
GreenGram



The Green Party of NJ Bulletin - February 2004

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The Eighth Annual Convention of the Green Party of New Jersey is being planned for April. If you'd like to help with convention planning or logistics, please get in touch with Nick Mellis, Chair of the Membership Committee (votegreen@nickmellis.org). The GPNJ by-laws stipulate that proposals for the Annual Convention must be published at least one month prior to the date of the convention (in order to give all members adequate time to review and discuss the proposals). So there will be a special pre-convention issue of the GreenGram appearing in early March. If you have any proposals or discussion material relevant to the convention, please submit them by March 1 to Steve Welzer, GreenGram editor (SteveWelzer@aol.com).

WHO'S RUNNING THIS YEAR?

by Matt Ahearn

Who wants to get elected to a municipal governing body next Fall (or better yet, this Spring)? There are things you should be doing NOW! There are things we (as a party) should be doing now if we plan on winning a few local races.

If you want to govern for real and not just opine online ... If you want to accept the challenges and sacrifices of public life and lead others to understand what you can see in your mind's eye as a Green future ... If you want to help build the Green Party FOR THE FUTURE ... then stop just hanging out in chat rooms and start DOING SOMETHING real in your hometown today: Non-partisan council and school board elections this spring! Partisan Council and County Freeholder seats up for grabs all over the state this Fall.

A special note to those of you who remain registered as a "D" or "R" for whatever reason: don't just vote for the progressives off the line in the primary - run for a major party county committee member as an off line challenger to your local party boss! Take the party boss's power away one committee vote at a time. The road to political power starts on your block IN AN ELECTION YOU CAN WIN WITH 50 VOTES!

We cannot survive and grow as a political party without local elected officials as a power base. Winning local races this Fall should be the highest priority as an organization. Let's find those among us who really want to work to change the world - and move to discussions about winning local races. Who wants to be NJ's first Green MAYOR? If we don't have Spring candidates yet we are negligent and way behind the power curve to win the most winnable races in NJ - the spring non-partisan mayor/council races.

*Ecology * Democracy * Peace * Justice * Community*

The county party organization (which can accept \$30-something-K-per "contributor" - I know one real estate developer with 12 different corporations which each can legally write maximum checks to favored candidates) will raise and spend millions (literally) for the local candidates controlling the local message and media production contracts for both down-ticket (county and local) and up-ticket (Congress and Presidential races). The individual accounts and the joint accounts of candidates throughout the county right down to the bottom and all the way up to the top of the ticket will report "in-kind" contributions from the county party organization, laundering the finances with mailings that have ads for the President and Congressional candidates on one side and county and municipal candidates on the other. Local field workers for each party (canvassing and GOTV) will be paid by the central account and work for the coordinated efforts of each town's County and Congressional candidates depending on what block they happen to be on at the time. That's a "coordinated campaign" - it saves a party resources and makes an organized party powerful.

Do the math as to the number of legal accounts for both major parties with all those candidates in all those 500+ towns, 21 counties, and the Congressional districts (where county organizations can legally spend corporate contributions from any US company in NJ on "In-Kind Contributions" and "direct expenditures" for the Congressional campaigns - see Carl Mayer's book SHAKEDOWN, page 169) and see how KEY having a county party organization campaign account is in the "Fleecing of the Garden State" (the subtitle of Carl's book, for those who may not know about it).

Understanding the relation of the various ELEC and FEC accounts is key to this Fall's elections for us to attack this legalized money laundering of the major party county ELEC-regulated accounts in NJ. Pay-to-play is a hot media issue (an opportunity for our local candidates) - not only no-bid state contract issues that the media is focused on, but properly understood the total picture of the power of the County party bosses in NJ goes way beyond that limited issue to affect every vote in every town and every office up to NJ's Congressional reps. and the results of the NJ electoral college votes!!

We need to build this level of planning in county organizations and take action to open county party accounts under the same rules as the major parties (not county PACs) with OUR resources to maximize the value of every dollar and volunteer-hour spent on Green campaigns in NJ. We need top-to-bottom-of-the-ticket strategies managed from the county level.

* * * * *

Its been on my mind since November that in my race, given Bergen's use of the electronic Diebold machines, there was no rational basis under existing law from what I have seen so far that would have prevented the Bergen County Clerk from ordering from the printers, as of the deadline for changes to ballot lines, a ballot that gave us a line in Bergen.

