

GreenGram

The Official Newsletter of the Green Party of New Jersey Volume 9 • Issue 1 • March 2005

Special PreConvention Issue

Convention Announcement: See page 6

Burlington County

Last October, the Burlington County Green Party held an event that was both fun and profitable: a concert fundraiser. We were able to book folk music recording artists Dave Lippman and Ray Korona for the show, which we held at the Mount Holly Friends Meetinghouse (where our Green party meetings are held). We advertised, sold tickets and had about 50 people come out for the show. Both musicians put on very entertaining sets, in between refreshments and a few words about the Green Party.

In the end, our chapter made a small profit after the costs of the entertainment, and had a fun Saturday night in the process.

Matt Thieke



Dave Lippman at Burlington County concert.

Bergen County

The Bergen Greens, in an outreach effort to become more widely known to the activist community, signed on as a co-sponsoring organization to two events in Bergen County.

In December we recruited attendees and co-sponsored a successful fundraising concert spearheaded by the Bergen County chapter of Peoples Organization for Progress, which was held at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. Two thousand dollars was raised for POP and a summer program for inner-city youth.

In January, BCGP was a co-sponsor of the Annual Birthday Celebration honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., which was held in the African-American community of Teaneck.

Submitted by,
Alvin Meyer
Co-chair Outreach Committee

Harvest of Empire A History of Latinos in America

By Juan Gonzalez

346 pp. Penguin \$21.00

Review By Alvin Meyer
Bergen County Greens

Juan Gonzalez, investigative journalist, columnist for the New York Daily News, co-host of WBAI's Democracy Now, and former member of The Young Lords has written a fascinating analysis about Latino migration to the U.S.

In his book Gonzalez explores the material base, both political and economic, for this recent phenomenon: "The Latino explosion". He not only makes clear the connection between the role of the U.S. in its imperial relationship with Latin America, but draws clear distinctions

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Harvest of Empire

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between the various Latin American nations and the conditions that have prompted mass migration to “Norte America”.

The book is divided into three main sections: “Roots”, “Branches”, and “Harvest”. Gonzalez starts in the 14th Century and continues to the present day. He writes about “how the United States expanded into an empire during the nineteenth century through seizing and exploiting Latin American territories, and how our leaders turned the Caribbean region into a U.S. protectorate in the twentieth century.”

He writes, “ If Latin America had not been raped and pillaged by U.S. capital since its independence, millions of desperate workers would not now be coming here in such numbers to reclaim a share of that wealth; and if the U.S. is today the world’s richest nation, it is in part because of the sweat and blood of the copper workers of Chile, the tin miners of Bolivia, the fruit pickers of Guatemala and Honduras, the cane cutters of Cuba, the oil workers of Venezuela and Mexico etc.”

After reading this thoughtful book it would be difficult indeed for non-Latino Americans to view folks of Hispanic origin as one whole entity without the necessary and correct cultural, national and historical distinctions.

Ocean County

In place of a county report, Liz Arnone sends us a letter which she wrote to the members of the Lakewood Council.

Lakewood Council Members:

I saw an article recently about the Lakewood Town Square being considered for a parking area. I’m appalled at the proposal and at Robert Singer.

As a public official who has been elected to serve the best interests of his constituents, I believe he does not serve the best interests of a large portion of Lakewood residents by supporting this proposal.

I can remember Lakewood prior to the restoration and how the restoration was designed to capture Lakewood’s turn of the century historical past. This was captured quite well and many people were very pleased with the results.

For those who cannot drive, it is a pleasant walk to the stores and resting or gathering area for many.

I think if the Council or Mr. Singer is offended that the square is sometimes used as a place to distribute food or clothing to the needy, they might want to realize there are needy, and look for ways to remedy that situation, along with affordable housing which I think should be further up the list of priorities for Lakewood than a parking lot and more stores.

