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GreenGram

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The Green Party of NJ Bulletin - April 2009

- * GPNJ Annual Convention
- * County local reports
- * Proposals for the convention to consider
- * Letter to the editor
- * GPUS Annual National Meeting notice
- * Green Fest 2009
- * Green candidate successes
- * Reverend Billy's Bailout
- * Cynthia McKinney commentaries
- * CMMNJ Monthly Public Meeting

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GREEN PARTY OF NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONVENTION

GPNJ's 13th Annual Convention will be held Saturday, May 23. Location: 2211 West Landis Avenue, Vineland, NJ 08360 (right off Exit 32A of Route 55). Registration will begin at 9:00am. The convention will feature the introduction of our 2009 candidates and the election of our party officers, plus a presentation by keynote speaker David Petrovich. For more information, email: Chair[at]gpnj.org.

(Proposals for the convention to consider and other material related to the convention are included below.)

COUNTY LOCAL REPORTS

Bergen County

Submitted by Ed Fanning

The last Green Council conference call included a review of plans for Earth Day 2009. Gail Dixon and I discussed possible activities. Katy Meyer, Alvin Meyer and I also reviewed what Bergen County has done in the past. BC has distributed a letter (the text of which is included at the end of this GreenGram) on Green Party letterhead along with a packet of sunflower seeds inside a small (coin) envelope. We have a stamp which is used to stamp BCGP (Bergen County Green Party) on the envelope. A possible place where sunflower seeds can be ordered is: Wildseed Farms - www.wildseedfarms.com 800-848-0078.

We distributed the letter on April 22 with the sunflower seeds stapled to the outside envelope. We will be doing so again on Saturday, April 25.

[Earth Day awareness is current all during the month of April, so there is still time for other counties to emulate what the Bergen Greens have done. Feel free to use the text of the letter included at the end of this issue.]

Essex County

Submitted by Jane Califf

People from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, GreenPeace and D.C. Rising Tide disrupted the World Coal-to-Liquids Conference in Washington, DC on March 26.

If you click on the link below you can watch a short video of this event. The video quality is not good because the protestors had to sneak in, but you will clearly hear one young man speak from the balcony about the dangers of coal and then you will see and hear Ted Glick (our Essex County Coordinator) also speak. The police came and told all of the protestors to leave, and they did because their point was to disrupt, not to get arrested.

www.youtube.com/dcrisingtide

The process of making and burning the liquid that would come from coal is twice as polluting as the process of refining oil into gasoline and burning it. The reason the coal industry wants this to be developed is that the diesel fuel that results can be used in motor vehicles and they will then have a broader market for their coal products.

After you watch the video, you will see that there are related ones about the March 2 actions in Washington, DC against coal. Ted, Daniel Glick and I participated in a rally at the U.S. Capitol and then a civil disobedience protest outside the 103-year-old coal plant that warms and cools the U.S. Capitol Building. Five gates to the plant were blocked by thousands of people calling for clean energy, not polluting fossil fuels. No one was arrested because there were too many protesters!

Additionally, Ted and I participated in the March 28 rally in Toms River to shut down the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant. About 100 people attended the rally sponsored by Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch to

demand that the NRC refuse to approve continued operations at the 40-year old plant (the oldest in the country). Carol Gay, who helped organize the action, asked Ted to speak and introduced him as a member of the Green Party of New Jersey.

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Letter to the Asbury Park Press 4/9/09 (excerpts)

Concerns remain over Oyster Creek

At the recent Citizen's Rally at Huddy Park in Toms River, the attendees heard first-hand from experts who have been following the safety and health issues at Oyster Creek. We were not surprised, and we predicted at the rally, that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would re-license Oyster Creek. It was the 49th time the NRC used its rubber stamp to approve license extensions to nuclear plants throughout the U.S. It maintained its record of never ordering the shutdown of a nuclear plant.

Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch will continue to educate the public about the serious problems of this reactor. It is a decaying plant already compromised by years of radiation and heat, with a questionable containment system. It pollutes Barnegat Bay and its emissions are linked to cancer. It is susceptible to terrorism with an impossible evacuation plan, while its lethal waste continues to be stockpiled on-site.

Edith Gbur
President, Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch

Mercer County

Nick Mellis and Ken Wolski are planning to run as Green Party candidates for Lawrence Township Council. Steve Welzer will soon start collecting signatures to run for State Assembly in the 12th District.

Monmouth County

Through various cleanups and environmental projects, the Green Party of Monmouth County has been developing relationships locally with the leadership of Clean Ocean Action (COA), Hazlet Township's Environmental Commission, the Hazlet Township Committee as well as the Hazlet Area Quality of Life Alliance. As a result of Rich Fuller's speeches to the latter two organizations, they both signed on to COA's opposition to the LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) "Insanity Island" proposal off our coast. Subsequently, Rich has been invited to speak on May 14 to the Union Beach Township Committee regarding our opposition to the LNG proposal.

On Saturday, April 25, the Aberdeen Greens will once again add their names to the other Green Party participants in COA's biannual Beach Sweeps to help remove shoreline debris and record the results on Beach Sweep Data Cards. (On Earth Day Oprah Winfrey showed a floating "island" of plastic and other debris contaminating the Pacific Ocean. She reported that it was the size of Texas and killing birds and other living things.)

The plastic cap collection campaign is winding down. Greens who have been collecting caps may now turn them in to Rich or bring them to the GPNJ convention in May.

Relationships are also being developed with activists in Middlesex County, such as the Coordinator of the Green Party of Middlesex County, Matt Natale, a Brookdale Community College student; the peace activists in Highland Park; and with Citizen Action by way of a recent anti-war march through downtown New Brunswick.

One additional highlight from New Brunswick: at a recent visit to the upstairs juice bar at the George Street Co-op (organic health food store) the manager requested a Green Party sticker for display there. A promise to fulfill that request was made pronto!

Lastly, work has begun on our long-anticipated Green Party of Monmouth County web site.

Submitted by Rich Fuller
Coordinator, Green Party of Monmouth County

Ocean County

Coordinator Jason Koralja reports that he is intending to run for Surf City Boro Council and has obtained nearly twice the number of petition signatures required.

PROPOSALS FOR THE GPNJ CONVENTION TO CONSIDER

Proposal submitted by Ed Fanning of the Bergen County Greens:

Establishment of a GPNJ Coordinator/Project Manager position.

Be it resolved that GPNJ establishes the new position of State Coordinator/Project Manager. The holder of this position will work with the GPNJ County and State officials to help implement policies approved in various GPNJ venues.

(I believe that we need a person in this position to ensure that we act upon various projects/resolutions that are approved by the party.)

Six proposals submitted by Nick Mellis of the Mercer County Greens:

Proposal #1:

Allowing the State Chair to propose ideas and actions.

This (BYLAWS AMENDMENT) resolution if passed would permit the State Chair of the Green Party of New Jersey to propose resolutions both online and at state party conventions and at monthly GC/EC

meetings. If passed this resolution would override any of Robert's Rules of Order restrictions on the chair making proposals.

Proposal #2:

Recording the votes of our Representatives to the National Committee.

Be it resolved (AS A BYLAWS AMENDMENT) that all votes taken by our three representatives to the Green National Committee of the GPUS, be recorded and posted on a special page of the GPNJ web site. If passed this resolution would create a web page that would record all the votes that our reps to the national committee take. A link to the proposal would be listed and the vote taken by our reps would be recorded. This page would be created and maintained by the GPNJ ComCom and a from at least one of national reps.

Proposal #3:

The Green Council will determine how our Green National Committee Representatives will vote.

