

# The Delray Democrat

February 2023 (# 53)

## Who's Afraid of Roberto Clemente?

Michael K. Cantwell

Base runners trying to go from first to third or score from second on a single to right field had good reason to fear Roberto Clemente's rifle arm. Pitchers had good reason to fear his powerful bat whenever Roberto was at the plate. Even a half-century after Roberto died on a mission of mercy, Ron DeSantis and his minions fear him, although their reasons are self-serving and wicked.

They fear that Florida's schoolchildren might be inspired by the life of this exceptional athlete and humanitarian, a man who literally gave his life to help others. They fear that children might be shocked to learn about the racism to which he was subjected throughout his Hall of Fame career.

That's why *Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates* has been banned from public schools in Duval County. Children in Duval County will never learn that Clemente helped organize relief efforts following a major earthquake in Nicaragua in 1972. And they'll never learn that one of the greatest right fielders in baseball history died at the age of 38 when a plane bringing supplies to earthquake victims crashed on takeoff on a rainy New Year's Eve in 1972.

Democracy depends upon an educated citizenry, one that is informed and able to think critically, one that, you might say, is "woke." Ron DeSantis, like all autocrats, fears an educated citizenry. That's why the Nazis burned books and why DeSantis bans them. They need an uneducated populace, one that can be led by the nose because it is ignorant of basic historical fact, one that is asleep, one that, you might say, is composed of Zombies.

The best place to begin erasing history and replacing it with the despot's false narrative is the public school system. DeSantis has made great strides toward the creation of a profoundly ignorant populace. George Orwell would be impressed by the names he gives to the legislation he has created to enforce ignorance.

His "education directive" requires American history "be defined as the creation of a new nation based largely on the universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence." That eliminates whole swaths of American history from the curriculum.

His "Act Relating to Individual Freedom," which he bumptiously calls the "Stop Woke Act," bans any

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classroom instruction that would cause "guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress for actions, in which he or she played no part, committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex."

But DeSantis is not really interested in protecting schoolchildren, nor are Florida's schoolchildren the snowflakes he claims they are. If Ruby Bridges could suffer the trauma of needing to be escorted by federal marshals (see p. 6) to attend an all-White school nearly a century *after* the Emancipation Proclamation, surely Florida's schoolchildren can deal with the discomfort of learning about it.

No, brainwashing is the real reason DeSantis is banning the teaching of Black history (which after all is an integral part of American history). Many of the teachers who were paid to attend a workshop conducted under the aegis of his "Civics Excellence Initiative" complained that trainers sought to indoctrinate them in Christian and conservative ideology and to whitewash the history of slavery in America.

DeSantis is not protecting children. He is protecting himself and the Republican Party from voters who have been schooled in facts and educated to think critically. He is afraid that opening schoolchildren's eyes to past racism will open their eyes to the racism that still permeates this country.

But enforced ignorance is actually harming these children. Racism is a disease that is not easily cured, and pretending it doesn't exist ensures its survival. That may work well for DeSantis today, but not for these children and their children when they come of age and are the ones in the minority.

# Messaging

Michael K. Cantwell

Not to put too fine a point on it, but Democrats suck at messaging. Our last good slogan was Obama's "*Yes, We Can.*"

That was in 2008. Subsequent slogans were just embarrassing. Remember "*I mean, have you seen the other guys*"? Or the clunky "*A Better Deal: Better Jobs, Better Wages, Better Future*"? That's not a meme; it's a laundry list.

Republicans are masters of messaging because it's all they have. They have no accomplishments on which to run other than crashing the economy twice in the last 15 years, launching a \$3 trillion war against a country that hadn't attacked us, exploding the federal debt, and cutting taxes for the obscenely wealthy while effectively increasing taxes on the middle class.

Democrats have plenty to brag about. We are the party of good government; the party that works for people, not plutocrats; the party that created the safety net and a middle class that Republicans have been working to destroy for the last four decades; the party that seeks to protect the vulnerable and make the obscenely wealthy pay their fair share.

We are the reality-based party, not the QAnon party, we are the party advocating bottom-up economics, not the party that continues to espouse trickle-down economics despite four decades of proven failure. We are the party of The New Deal, not The Raw Deal.

We are *The Real Deal*. Why don't we say that? Why don't we remind voters that *Democrats Deliver* or suggest they *Thank a Democrat*? The back cover of this publication lists nearly a century of Democratic programs that benefit the American people.

Or like Joe Biden, ask voters to let us *Finish the Job*.

