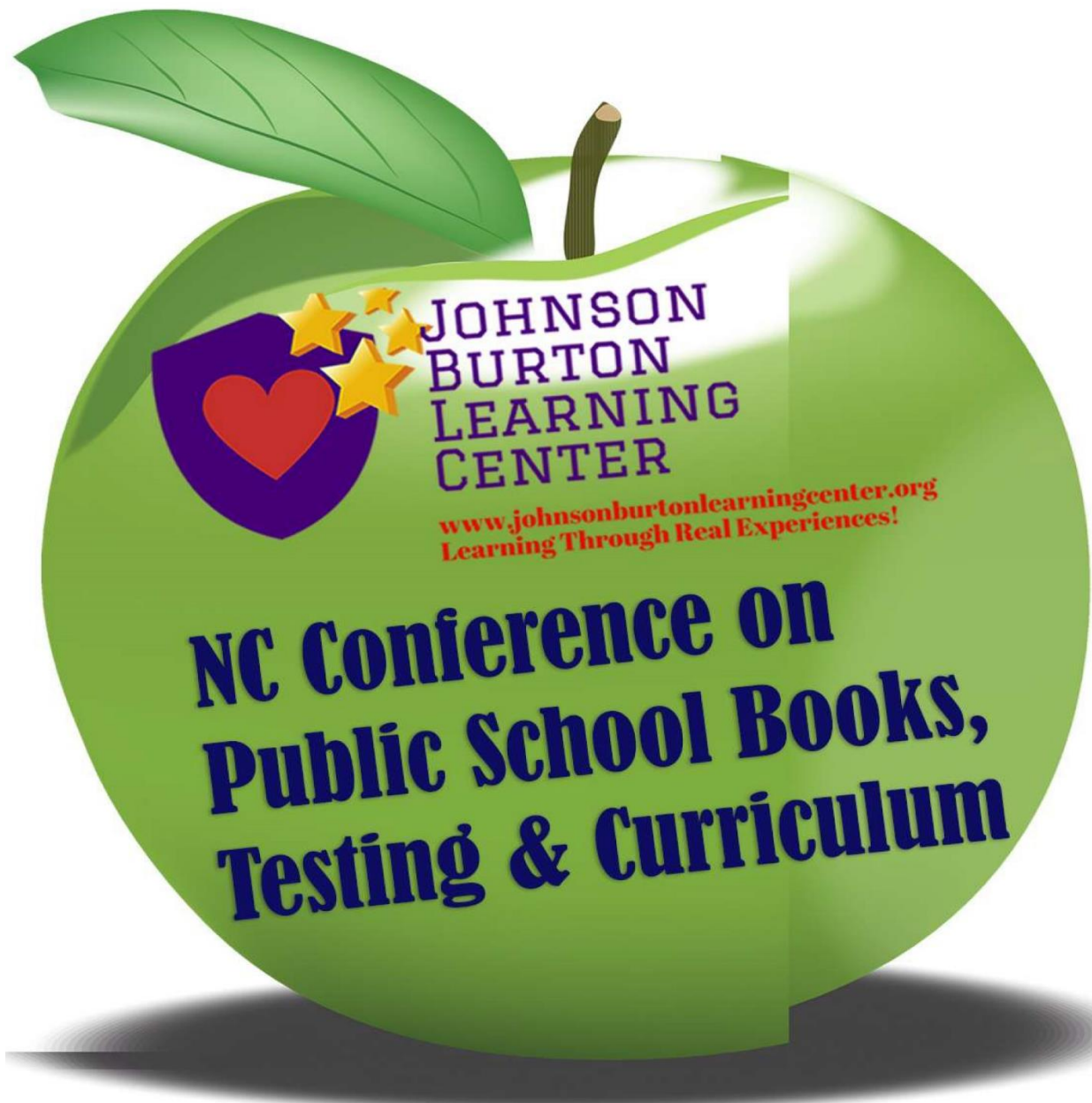
The Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus of the NC Democratic Party met on July 20th at the famous "JYOTI'S WORLD CUISINE" in Charlotte.

This restaurant is owned and operated by that terrific Democrat, Jyoti Friedland, who has organized dozens of Democratic precincts in the past decade. She is wearing a red hat in picture.

From the left the leaders of the meeting were: Indonesian Outreach Chair Aileen Tjong, Philippine Outreach Chair Chris Villapando, Philippine Outreach Chair Jyoti Friedland, NCDP AAPI Caucus President Dr. Grace Galloway, South Asian Outreach Chair Veena Hari, and AAPI Domestic Violence Advocate Lynn Polk.

Jyoti's restaurant is Vegan and Vegetarian. It is located at 7128 Albemarle Road in Charlotte. The group's unanimous review of the food: "Incredibly delicious!"

**CONSTANCE LAV JOHNSON ANNOUNCES A MAJOR EDUCATIONAL EVENT!
CANDIDATE FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
WILL STAGE IMPORTANT CONFERENCE IN CHARLOTTE!**



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Public School Books,
Testing & Curriculum**

**SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**

content



Mistress of Ceremony

Francene Marie

Francene Marie Morris is the one-woman syndicated radio talk personality in the Southeast Region. Her jumpstart began on one CBS radio station, now, The **Francene Marie** Show airs on six Beasley Media Group outlets including the following station: WNKS-FM, WKQC-FM, WSOC-FM, WPEG-FM, WBAV-FM & WBCN-AM.



Conference Director & Candidate
for NC State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Constance Lav Johnson

Constance "Lav" Partee Johnson is a government and education consultant, speaker, and Publisher for CityPolitical Magazine, providing updates and news reports on local, state, and federal bills, policies, and government issues. She was a public school teacher, School Counselor, School Administrator with several scholarships in teaching and education with degrees from University of Maryland and Livingstone College. She is a Candidate for the NC State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



The Sarah Stevenson Dinner
2019 Honoree for the NC Conference on Public School Books,
Testing, and Curriculum

Sarah Stevenson

Sarah Stevenson was a leader in Charlotte's school desegregation. She became the first black woman elected to the school board. Stevenson created the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, 35 years ago. She has become a political and civic salon where differences of race, politics, generation and wealth must concede civility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO CONSTANCE

AT:

ConstanceLavJohnson@gmail.com

**All Democrats Are Invited To Send
Your GOOD NEWS to:
melvin535@gmail.com**

**Your Democratic Friend,
Melvin Williams, State Secretary
North Carolina Democratic Party**