The rationale that local races in the many towns and limited horizontal space on the ballot machine is a reason for minor parties to be placed under the "nomination by petition" section did not apply in my race. There would have been no fiscal impact and no administrative burden at all as to why we did not have a line in the electronic machines last fall in Bergen.

Rather than a default where minor parties who "bracket" around county-wide candidates and cannot control all local lines in the county get no line (and thus can have non-bracketed independent local candidates below us on the line - which is why we don't have a heading at the top of the ballot, or "a line" as it is called), I think the courts could be persuaded to place a burden on the Clerk to give the CAPP plaintiff parties "a line" (i.e. "Green Party" in the same font as the majors) at the top where no "down-ticket lottery" conflicts occur (as with us in Bergen last Fall).

Similarly, we should and can, with no undue burden on the County Clerks, have the right to be in the draw for line 1, 2 - or, now with us, 3 - in every municipal ballot where no third party local race exists where WE do not have candidates. (No "lottery conflict" for the third line).

[Note: This is WHY local candidates are SO CRITICAL to our success and growth this year - we need to get "GREEN PARTY" at the heading wherever we can with county down-ticket candidates in years we can't get the "10%" (as no Assembly races exist), and everywhere we can in legislative districts we run in in the "off year Assembly races" that control who becomes a major party in NJ.]

At least in counties with "HAVA compliant" evil electronic voting machines like in Bergen, where the ballot layout is as flexible as bits and bytes on the printed page, I think we can push an issue in court to make ballot lines more accessible county by county in New Jersey for CAPP plaintiff minor parties like us.

Anyone who wants to start working on a local council race that they intend to win please give me a call. I am at your disposal.

- Matt Ahearn 201-264-9871

PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT DAVID COBB AT LABOR ED. FEBRUARY 5

David Cobb of California, who is seeking the Green Party presidential nomination this year, will be appearing at the Labor Education Center in New Brunswick on the evening of Thursday, February 5 (see calendar). You can read about David's positions at his website: VoteCobb.org. Steve Welzer will be dialoguing with David about the 2004 presidential campaign. Steve will take the position that the Greens should support the Ralph Nader campaign (visit: NaderExplore04.org).

BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE CONFERENCE IN DC

The Third Annual Congress of the U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIGN) will be held in Washington, DC on February 20-22. It will focus on specific plans for guaranteeing basic economic security, and how that can help transform our lives, our nation, and our world. Similar ideas were mainstream in the 1890s, 1930s, and 1960s - USBIGN is working to put them back into the discourse.

Co-sponsored by the Citizen Policies Institute and the Eastern Economics Association, the event will feature four keynote speakers: Retired Gov. Jay Hammond from Alaska, who was the leader in enacting the Permanent Fund Dividend in 1980; Senator Eduardo Suplicy from Brazil, the sponsor of a soon-to-be-enacted plan to guarantee a minimum income for everyone in that country; Dr. Philip Wogaman, retired senior minister of Foundry United Methodist Church, and author of a book in 1968 that presented the moral arguments for a guaranteed income; and Stanley Aronowitz, a sociology professor, union leader, and former Green Party candidate for Governor of New York. Registration instructions, hotel information, and the full program are available at www.usbig.net.

Steven Shafarman, President of the Citizen Policies Institute (www.citizenpolicies.org) will have a major article about the Basic Income Guarantee concept in the March issue of Green Horizon Quarterly.

GPNJ COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee continues to chug along with projects such as this issue of the GreenGram and updating the Web site. We're always looking for volunteers, particularly in the following areas: GPNJ members who will track down activities of interest in their counties and submit stories about them; proofreading the web site and suggesting improvements; and finding events of interest to GPNJ members for our calendar. We also encourage volunteers to chip in at the county level with web and other communications work. The committee meets monthly via teleconference. For more information, please email the chair: [Stu Kautsch \(skautsch@mindspring.com\)](mailto:skautsch@mindspring.com).

ATLANTIC COUNTY

At the local's last meeting steering committee elections were held, with the following results: Meredith Slotoroff is now County Coordinator; Carly Massey is Secretary; Raven Ahmed is Treasurer; Gabe Gabrielsky is Labor Committee Chair; Ray Higbee is Membership Committee Chair. A decision was made to hold membership meetings quarterly and to switch from a formal business style of meeting to a less formal recruitment style of meeting. A list-serve has been set up to explore the possibility of organizing a Green Party campaign in the 2nd Congressional District. To join it, go to: nj2004-2ndCDGreenCampaign-subscribe@yahoo.com.