## Negative Messaging

Negative messages trigger fear and anger, among the most powerful of motivators (followed only by greed). Negative messaging is the principal reason we avoided the Red Wave that the So-Called Liberal Media was predicting (except in Florida of course).

Biden understated it when he likened the philosophy underpinning Trump as "semi-fascism." Still, it was a gutsy play. I fully expected the SCLM to call out Biden for calling a fascist a fascist, but instead they agreed with him.

Biden successfully stoked the rage that accompanied the Supreme Court decision to return control of a woman's body to the state. Voters need to be reminded that this is what happens when Republicans are given positions of power.

In Florida, Republicans not only control both houses of the legislature but hold a supermajority in each. Thus they are entirely responsible and should be held accountable for their failure to protect the health and welfare of Floridians.

Florida has an affordable housing crisis that is leaving many homeless. We have an insurance crisis that has left many unable to insure their homes. Some 1000 Floridians die unnecessarily every year because Republicans refuse to take federal funds to expand Medicaid to the 800,000 Floridians who earn too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid but too little to afford health insurance.

Rather than address real problems, DeSantis and his minions are launching phony culture wars, banning books, falsifying history, and turning classrooms into reeducation camps. It's straight out of the totalitarian playbook.

*It Can Happen Here! It IS Happening Here.*

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Editorial Board: Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Sandra Elaisen-Cantwell, David Kulick, Char Lane, June Neal, and Rob Resnick.

**14<sup>th</sup> ALL PEOPLES DAY®**



**ALL PEOPLES DAY®**  
DIVERSITY FESTIVAL

Food & Admission  
**FREE**

Presented by  
**ALL PEOPLE'S DAY, INC**  
DELRAY - PARKS & REC  
LAKE WORTH INTERFAITH NETWORK

**SAT. MARCH 18, 2023**

POMPEY PARK, 1101 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> St at NW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Delray Beach

**DISCOVERING OUR CONNECTIONS**

**All People's Day® Diversity Festival**  
Saturday, March 18, 2023

**11am-3pm**  
15 performances  
50 booths

**9:30am-11am**  
Kids' workshop  
Sign-up at  
561-495-9818

Indoors at  
**POMPEY PARK**  
1101 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> St at NW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Delray Beach, FL  
[www.AllPeoplesDay.org](http://www.AllPeoplesDay.org)

**Sponsors:**

- Lake Worth Interfaith Network
- Ocean Breeze Prosthodontics
- TAO Temple Adath Or
- Susan Caruso
- A & H Automotive Delray
- Esterman Eye Institute
- Humana
- Dr. Brent Schillinger, Dermatologist
- Cold Air 4U Air Conditioning

**FREE**  
food  
admission  
entertainment

**Food partners:**

- Agliolio Italian
- Arun's Indian Kitchen/Taco Masala
- Bud's Chicken & Seafood
- Goldstein's Haitian Café
- Paella De España
- Warike Peruvian Bistro
- Ziree Thai & Sushi

**games**   **music**   **crafts**   **food**

**Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors**

Michael Cantwell, President; Char Lane, Vice-President; Mary Fader, Secretary; David Kulick, Treasurer; Robert Averack, Parliamentarian; Peter Camacho, Charlie Holbrook, and June Neal, Directors; Sandra Elaiszen-Cantwell, Director Emerita; and John Ramos and Robert Resnick, Directors Emeritus.



## Worth Reading

Elie Mystal, [The Supreme Court Is About to Make It Even Riskier to Strike](#), *The Nation*: “The Supreme Court is the place labor rights go to die. It has been that way since John Roberts became chief justice in 2005.”

Melinda Wenner Moyer, [What white parents get wrong about raising antiracist kids — and how to get it right](#), “In a landmark study, developmental psychologist Phyllis Katz, founder of the Institute for Research on Social Problems in Colorado, regularly observed more than 200 children, half black and half white, from the time they were 6 months old until they were nearly 6 years old. ‘I think it is fair to say that at no point in the study did the children exhibit the Rousseau type of colorblindness that many adults expect,’ Katz wrote in a 2003 summary in *American Psychologist*. When 3-year-olds were shown photos of children of different races and asked to choose whom they might like to be friends with, one-third of the black kids chose only photos of other black kids, but 86 percent of the white kids only chose photos of other white kids.