It does not speak well where this proposal is going and whose best interests it will serve. I truly hope you will reconsider and let your conscience be your guide.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Arnone
Brick, NJ
02/15/05



Proposal for change to GPNJ Bylaws

The following change to the bylaws comes from George DeCarlo, Union County. It will be voted on at the GPNJ State Convention on April 23, 2005.

Rule for Succession

Bylaws Amendment:

Under Section 5 Executive Committee – Composition (e) the following statement shall replace the current language:

Succession shall proceed in the following manner for Officers in the case of vacancy with the next lower position filling the vacancy above, or in the case of an officer or standing committee chair choosing not to move up in the rank determined by this clause, moving to the next position and so on. Officers succeeding positions shall perform all the duties of and act in the full capacity of the position for the duration of that vacancy. After the ranking list is exhausted, remaining vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Committee by appointing a replacement to serve for the unexpired remainder of that Officer's term. Order of ranking list: (1) Chair, (2) Vice Chair, (3) Second Vice Chair, (4) Secretary, (5) Treasurer, (6) Membership Committee Chair, (7) Policy Committee Chair, (8) Finance Committee Chair, (9) Communications Committee Chair

Further, the following deletions will be made:

Under Section 5.3 — Vice Chair

and, in the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, perform all the duties of and act in the full capacity of the Chair for the duration of that vacancy.

Under Section 5.4 – Second Vice Chair

and shall, in the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice Chair, perform all the duties of and act in the full capacity of the Vice Chair for the duration of that vacancy.

My run for Cumberland County Clerk

by Gregory Lee Lane



Before I took over the Chair of the CoCGP in mid-November, I ran as the

Green Party candidate for Cumberland County Clerk. The race for the office pitted me against the Republican incumbent Gloria Noto and Democrat Maria LaBoy.

Ms. Noto was known for ballot mistakes which resulted in numerous ballot reprintings as well as expanding the services of the Clerk's office while keeping a tightfisted rein on expenses. One of those mistakes was on the first printing of the 2002 sample ballot, in which Green Party was not mentioned under Roger Merle's and Ted Glick's ballot lines, which I mentioned in an appearance on radio station WSNJ in mid-July.

My campaign themes were empowerment of special clerks to do their jobs without much interference and greater use of technology in the office. One of my major ideas was the place-

ment of selected mortgages and deeds on separate software.

Some of the highlights of the campaign were 100 signs that we used and my appearance on radio station WVLT-FM. GPUS vice-presidential candidate Pat LaMarche was also on that program. The campaign also had a web page.

In the end, I got 687 votes, according to the Cumberland County Board of Canvassers. We feel that this was a very strong showing for a "conservative" Green in a very laid-back, rural and conservative county in Southwestern New Jersey.

Novosielski and Kautsch for Council

(Rutherford, NJ)

The Bergen County Green Party got involved in borough-level partisan races for the first time in 2004 by endorsing Gary Novosielski and Stewart Kautsch for Borough Council in Rutherford. It was a two-seat race, with a total of 15,000 votes cast (approximately 7500 voters). The Democrats received 51% and won both seats (and now have all council seats). GOP 43%. Greens 6% - Novosielski getting 530, Kautsch 370 for a total of 900. These totals are before absentee ballots.

Some accomplishments to be noted: 10,000 pieces of literature were distributed (4 different pieces), covering most of the 5000 households in the borough. The campaign received a lot of press coverage from the weeklies, ran 5 newspaper ads, and was covered a little in the large daily, the *Bergen Record*. The campaign also featured a web site with a "chat board".

There was a mailing of 2100 letters (much of it to apartment houses), but most of the literature was delivered door-to-door by volunteers. Gary and Stu staffed tables at two public events and were interviewed by both area weekly newspapers. Well over a dozen volunteers helped at some point or another, including our wonderful media director Natalie Kochmar and energetic treasurer and fundraiser Susan Gempler. Thanks also goes to Matt and Sue Ahearn for help in many ways.