Be it resolved (AS A BYLAWS AMENDMENT): The votes taken by our national reps will be discussed by the GPNJ Green Council prior to the voting deadline imposed by the GNC. A vote will then be taken by the GPNJ Council as to how we would like our reps to vote on a particular issue(s). The purpose of this proposal is to engage the Green Council of NJ in the daily activity of the national party. To make the GPNJ as a whole thoroughly knowledgeable of the issues facing the Green Party of United States. An EC/GC vote will be taken before the national deadline so that our rep's can register their votes

Proposal #4:

The Green Council can determine whether to terminate the term of a Representative to the Green National Committee (or GNC) or other national committees.

Be it resolved (AS A BYLAWS AMENDMENT) that the Green Council for the GPNJ will be given the right to remove or recall a member from any of the national Green Party committees including as our state representative to the national body and the other various working committees that exists now and or will be created in the future..

The purpose of this resolution will be to give the Green Council of GPNJ the right to recall any of our reps to the GNC for bad and or abusive behavior. Bad and or abusive behavior will be defined as such: when a representative can't communicate with fellow greens without insulting or snide remarks or bullying of others in the Green Party. Politely questioning authority or respectfully disagreeing with another Green is not grounds for recall.

Proposal #5:

Public Loyalty to the GPNJ.

Be it resolved (BYLAWS AMENDMENT) that all elected GPNJ officers and committee chairs and county coordinators and county chairs be required to remain publicly loyal to our National, State and County and Municipal Green Party candidates and not take any OFFICIAL position(s) with a candidate from another party, etc. The person(s) may temporarily step aside for the length of the campaign and ask for reinstatement by the GPNJ Green Council afterwards.

The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that duly elected officers of GPNJ (including County Chairs) will publicly support Green Party candidates or step down from that position till elections are over. As an example: A state GPNJ (elected) officer could not be an official contact or spokesperson for another candidate whether or not a green is running for that office. As an individual you can support any candidate you want and vote accordingly, you may choose to step down from your elected GPNJ or County position and publicly declare and or make yourself publicly available for the candidate of your choice.

Proposal #6:

Ownership of Yahoo Groups.

Be it resolved and added as an amendment to the GPNJ bylaws that Ownership of any YahooGroups created by and for the GPNJ shall remain the corporate property of Yahoo!, Inc. I propose that when it comes to management of any GPNJ created YahooGroups that there will be multiple owners of all state party run lists.

Multiple owners will be defined as current members of the Executive Committee. The only person with permission to delete a group will be given to the Chair, all other officers will be given ownership privileges except being able to cause deletion of group. Deletion of a GPNJ YahooGroup will be determined by and voted upon by the GPNJ Green Council and proceed to be deleted no more than thirty (30) days later and no less than ten days from the date of the vote. Current owners of YahooGroups who are not members of the current GPNJ Executive Committee will surrender there ownership privileges over to people on the current committee in a timely fashion.

All state level committees will be created on YahooGroups and will have the following label in front of them: GPNJ-. This rule does not apply to any county lists created on Yahoo. It would just make sense to have several people co-owners of the county list serves so that the list doesn't die if and when people decided to just leave the party.

Three resolutions submitted by Scott Baier of the Mercer County Greens:

Resolution 1. Resolved; that by 2011 all GPNJ members shall no longer be members of other political parties.

Discussion; it will unify the Greens as one party and snuff out all other ideologies.

Resolution 2. Resolved; that the GPNJ shall endorse a constitutional amendment to ban the manufacture, sale, and possession all types of guns except for law enforcement and military personnel.

Discussion; In light of the recent violence in recent years, it would be a good idea to implement a constitutional amendment banning guns as a preclude to reducing crime.

Resolution 3. Resolved; that the GPNJ shall waive dues for members who are unemployed, and they shall have the same voting rights as dues paying members, and accordingly shall reduce yearly membership dues to \$20, and shall establish a one-time life membership dues payment for those who wish to be life GPNJ members at \$100.