In the spirit of "walking on two legs," the Atlantic County Green Party plans to be working with the Coalition for Peace and Justice and other activist groups in the area.

- Ray Higbee

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

On January 15 the Cumberland County Green Party (Lester R. Brown Branch of GPNJ) met at the South Vineland United Methodist Church to discuss Green Party presidential campaign prospects and a U.S. Supreme Court Hatch Act challenge by Roger Merle. Gregory Lane is now the CuCGP Local's Webmaster (visit: gnj.vshost.com/cumberland). The next meeting will be held Feb. 19 at Brenner's Brew in Bridgeton.

ESSEX COUNTY

The Essex County Greens (Arthur Kinoy Branch of GPNJ) is now holding meetings twice a month (first and third Wednesday nights). We met recently with individuals talking about mounting serious local campaigns for City Council and School Board seats in Irvington, one of New Jersey's most distressed communities. Our three potential candidates are African-American, two men and a woman. Ted Glick and I had a follow-up meeting with two of them and discussed how this might be mutually beneficial.

We are also considering potential local races in West Orange. And we continue to "walk on two legs": In the near future we will be involved in events concerning the issues of police brutality (especially the Santiago Villeneuve death case in Bloomfield) and in a new coalition around the issue of immigrant detainees' rights. In addition, we have begun the process of adopting local by-laws.

- Joe Fortunato

HUDSON COUNTY

In addition to Congressional candidates, the Hudson County Green Party is seeking to fill slots for Sheriff, County Surrogate, and an open Freeholder seat in Union City. There might be another open Freeholder seat in Jersey City, pending William Braker's federal corruption trial. Anyone interested in running for these positions should contact either County Coordinator Greg Giacobbe (ggiacobbe@optonline.net) or Secretary/Membership Chair Jonathan Oriole (jonathan@orioleforassembly.org) as soon as possible in order to begin the vetting and petitioning process.

MERCER COUNTY

GPMC's TV show is temporarily suspended until further notice due to the Director/Editor moving on to a professional career in video production. A search for a replacement will begin.

By the end of February the GPMC's web site will contain the electoral results for Green candidates who ran in 2003. This will be in addition to the 2002 results already posted. Sales of the CD "From the Grassroots" continue to be steady. The national Green Party purchased another fifty CDs this past January. GPNJ will be using the CD as a premium for its fundraising efforts. The CD remains available for fundraising for any Green Party organization.

GPMC will be holding meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month for the 2004 year. The Green Party of Hamilton is about to hold its first meeting - February 14th, 10am, at the Hamilton Public Library. Sue Deckert is leading the effort to organize a local in New Jersey's sixth largest municipality. Visit: www.thegreenpartyofhamiltontwp.org

- Nick Mellis

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

David Hochfelder is now the County Coordinator. We thank Josephine Giaimo for all her good work helping to get the Middlesex Greens back up and running. On January 13 David spoke to about 200 students at J.P. Stevenson High School in Edison about the Green Party and its policies. The event went very well and the history teacher who moderates the sponsoring group asked David to return to speak to two of her classes in the near future. For his presentation, David received a \$300 honorarium, which he turned over to GPNJ!

At a meeting on January 22, the Middlesex local discussed: organizing a conference on electronic voting; getting municipalities and the county to adopt voluntary Kyoto-style greenhouse gas reductions; and participation with the Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War. The latter is sponsoring an anti-Patriot Act resolution to be presented to the Highland Park Borough Council at its meeting on Feb. 3.

MORRIS COUNTY

At our December 16 meeting we viewed the videotape provided by Steve Welzer of the Global Green Gathering in Australia and the 2001 press conference in Santa Barbara establishing the national Green Party. It was very informative [a copy of this tape can be provided to any local interested in screening it - contact Steve]. We were joined by Joe Fortunato, Coordinator of the Essex County local, who provided us with information on the 2004 presidential election and congressional races. We want to thank Joe and Steve for their participation and help in getting the Morris Greens up and running. Future meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at the Morris Cnty Library, 30 East Hanover Rd, Whippany.

- David Schwartz

CALENDAR

Sun. 2/1, 9:45am: Atlantic County Green Party Steering Committee meeting. Info: County Coordinator Meredith Slotoroff 609-204-5067 merslotoroff@aol.com.

