

Clinton promises steady hand in dangerous world

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PHILADELPHIA — Promising Americans a steady hand, Hillary Clinton cast herself Thursday night as a unifier for divided times, an experienced leader steered for a volatile world. She aggressively challenged Republican Donald Trump's ability to do the same.

"Imagine him in the Oval Office facing a real crisis," Clinton said as she accepted the Democratic nomination for president. "A man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons."

Clinton took the stage to roaring applause from flag-waving delegates on the final night of the Democratic convention, relishing her nomination as the first woman to lead a major U.S. political party. But her real audience was the millions of voters watching at home, many of whom may welcome her experience as secretary of state, senator and first lady, but question her character.

She acknowledged those concerns briefly, saying "I get it that some people just don't know what to make of me." But her primary focus was persuading Americans to not be seduced by Trump's vague promises to restore economic security and fend off threats from abroad.

Backing Bernie

Clinton's four-day convention began with efforts to shore up liberals who backed Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary and it ended with an outstretched hand to Republicans and independents unnerved by Trump. A parade of military leaders, law enforcement officials and Republicans took the stage ahead of Clinton to endorse her in the general election contest with Trump.

"This is the moment, this is the opportunity for our future," said retired Marine Gen. John R. Allen, a former commander in Afghanistan. "We must seize this moment to elect Hil-



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton reacts to confetti and balloons as she stands on stage during the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Thursday.

lary Clinton as president of the United States of America."

American flags waved in the stands of the packed convention hall. There were persistent but scattered calls of "No more war," but the crowd drowned them out with chants of "Hill-a-ry" and "U-S-A!"

The Democratic nomination now officially hers, Clinton has just over three months to persuade Americans that Trump is unfit for the Oval Office and overcome the visceral connection he has with some voters in a way the Democratic nominee does not.

She embraced her reputation as a studious wonk, a politician more comfortable with policy proposals than rhetorical flourishes. "I sweat the details of policy," she said.

Clinton's proposals are an extension of President Barack Obama's two terms in office: tackling climate change, overhauling the nation's fractured immigration laws, and restricting access to guns. She disputed Trump's assertion that she wants to repeal the Second Amendment, saying "I'm not here to take away your guns. I just don't want you to be shot by someone who shouldn't have a gun in the first place."

Campaigning in Iowa Thursday, Trump said there were "a lot of lies being told" at Clinton's convention. Later,

he tweeted that Clinton's vision is "a borderless world where working people have no power, no jobs, no safety."

Concerns with honesty

Clinton came into the convention facing deep voter concerns with her honesty and trustworthiness, stemming in part from her controversial use of a private internet server at the State Department. A separate pre-convention controversy over hacked Democratic Party emails showing favoritism for Clinton in the primary threatens to deepen the perception that Clinton prefers to play by her own rules.

Through four nights of polished convention pageantry, Democratic heavyweights told a different story about Clinton. The most powerful validation came Wednesday night from Obama, her victorious primary rival in 2008. Obama declared Clinton not only can defeat Trump's "deeply pessimistic vision" but also realize the "promise of this great nation."

Clinton was introduced by her daughter, Chelsea, who spoke warmly of her mother as a woman "driven by compassion, by faith, by kindness, a fierce sense of justice, and a heart full of love." President Bill Clinton watched from a seat on the convention floor, beaming with pride and repeat-

edly leaping to his feet.

Clinton was joined on stage at the end of the night by her running mate, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, who addressed the convention Wednesday. Fireworks exploded inside the arena and red, white and blue balloons plunged from the arena rafters.

Clinton and Kaine head into the general election seeking support from the same coalition of voters that propelled Obama into the White House: blacks, Hispanics, women and young people. The diverse parade of speakers who took the stage in Philadelphia this week underscored that goal.

Muslim dad

On the convention's closing night, Khizr Khan, an American Muslim whose son was killed in military service, emotionally implored voters to stop Trump, who has called for a temporary ban on Muslim immigration.

"Donald Trump, you are asking Americans to trust you with their future," Khan said. "Let me ask you, have you even read the United States Constitution? I will gladly lend you my copy."

The program paid tribute to law enforcement officers killed on duty, including five who died in Dallas earlier this month in retaliation for officer-involved shootings in Minnesota and Louisiana.

"Violence is not the answer," Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez said. "Yelling, screaming and calling each other names is not going to do it."

Clinton sought to reach beyond the Democratic base, particularly to moderate Republicans worried about Trump's experience and temperament.

Former Reagan administration official Doug Elmets announced he was casting his first vote for a Democrat in November, and urged other Republicans who "believe loyalty to our country is more important than loyalty to party" to do the same.

Clinton: For Trump supporters, Clinton's gender doesn't matter

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Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, said issues like rights for women and the LGBT community are the most important for her, and under threat by Donald Trump, the Republican nominee.

"If Trump is elected, we're going to suffer the worst economic downturn ever," she said. "We'll have no respect around the world."

One of Clinton's challenges is drawing support from those who preferred her primary rival, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who won all but Gilliam County in Oregon during the primary.

Clatsop County sent two delegates pledged to Sanders to Philadelphia for the Democratic National Convention. Both feel confident support is coalescing around Clinton.

"It's turned out the way we expected, and it will be fine," said Larry Taylor, chairman of the Clatsop County Democrats, adding he felt the tide at the convention changing by Wednesday night.

Tessa James Scheller, another pledged delegate for Sanders and a Clatsop Community College board member, said she is a pragmatic person representing a school in a non-partisan role who doesn't want to be stuck in one candidate's camp or the other. She called Trump an embarrassment, and said that as a decorated Vietnam War veteran, she takes particular offense to his insults to former POWs and calls for Russia to interfere with U.S. elections.