LETTER FROM ALVIN MEYER OF THE BERGEN COUNTY GREENS

April 21, 2009

Katy and I joined the Green Party 11 years ago, because we were convinced of the need for a new political approach to the myriad of threats to our planet and people. We assumed that there would be a high level of political commitment from both our leadership, and rank and file. Which would lead to a rapid growth of the party as we attracted more folks that understood the fact that the system is well represented by the duopoly, but the needs of the vast majority of Americans are ignored ... at best.

What we have seen is an unbelievable level of personal vendetta in conjunction with an inability to do anything constructive. We are at a crossroads, and I don't think it is too late to save this noble and necessary effort to provide an alternative to the morass we find ourselves in.

What is necessary, for starters, is to elect new leadership that will breathe new life into the Greens; inspire and motivate our ranks: attract new and diverse folks to the cause; elect Greens to office, and shed any vain hope that the Democrats will do it for us.

FROM THE GPUS ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING COMMITTEE

This year, the Green Party of the United States' annual meeting will be held in Durham, North Carolina, July 23-26. Anyone active in or interested in the Green Party is encouraged to attend.

We want to have a dynamic program of workshops, panels, and other presentations that will provide attendees with the tools and information they need to raise money, run campaigns, and build the Green Party.

Do you have a proposal for consideration? If so, please submit - by May 4 - the following in an email attachment to Hillary Kane (hillarya[at]upenn.edu) and Matt Abel (attorneyabel[at]riseup.net) with the subject heading: ANMC 2009 Workshop.

1. An abstract of no more than one page describing your workshop, panel, or presentation. Please be sure to include what the attendees will learn from attending your session. And please spell out any acronyms or abbreviations you use (because the reviewer of your abstract may not know what they mean).
2. The maximum number of people that can be accommodated in your session.
3. The audio-visual equipment you would need, within reason because of budget constraints. It would really help the party if you brought your own equipment. Let us know either way.
4. A biographical sketch (one or two paragraphs) of the presenter(s). Please be sure to include the presenters' expertise in the subject being presented.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Hillary or Matt. You may also send an email to them suggesting workshop topics that you would like to see but do not want to present.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to make the 2009 annual meeting one that has a positive impact on the growth of the Green Party!

GREEN FEST 2009

Six years ago, members of the Green Party of New York State initiated a project which has turned into a biennial gathering called "Green Fest." Starting this year it will become a regional event. They are seeking participants from GPNJ (they link to www.GPNJ.org from the home page of their Web site). We should encourage our members to attend and, beyond that, to give a presentation, participate in a workshop, or staff an exhibit (Steve Welzer, our Communications Committee Chair, will be a keynote speaker).

Proceeds from the event will accrue to regional state Green parties based on percentage of attendance from each state. In other words, if 10% of the attendees are from New Jersey, then GPNJ will get 10% of the residual (after expenses) revenues.

Here are excerpts from the text of the flyer about the event:

Celebrate Sustainable Living and Sustainable Politics

Aug. 7-9, 2009

Alfred University, Alfred, NY

Spend a weekend sharing skills for sustainable living and sustainable politics on the Alfred University campus in rural upstate New York. Learn how to build a small wind turbine, bake in an earth oven, set up a CSA, live job free, build new media outlets, run a third party political campaign, and much more.

Green Fest is a benefit for the Green Party of New York and other Green parties in our region. The festival is open to all who are interested in sustainable living and sustainable politics. The weekend will include workshops, tours, and keynote addresses, exhibitors, swimming, yoga and hiking. Dorm rooms, camping and the Saxon Inn are available for lodging on campus. Local campgrounds and Bed-and-Breakfasts are also available. Meals prepared from locally-grown food will be served at the Alfred University dining hall.

We invite Green-friendly activists to offer panels and workshops on sustainable topics and Green-friendly musicians to perform. We also invite Green-friendly exhibitors to set up tents and publicize their activist organization or sell their own crafts, local food items, books and renewable energy systems.