Sun. 2/1, 2:00pm: Forum: "Civil Rights Under Fire...What You Need To Know Now About the Patriot Act" at the Montclair Public Library. Info: 973-801-0001 or write: People's Organization For Progress, PO Box 22505, Newark, NJ 07101-2505. Website: www.njpop.org.

Mon. 2/2, 6:30pm (and every Monday evening at this time): Weekly Peace Vigil at Rtes 45 & 40 in Woodstown (Salem County). Info: Norm Cohen ncohen12@comcast.net.

Tue. 2/3: Middlesex County Coordinator David Hochfelder will be speaking in favor of a resolution against the Patriot Act at a Highland Park Borough Council meeting. The effort is spearheaded by the Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War. Info: David Hochfelder 732-985-0326 david.hochfelder@rutgers.edu.

Tue. 2/3, 7:00pm: Meeting of the Ewing Citizens for Civil Liberties (ECCL) at the Ewing Library, Room #2. Alan Willinger will discuss his sponsorship of a resolution to the Ewing Council opposing the Patriot Act. Info: alanwillinger@yahoo.com or 609-883-2616.

Wed. 2/4, 9:00am: Black History Month Observance, Orange High School. People's Organization For Progress (see 2/1 for contact info).

Wed. 2/4, 7:00pm: Essex County Greens meeting at the Bloomfield College Center Building, #26 Liberty St, 2nd Floor (Liberty St. is downtown near Bloomfield Ave.). Park in the big College lot across the street from the College Center building. Info: Joe Fortunato 973-744-5958 josephfortunato@comcast.net.

Wed. 2/4, 8:00pm: Special performance of a new play, "Nickel & Dimed" (based on Barbara Ehrenreich's book of that name) to benefit Jobs with Justice and the Bread & Roses Community Fund. Philadelphia Theatre Company, 1714 Delancey St., Philadelphia. For tickets: 215-569-9700.

Thu. 2/5, 7:30pm: Forum to Debate Green Party of New Jersey Presidential Options. At the Labor Education Center in New Brunswick (Room 115). David Cobb and Steve Welzer will speak. Info: Ted Glick 973-338-5398 futurehopeTG@aol.com.

Mon. 2/9, 7:00pm: Monthly meeting of the Morris County Greens at the Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Rd. in Whippany. Info: David Schwartz 973-252-1554 dcschwa@optonline.net.

Tue. 2/10, 7:00pm: Monthly meeting of the Union County Green Party at Panera in Westfield. Info: George DeCarlo 908-322-4319 alexdn@ix.netcom.com.

Wed. 2/11, 7:00pm: Talk on "Racism Today" at Rutgers University in Newark. People's Organization For Progress (see 2/1 for contact info).

Wed. 2/11, 7:30pm: Monthly meeting of the Bergen County Green Party at The Ethical Culture Society, 687 Larch Ave., Teaneck (the Ethical Culture Society neither endorses nor rejects opinions expressed by the Bergen County Green Party nor is a sponsoring organization of the Bergen County Green Party.) Info: Alvin or Katy Meyer 201-342-0342 meyera@earthlink.net.

Wed. 2/11, 7:00pm: Talk by Harry Britt - "Why Did They Have To Kill Harvey Milk?" At Princeton University's Frist Campus Center, Room 302. Harry Britt is a longtime queer activist who worked with Harvey Milk, a gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors 1977-1978. Upon Milk's assassination, Britt was appointed to his seat on the Board, where he served for 14 years. Cosponsored by LGBT Student Services. This program is part of the Fund For Reunion 2003-2004 LGBTQ Lecture Series. Info: www.princeton.edu/odus/lgbt or e-mail bazarsky@princeton.edu

Wed. 2/11, 8:00pm: Special meeting of the Galaxy Green Party Club at 7000 Boulevard East in Guttenberg - Room 3 in the spa lounge. Steve Welzer will speak on the subject: "What's Happening to Middle Management Jobs." Info: Club Manager Jim Mohn 201-861-7360 mohn@galaxytowers.com.

Fri. 2/13, 10:00am-3:00pm: Minority Voting Conference at the Eagleton Institute of Politics in New Brunswick. Prof. Jane Junn of Eagleton and Prof. Kerry Haynie from Duke University's Department of Political Science are convening this conference to explore theories and research on minority voting. The conference will feature presentations of papers on the topic from political scientists across the country. Let them know if you plan to attend by contacting Michelle Horgan at 732-932-9384, ext. 249.