Sheryl Gay Stolberg, [President Biden Is Turning 80. Experts Say Age Is More Than a Number](#). “*The New York Times* spoke to 10 experts in aging to paint a picture of what the next six years might look like for a person of the president’s age . . . They agreed he has a lot going in his favor: He is highly educated, has plenty of social interaction, a stimulating job that requires a lot of thinking, is married and has a strong family network — all factors that, studies show, are protective against dementia and conducive to healthy aging. He does not smoke or drink alcohol and, according to the White House, he exercises five times a week. He also has top-notch medical care. His race is another factor. The life expectancy for the average white, 80-year-old man is another eight years, said Dr. John Rowe, a professor of health policy and aging at Columbia University. “And that’s the average,” Dr. Rowe said. “A lot of those 80-year-olds are already sick; they are already in the nursing home.”

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## Worth Repeating

“Welcome to NYC, Ron DeSantis, a place where we don’t ban books, discriminate against our LGBTQ+ neighbors, use asylum seekers as props, or let the government stand between a woman and health care. We’re happy to teach you something about values while you’re here.” Mayor Eric Adams, [welcoming](#) Mao DeSantis to NYC.

“Only the unloved hate - the unloved and the unnatural!” Charles Chaplin, in *The Great Dictator*.

“Traditionally, satire has comforted the afflicted while afflicting the comfortable.” Garry Trudeau.

“The Gun Lobby’s interpretation of the Second Amendment is one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on the American People by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime. Warren Burger, Former Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, interviewed on [PBS](#).

“Racism is a grown-up disease and we must stop using our children to spread it.” Ruby Bridges

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## Letters from Our Members

As the Sun Sentinel noted, Florida had the 13th highest COVID death rate in the nation as of January with 392 deaths per 100,000 people and 84,000 Floridians having died of COVID. But the majority of those deaths occurred after the vaccines became available.

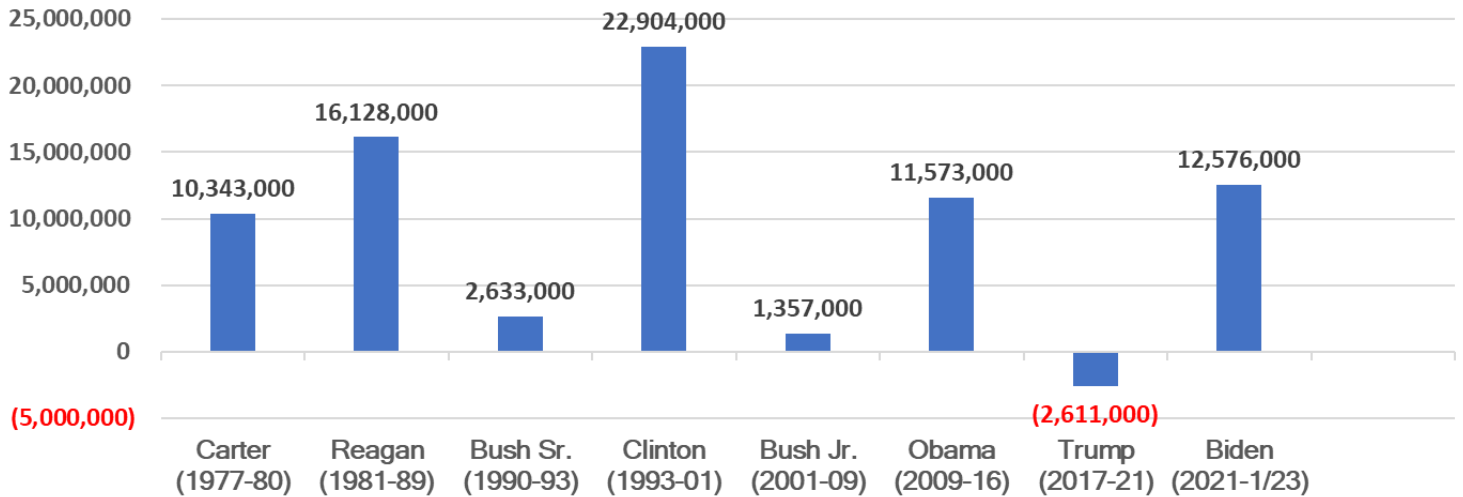
The empirical evidence that vaccines and masks save lives is clear and irrefutable. Recent [data](#) from the CDC shows that the unvaccinated are more than three times as likely to be infected with COVID and more than 18 times as likely to die. COVID death rates are significantly [higher in red counties](#), where people are less likely to be vaccinated, than in blue

counties, where vaccination rates are significantly higher.