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Union County

We are currently seeking Green candidates for local and county offices for 2005. Please get involved in research for ballot access, changing the structure of county government, and discussing the function and economic relationship of local communities for residents.

Monthly meeting held second Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm @ Panera's (coffee shop) on Broad Street in the center of Westfield.

listserv: <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gpnj-union/>>

contact: George DeCarlo or Ryan Reyes
(908) 322-4319
P.O. Box 172
Gillette, NJ 07933
<http://gpnj.org/union/>



Cumberland County

Gregory Lee Lane,
County Chair, Cumberland County Green Party

Novosielski and Kautsch

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The campaign committee held a post-mortem and identified more than a dozen points that they feel can be improved greatly in future campaigns. Greens in Rutherford are already preparing for another race – probably in 2005.



Ray Korona at Burlington County concert.

The Cumberland County Green Party met on Thursday, March 3, and adopted the following resolution on the NJ Fast Track Law:

“The Cumberland County Green Party agrees that the current NJ Fast Track Law, which allows for a speeded-up review process and automatic approvals for new commercial and residential developments would lead to cookie-cutter developments and would encourage sprawl into open spaces, and thus calls on the NJ State Legislature to abolish the Fast Track Law as being environmentally unsound, an encroachment of the natural resources of our state and removes review by local Planning Boards who look after the environment and citizens of their respective communities.”

We agreed to have two fundraisers: Yard Sales at the U-Sell-It Flea Market and at the Bay Day Celebration in June. We voted to add “Richard J. Raimonde” to our current second name in honor of our founding member Rich Raimonde, making it The Richard J. Raimonde/Lester R. Brown branch. We also voted to extend an invitation to Lester R. Brown to speak to us in October.

Ninth Annual Convention of the Green Party of New Jersey

The Green Party of New Jersey (“GPNJ”) will hold its annual state convention on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the Labor Ed Center in New Brunswick. We will be electing officers and members of national committees, as well as considering changes to the bylaws. There will also be several speakers from the GPNJ Speakers Bureau and a discussion of the 2005 Electoral Strategy for the party.

If you plan to attend, please bring food, as it is traditional to have a “working lunch”. We place dishes to be shared – vegetarian only – in the lobby area.

Convention Credentials: You must be a paid-up GPNJ member in order to vote at the convention. Annual dues are \$25 for regular dues, \$10 for students and low income. New membership dues must be sent in by March 23 in order to have a vote at the convention. Renewals may be paid at the door.

The following is the agenda as it stands at press time:

8:45am - 9:15am	Registration
9:15am - 9:30am	Opening remarks
9:30am - 10:30am	Speakers
10:30am - 11:15am	Elections to national committees
11:15am - 12:00pm	Reports from Standing Committees
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Speakers
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Election of state officers
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Bylaws changes - see elsewhere in this publication for the text of proposed changes to the GPNJ bylaws
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Results of election of state officers
3:15pm - 4:00pm	Politics! Including 2005 electoral strategy
4:00pm	Closing remarks by the new chair

Be sure to check www.GPNJ.org for last-minute changes to Convention plans. See you there!

Directions to the convention:

The Rutgers Labor Education Center is located at the corner of Ryders Lane and Labor Center Way in New Brunswick, near the Cook College and Douglass College campuses.

If driving, take the Nj Turnpike to exit 9; then Route 18 North (less than a mile) to Route 1 South. Proceed slowly as you get onto Route 1 South, because you want to make an IMMEDIATE right turn into the Sears parking lot. At the very back-left corner of the Sears parking lot there is an outlet road that leads directly toward the Labor Education Center parking lot (make a quick left after exiting the Sears parking lot).

If you happen to miss the turn-off for Sears, stay in the righthand lane of Route 1 and proceed to the first exit (less than 1 mile), which is: Ryders Lane/New Brunswick. Proceed on Ryders Lane to the first intersection that has a traffic light (about a half mile) and make a right turn. You will see the Labor Education Center on your right.