For more info:

<http://nygreenfest.org/>
info[at]nygreenfest.org

GREEN CANDIDATE SUCCESSES ON APRIL 7

ILLINOIS

- Jon Murray won re-election as Mount Morris Village Trustee, Ogle County. He finished second of three candidates with 485 votes or 34%.
- Bruce Samuels won his race for Oak Park Village Library Board, Cook County. He finished first of five candidates for four seats with 3,757 votes or 21.51%.

WISCONSIN

- Tony Palmeri won re-election to the Oshkosh Common Council. He finished first of six candidates for three seats with 6,633 votes or 23.59%.
- Bob Poeschel won election to the Oshkosh Common Council. He finished third of six candidates for three seats with 4,717 votes or 16.78%.
- Satya Rhodes-Conway ran unopposed for Madison Alderperson District 12, Dane County.
- Marsha Rummel ran unopposed for Dane County Common Council District 6.
- Jo Ellen Gramling ran unopposed for Schleswig Town Clerk, Manitowoc County.

REVEREND BILLY'S BAILOUT

By David Weidner

Wall Street Journal 4/16/09 (excerpts)

Would Jesus take a bailout?

Confronted with the once-in-a-century opportunity to remake the financial system, the reformers in Washington have a choice: Succumb to the temptation of serving financial supermarkets or lift up community banks and street-level economies.

Enter Reverend Billy Talen, the New York-based street preacher, performer and activist who - along with his flock, the Church of Life After Shopping - believes government has a moral obligation to support communities before big banks.

"I've been trying to drive people out of their institutions," Reverend Billy says. "Their institutions aren't working."

It's hard to imagine Timothy Geithner taking advice from an iconoclast dressed in a white suit, clerical collar and Elvis-inspired hair, but the Reverend Billy may be on to something. In place of a system where big banks and corporations enter neighborhoods only to profit from them, Reverend Billy wants to empower small banks and credit unions that hold a stake in the communities they serve by offering incentives and making it harder for big finance to undercut local business. It's hard to argue against the system he envisions.

Think for a moment about what community finance could mean for the nation: Neighborhood banks would lend to local businesses. Profits could stay in the community. Simply knowing who your customers are and living near them could bring common sense - the most basic and sound form of risk management - back to banking.

Sure, it sounds kind of dreamy, but such systems are already in place in neighborhoods large and small. Small businesses thrive, but they are often at the mercy of big banks who giveth and taketh credit according to shifts in economic cycles.

"The Wall Street experience is parallel and equal to the destruction of neighborhoods through chain stores," Reverend Billy says. Basic economics are on the Reverend's side. For every dollar spent at a

chain store, studies show only 50 cents stays in that community. By contrast, 90 cents of every dollar spent at a local business remains in the local economy.

"There's not a Puritan attitude about it, there's a practical attitude about it," Reverend Billy says. "People want to know what they can do for their friends and for themselves. We're trying to help each other; share money, share energy, share homes."

It's unlikely that sharing is on the business plan at Citigroup Inc. or Goldman Sachs Group Inc., companies that Reverend Billy excoriates in his sermons. He says the steel and mirrored-glass buildings that house major banks are designed to hide what happens inside.

Though colorful, Reverend Billy is no longer a fringe figure. Since he began preaching on the street corners in Times Square a decade ago, he and his anticconsumerism message have gained mainstream attention, thanks in part to his book and a world tour with the church's 40-member choir.

His breakthrough came in 2007 with the release of "What Would Jesus Buy?", a documentary about his church's efforts to promote a shopping-free Christmas. This year, he's running for New York City mayor on the Green Party ticket, campaigning on a community-first platform. Candidate Billy wants to end the city's reliance on industries susceptible to bubbles and busts: Tourism, Wall Street and real estate. "Neighborhoods vulnerable to the bubble economies are the ones hurting right now," he says.

Reverend Billy knows he faces long odds both in his mayoral run and his effort to change a system built around spending and credit speculation, but there are signs of hope. His audience was growing before the financial crisis, and things have only gained momentum since.