Sat. 2/14, 10:00am: Organizing meeting for a Green Party of Hamilton Township. At the Hamilton Public Library. Info: Susan Deckert 609-586-0199 sdeckert@webtv.net. Visit: www.thegreenpartyofhamiltontwp.org

Sun. 2/15, 9:30am & 11:00am: "Our Place in the World." Unitarian Church, Montclair. People's Organization For Progress (see 2/1 for contact info).

Mon. 2/16, 8:30pm: Film: "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin." At Princeton University's Rocky-Mathey Theater. Bayard Rustin, organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, was a master strategist and activist who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr. Despite his accomplishments, Rustin was silenced, beaten, imprisoned, and fired from key positions just because he was gay. Part of the Reel Change, Reel Justice Series. Cosponsored by LGBT Student Services, Black History Month Committee, Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding. Info: www.princeton.edu/odus/lgbt or e-mail bazarsky@princeton.edu

Wed. 2/18, 7:00pm: Essex County Greens meeting at the Bloomfield College Center Building, #26 Liberty St, 2nd Floor (Liberty St. is downtown near Bloomfield Ave.). Park in the big College lot across the street from the College Center building. Info: Joe Fortunato 973-744-5958 josephfortunato@comcast.net.

Wed. 2/18, 7:00pm: Monthly meeting of the Burlington County Green Party at the Friends Meeting House, 81 High Street (corner of High and Garden streets), Mount Holly. Info: Matt Thieke 888-464-0461 mthieke@virtua.org

Wed. 2/18, 7:00pm: Monthly meeting of the Hudson County Green Party at the Old Bergen Church, located at the corner of Highland and Bergen Avenues in Jersey City (1 Highland Avenue). The church is seven blocks down Bergen Avenue from Journal Square. Parking and access to the building is in the parking lot on Highland Avenue. Info: Greg Giacobe 201-823-2459 ggiacobe@optonline.net.

Thu. 2/19, 7:00pm: Monthly meeting of the Cumberland County Green Party at Brenner's Brew, 21 E. Commerce St., Bridgeton. Info: Rich Raimonde 856-327-3669 sjcapegreen@hotmail.com.

Tue. 2/24, 7:30pm: Monthly mtg of the Mercer County Green Party at the Lawrence branch of the Mercer County Library, Darrah Lane & Alt. Route 1. Info: Nick Mellis 609-393-4349 votegreen@nickmellis.org.

Thu. 2/26, 7:00pm: Monthly meeting of the Camden County Green Party at the Haddon Twp branch of the Camden Library, 15 MacArthur Blvd, Westmont. Info: Kevin or Kim Madden 856-854-6183 maddpeace@aol.com; or Martin Nolan 856-869-5463 rockthevote@hotmail.com.

Feb. 26-29: Princeton University's independent film/video festival, Queer Articulations. It consists of a wide variety of works, including experimental shorts, features, documentaries and short comedies. Sponsored by the Princeton Pride Alliance: www.princeton.edu/odus/lgbt or bazarsky@princeton.edu.

Sat. 2/28, 1:00pm: Saviours' Day 2004 Workshop: Reparations Forum - Hopewell Baptist Church in Newark. Info: People's Organization For Progress.

Sat. 2/28, 8:00pm: Coalition for Peace Action's Annual Concert for Peace - featuring John Sebastian and Michelle Shocked. At Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton. Info: Rev. Robert Moore 609-924-5022. Visit: www.peacecoalition.org.

Sat. 3/20: Peace Train into NYC for a major demonstration in conjunction with United for Peace and Justice and global actions on the theme: The World Still Says No to War. Info: www.unitedforpeace.org.

Mon. 3/29, 2:00pm: Unplug Salem will hold a protest at the Salem Nukes to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Three Mile Island meltdown. Speakers will include Paul Gunter (NIRS); Jane Nogaki (NJEF); Joe Mangano (RPHP); reps from the Tooth Fairy Project. Entertainment will be provided by the Green Party's own Eco-Chorale. Info: Norm Cohen ncohen12@comcast.net.

The GreenGram is circulated bi-monthly in an effort to keep all GPNJ members informed about recent matters and upcoming events. Members are encouraged to provide brief submissions of news items or opinions, as well as event announcements. Steve Welzer is the editor. The deadline for the special March pre-convention issue will be February 25. Please submit material to the address below or to: GreenGramNJ@aol.com

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