Via mass transit: Amtrak and Nj Transit trains stop in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick train station is located at the corner of Albany Street and Easton Avenue. From there take the “EE” Campus Bus, which runs every 10 minutes 9:10am-8:15pm, every 12 minutes 7am-9am, and every 20 minutes after 8:15pm. Cab service is available from the train station. Rutgers bus schedules and maps available at <http://gobble.rutgers.edu/newpats/bsched.htm>

Mercer County

Mercer County is proud to announce the beginning of grassroots development in four towns in 2005. Hamilton, Hopewell, Lawrence and East Windsor Townships all have individuals who are interested in and or are currently building local parties.

People who step forward in showing some interest in party involvement are asked to at least be precinct leaders for their neighborhoods. The Mercer Greens continue with the sale of the Mercer Artist's only CD *From the GrassRoots Volume 1*. Although the Cable Access show is on temporary hiatus, work to revive that project is underway. We hope to have candidates for this coming November's elections. Registered Greens in Mercer County jumped from 33 in 2003 to 55 in 2004. A goal will be to double that amount this year. Greens are presently involved in a couple of very important issues here in Mercer.

We have people who are involved in the Anti Wal-Mart movement in Lawrence Township, the Patriot Act town resolutions that send a message to Washington, DC that we are not happy with most of the provisions in it. We were also involved in helping pass pay to play reform in Lawrence Township after the council there refused to implement the Common Cause approach and forced citizens to lead a petition drive and election victory making reform a strong priority. Sad news that we will be losing two of our most original members: Steve Welzer and Susan Deckert are planning on moving out of Mercer County. Our loss will be another Green Party's gain! Good Luck, Thank You, and God Bless!

Respectfully Submitted
Nick Mellis Chair.
609.393.4349

Carpool trip to visit a new ecovillage

In previous years groups of New Jersey Greens have gone on carpool trips to visit the EcoVillage at Ithaca (EVI). This spring, for the sake of comparison, we're organizing a trip to a different place, the Ecovillage of Loudoun County (ELC). The trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 21.

You can view their Web site at: <http://www.ecovil.com>

ELC is located in northern Virginia, just south of the Maryland border and west of Washington, DC. The trip by car is about 3.5 hours.

On the way home we'll eat dinner together (optional) at The Orchard Restaurant in Frederick, MD.

Ecovillage of Loudoun County is newer than EVI. The first residents moved in just two years ago. So they are still at the stage of actively formulating their plans. It will be interesting to hear about their intentions and see how they've started up their project.

If you are interested in joining this trip, contact Steve Welzer stevewelzer@msn.com (609-443-6782).



Atlantic County



The Atlantic County GP provides community service and gets some PR! Thanks to David Alcantara for sending us this picture.

Essex County **Submitted by Ted Glick**

The Green Party of Essex County has been active over the past several months. In January we worked with the People's Organization for Progress and N.J. Peace action to organize a successful counter-inaugural car motorcade on the afternoon of January 20th. 15 cars participated as we traveled from Glen Ridge to Montclair to Bloomfield to the Newark federal building for a closing picket line and rally. The next day, the Newark Star Ledger carried a major story on the front page of the Essex County section.

One month later, on February 23rd, one week after the Kyoto global warming treaty went into effect, 35 people attended a community forum on global warming at the Bloomfield Civic Center. Emily Rusch of N.J. PIRG, Rev. Paul Mayer of the Climate Crisis Coalition and Ted Glick were the featured speakers. There was much interest in this issue, and the Essex Greens plan to continue working on it in the coming months.

We have also been involved with a coalition of groups planning a peace demonstration in Montclair on March 19th, and we intend to organize a public forum on instant runoff voting this spring.

About the GreenGram The GreenGram is circulated bimonthly 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. Deadline for the May issue will be April 20. Stu Kautsch is the editor, Sally Gellert of SageEditorial Services is the designer. Please submit material to skautsch@mindspring.com.