For supporters of Trump, Clinton's gender doesn't matter.

"I do not see that the gender of the nominee has any bearing on the quality of their candidacy," said local conservative Christine Bridgens. She said Clinton exaggerates the economic, defense, immigration and educational policies of Democrats that have been destroying the U.S.

"My feeling is that like many Republicans, she's very corrupt," said conservative Jeff Jacques, criticizing the media for not calling out Clinton more. Jacques said that as a fiscal conservative, he is most worried about reining in the government spending and regulation.

"If you're having a contest between the worst of two evils, it's definitely Hillary," he said. "I didn't vote for Trump in the primaries, but we can't let Hillary get into the White House."



Christine Bridgens



Jeff Jacques



Tessa James Scheller



Dulcye Taylor



Larry Taylor

Tours: Newenhof dismisses the idea that the house is haunted

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basement will be closed to visitors.

"We've had people talking about: 'We used to dare each other as kids to go up and touch the front door and run away,'" he said. "We knew the interest factor was huge here. And for (Newenhof) to basically give us this gift, and allow us to have a significant fundraiser because of this house — that's incredibly generous."

Built in 1901 for Capt. George Conrad Flavel, the house straddles the Victorian and Colonial Revival periods and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

In the early 1990s, Mary Louise Flavel, the captain's granddaughter, and her now-deceased mother and brother, Florence and Harry, abandoned Astoria and the family home.

Boarded up and neglected, the house became a community curiosity, and the property a neighborhood blight.

Finally, Newenhof, co-owner of City Lumber Co., purchased the property for \$221,901 in cash six months after Mary Louise's conservator put it on the market to help end a conflict with the city over code violations.

Time warp

Newenhof dismisses the idea that the house is haunted.

But, with a dumbwaiter in the kitchen, sinks in every bedroom, pastel paints and floral wallpaper, old-fashioned cabinetry, small collections of antique books and household items dating from the 19th century through the 1980s, it's hard not to feel the presence of the past.

Though the attic has been largely cleared out, there are still artifacts of the Flavel lifestyle: a vintage bureau, a pile of rusty box springs, moth-



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Greg Newenhof, owner of the Flavel home located on 15th Street and Franklin Avenue, stands in front of the house for a portrait. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com

eaten clothes hanging in the closet, and a broken bassinet that cradled the Flavel children.

The class distinctions of turn-of-the-20th-century America appear in the architecture: The woodwork in the family area tends to be rather ornate, whereas, in the servants' quarters, the door casings and staircase are flat and ordinary.

"Servants had just the basic stuff," Newenhof said. "The family had the fancier stuff."

The tours offer a chance to see the progress Newenhof has made toward fixing up the long-unkept but structurally sturdy house.

Inside, he has, up to the second floor, restored the electricity and installed new plumbing. He drywalled the bedroom ceilings, rewired the original light fixtures, replaced window glass and frames and set up a new gas furnace in the basement. He is refurbishing the stair railings and balusters.

Outside, he put new cedar shingles on the roof, rebuilt the chimneys, replaced a section of the porch railing and, more recently, built a fresh set of steps leading to the portico.

Newenhof said he works on the project a couple of hours most nights, and often all day on the weekends. He thinks he may be at it the rest of his life.

"People ask me when I'm moving in, I say next week," Newenhof said. "And also: I'm 6-foot-2 and have a full head of hair."

'Bringing it back'

Across the street lives former City Planner Rosemary Johnson and her husband, Curt. The couple moved into their 15th Street home in 1992, shortly after the Flavels skipped town, but remembers the family returning on occasion.

"They would come back periodically and go through the house," Johnson said. "In fact, they would call my kids and ask if there were

any police hanging out in the neighborhood before they came. It was really weird. But they would just go in and check; they wouldn't stay long."

Johnson, who has toured the house with her husband, reckons that the last time a significant segment of the public was allowed into the mansion was probably when Mary Louise or her mother threw a dinner party there.

Newenhof, she said, "instead of just saying, 'This is my private house, I'll do what I want' — I mean, he could; he could just say, 'This is my home' — but instead, he's opening it up," she said. "I think it's a fabulous idea, and just exactly what I would expect out of Greg."

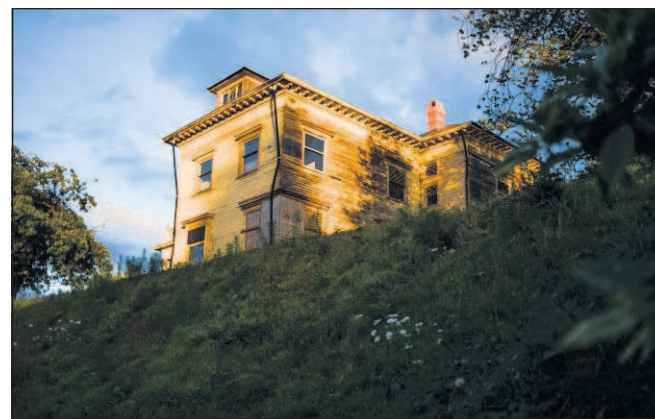
The first tour — a private event that has already sold out — runs 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 13 and will feature a special presentation by Goodenberger.

The second, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 14, will be a self-guided public tour and costs \$25 per person, or \$10 for his-



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Greg Newenhof sorts through forgotten items that remain in the attic of the Flavel house.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Afternoon light hits the Flavel house.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Forgotten items remain in the attic of the Flavel house.

torical society members.

Burns said that, as an Astorian and a lover of its history, he's grateful that it's Newenhof who bought the house.

"Greg has respected the house," he said. "(He's) bringing it back to life, and that takes a very special person to accept that challenge."