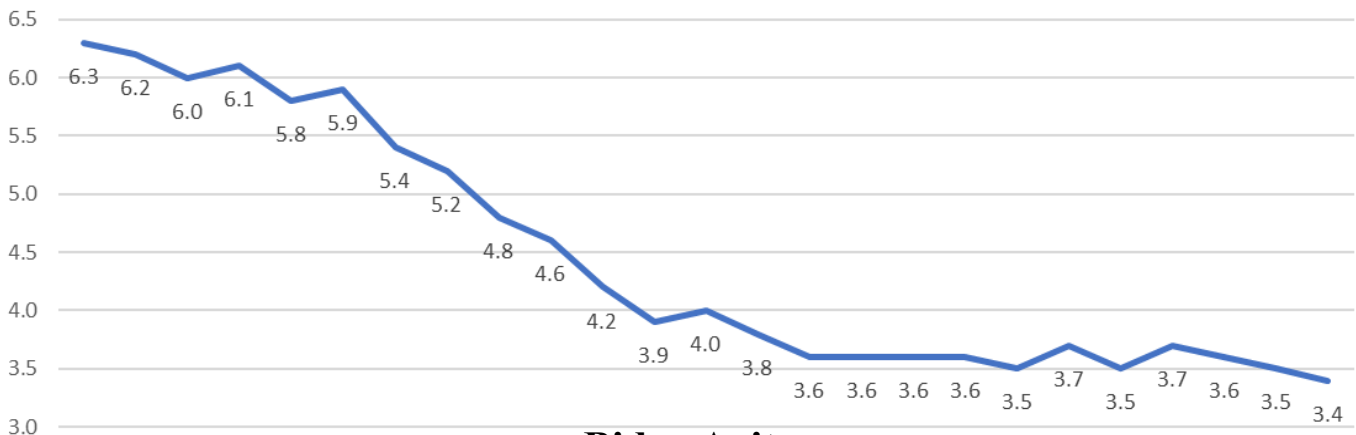
Respected scientific journals as [Journal of the American Medical Association](#), [Nature](#), and [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) have published studies indicating that masking is effective in reducing transmission. In seeking a permanent ban on COVID-19 vaccine mandates, DeSantis is serving red meat to his anti-science base and reducing their numbers.

**Michael K. Cantwell**, *Sun-Sentinel*, February 3, 2003

## Total Jobs Added Over Presidency



## Unemployment Rate Under Biden Lowest Since 1969



### Biden Agita

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Democrats are suffering from Biden Agita. Michelle Goldberg urges Biden not to run again, even though he has been “a great president.” Republicans started calling Biden senile in 2019, which is just too rich when three of the last four Republican presidents had difficulty constructing actual sentences.

There will be no end of articles pointing out that Biden will be 86 at the end of his second term, but in his 80s Biden is sharper than Reagan was in his 70s or W was in his 50s. Moreover, he has accomplished more in his first two years than any president since, and possibly including, FDR.

Inflation is abating, and Biden has been playing the Republican House in much the same way Reagan played a Democratic Congress. Biden’s SOTU was masterful, especially the expression on his face as he suppressed a chuckle before getting Republicans to agree not to touch Medicare or Social Security. Bottom line, we have no better candidate, and it’s

clear Biden has no intention of taking a victory lap and leaving. Biden wants and deserves a second term to “finish the job”

We would be fools to seek to deny him. The last time an incumbent Democrat was challenged was 1980, helping to usher in four decades of increasing income inequality, child poverty, and racism. Greed was celebrated and government denigrated.

Although a Republican, early in Biden’s tenure David Brooks approvingly suggested we are on the cusp of rolling that back:

[T]he whole paradigm of the role of government in American life is shifting . . . There is now an assumption that government should step in to reduce economic insecurity and inequality.

Do we really want to mess with that?



Ruby Bridges being guarded by federal marshals as she desegregates the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana in 1960. Ms. Bridges is now an activist and philanthropist. She says, “racism is a grown-up disease and we must stop using our children to spread it.”

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**ALL CURRENT VOTE-BY-MAIL REQUESTS EXPIRED ON 12/31/22**

**RE-ENROLL TO VOTE BY MAIL FOR 2023/2024**

**By Phone: (561) 656-6208**

**By Email: [votebymail@votepalmbeach.gov](mailto:votebymail@votepalmbeach.gov)**

**By Fax: (561) 656-6230**

**In person at any SOE office ([CLICK HERE](#) for locations)**

**Online, you can download the form [HERE](#) to email, fax, or return in person.**

**\*NOTE: Your vote-by-mail request must now include your**

**Driver's License/FL State ID number**

**OR the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number.**

# 2023 Membership

Char Lane

It's 2023 and time to renew your DCDB membership if you've not already done so. Membership is on a calendar year basis and your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as The Delray Democrat, our meetings, other working supplies and signage for our sign waving events. Meetings are currently the third Wednesday (subject to room availability) of each month at the Pompey Park Recreation Center.