Links to recent Cynthia McKinney commentaries

Remarks at the Forum for Palestine held in London - 3/31/09
www.gp.org/cynthia/display.php?ID=11

Buyer's Remorse, Economic Collapse, Oligarchs, and War - 4/7/09
www.gp.org/cynthia/display.php?ID=12

The Economy, From Soros and Greenspan to Napoleon's Waterloo,
and a Tip of the Hat to Haiti, Too - 4/20/09
www.gp.org/cynthia/display.php?ID=13

CMMNJ MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA - APRIL 14

CMMNJ (Coalition for Medical Marijuana-New Jersey) supporters are urged to contact your assembly representative now to show your support for the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act. The final steps to passing this bill into law will be the votes of the New Jersey Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee (Assemblyman Herb Conaway, Chairman) and in the full assembly.

CMMNJ appeared on WIFI 1460 AM Talk Radio in Burlington on March 12. CMMNJ and NORML NJ met with representatives of the American Lung Association on March 17 in Union, NJ. CMMNJ gave a medical marijuana seminar at Collingswood Public Library on March 21. CMMNJ speakers appeared at

the NORML Freedom Forum in Philadelphia on April 20 (Rep. Mark Cohen plans to introduce a medical marijuana bill in PA modeled after the NJ bill).

A Global Marijuana March will be held on May 2 in New Brunswick, Philadelphia and hundreds of other cities nationwide.

CMMNJ has new photos, etc. on Facebook and Facebook Friends of CMMNJ:
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=502598656

Future scheduled meetings are May 12, June 9, and July 14. CMMNJ meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Lawrence Twp. Library, from 7:00-9:00pm. All are welcome. Snacks are served. The library is at 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrence Twp., Tel. #609.882.9246. (Meeting at the library does not imply their endorsement of our issue.) For more info, contact: Ken Wolski, RN, MPA - Executive Director; Coalition for Medical Marijuana--New Jersey, Inc.; www.cmmnj.org; 844 Spruce St., Trenton, NJ 08648; 609-394-2137; [ohamkrw\[at\]aol.com](mailto:ohamkrw[at]aol.com)

Here is the text of the letter the Bergen County Greens distributed on Earth Day along with an attached packet of sunflower seeds:

Bergen County Green Party
201-493-8044 www.gpnj.org

READY. SET. GROW!

Best time to plant: May 15 to June 15

Choose a sunny spot - the more sun the better, but at least 6 hours each day. Sunflowers do best in fertile, well-drained soil. With a trowel, thoroughly loosen the soil where you plan to plant - an area about 4 inches wide and several inches deep. If the soil is dry, moisten lightly. Drop in a seed, cover with soil, tamp soil snugly but not hard around the seed, and water well. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy, until your plants come up.

Plant seeds a foot or more apart in rows or groups.

Your sunflowers will emerge (germinate) in 7 to 21 days and will bloom 60 to 90 days after emergence.

Planting tip: After planting, place a "collar" around each seed. A collar will help mark the exact spot to watch for the plants to emerge and will also protect the young seedling from cutworms that can destroy your plant. A good collar can be made from a half-gallon plastic milk jug. First, cut away the bottom on the jug. Three inches above the bottom, cut away the remainder of the jug. Gently push the collar about a half inch into the soil around the planted seed.

Growing tip #1: Don't over-water your sunflowers. When they are about 1 to 2 inches tall, gradually reduce watering. Give them a good drink if the weather is very dry and the plants look droopy. Avoid spraying the whole plant - sunflowers like water on their roots but not on their leaves.

Growing tip #2: Sunflowers are wildflowers and will probably grow strong and tall without the use of fertilizer. If you think fertilizer is needed, choose a good all-purpose one and use with the help of an adult. But remember, over-fertilizing will cause poor flower development.

Growing tip #3: If your plant grows very tall, a stake may be needed to help the plant withstand wind. Alongside the main stem put a stake firmly in the soil and tie the plant loosely to the stake in several places.