Our goal is to educate people as to why they should vote Democratic and use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. We'll have to work hard to help keep our democracy intact and protect it from the manifesting lunacy. We planned to help turn Florida BLUE in 2022, but were thwarted by the circumstances as noted in the articles by Michael Cantwell and Jeff Kash in the November issue of *The Delray Democrat*.

If you're a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach, please renew. If you're not a member of the Club, please consider joining.

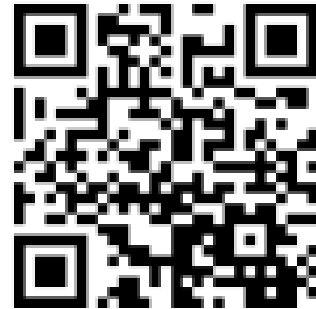
Please visit us at [www.demclubofdelray.org](http://www.demclubofdelray.org),

Read our monthly publication *The Delray Democrat*

at [www.thedelraydemocrat.com](http://www.thedelraydemocrat.com),

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>

Become a member of the DCDB by going to <https://www.demclubofdelray.org/membership> or filling out and mailing the application below or by scanning the QR code below:



## Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2023 Membership Application and Renewal



Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name/names of household members \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Condo Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here \_\_\_\_\_ and we will not share your E-mail address.)

Preferred method of contact: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Text \_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletter by: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Hand delivery \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I/we are in South Florida from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ each year or are a permanent resident \_\_\_\_\_.

Payment: Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to P.O. Box 8224, Delray Beach, FL 33484. Thank you and welcome to our Club.

## Thank a Democrat

1964 Civil Rights Act	Food Stamp Act	National Science Foundation Act
1965 Voting Rights Act	Freedom of Information Act	National Voter Registration Act (a.k.a) Motor Voter Act
Affordable Care Act	GI Bill of Rights	Social Security Act
AmeriCorps	Medicare and Medicaid	Unemployment Compensation Act
CDC	Minimum Wage Act	Workers Compensation Act
Family and Medical Leave Act	National Labor Relations Act	

### **American Rescue Plan Act, Signed March 11, 2021**

- Provided \$1400 to every taxpayer and each of his or her dependents
- Expanded coverage and reduced premiums under the Affordable Care Act for 9 million Americans.
- Expanded and extended unemployment benefits.
- Increased SNAP benefits
- Increased and expanded Child Tax Credit
- Made largest investment in child care assistance since World War II
- Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit for frontline workers who helped their communities through the COVID crisis
- Invested \$160 billion to provide supplies and vaccines to combat COVID's heavy toll
- Distributed \$360 billion in emergency funding for local governments to help keep front line public workers on the job and paid
- Provided emergency grants and loans to hard-hit small businesses
- Established a special sign-up period for the Affordable Care Act, adding 800,000 previously uninsured to the ranks of the insured.

### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Signed November 15, 2021**

- The largest federal investment in public transit
- Makes the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak
- Makes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system
- Makes the largest investment in clean drinking water and waste water infrastructure in American history, delivering clean water to millions of families
- Ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet
- Helps us tackle the climate crisis by making the largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in history; electrifying thousands of school and transit buses across the country; and creating a new Grid Deployment Authority to build a resilient, clean, 21st century electric grid

### **Inflation Reduction Act, Signed August 16, 2022**

- Invests \$369 billion in energy security and fighting climate change
- Invests \$64 billion to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies
- Authorizes Medicare to negotiate with drug companies and expands Medicare benefits, capping costs and out-of-pocket drug expenses
- Provides \$80 billion for tax modernization and enforcement, which is estimated to reduce the deficit by recovering as much as \$203.7 billion from tax cheats
- Closes tax loopholes by imposing a 15% minimum tax payment on companies with over \$1 billion of income and a 1% excise tax on stock buybacks
- Expands Medicare benefits: provides free vaccines (2023), caps insulin costs at \$35/month (2023) and caps out-of-pocket drug costs to an estimated \$4,000 or less in 2024, settling at \$2,000 in 2025
- Provides \$4 billion for drought resiliency in western states