

Marion County Democratic Central Committee

Newsletter

November 2007



DEMOCRATIC VALUES

- Affordable Health Care
- Quality Education
- Fair & Equitable Taxation
- Healthy Air, Water, Land
- Family Wage Jobs
- Accountable & Fiscally Responsible Government

Next Meeting Will Be Potluck and Candidate Forum

Greg Macpherson and John Kroger, Democratic candidates for State Attorney General, will be the speakers at the next Marion County Democratic Central Committee meeting on November 19. A potluck dinner will begin the meeting at 6:30 P.M. The membership committee will provide beverages and desserts. Others are requested to bring a main dish, salad, or side dish.

Three term State Representative **Greg Macpherson**

is an Oregon native. He graduated from Harvard and received his law degree from Georgetown University. He has been involved in land use policy for a long time and opposed Measure 37. He was the plaintiff in the unsuccessful constitutional challenge to Measure 37, but continued to do battle with it in the state legislature where he was instrumental in writing Measure 49 and chaired the joint committee that crafted it.



John Kroger, described by one of his students as “a rock star,” is a professor at the Lewis and Clark Law School where he won the Leo Leenson Award for Teaching Excellency twice in the past three years. A graduate of Yale and



Harvard Law schools, he has served as a policy director for Bill Clinton, legislative assistant to Representative Tom Foley (WA) and Senator Chuck Schumer (NY), as well as senior policy analyst at the Treasury Department. While serving as a U.S. Attorney, he prosecuted mobsters, drug lords, and

corrupt officials. He worked on the Department’s Enron Task Force and received the Director’s Award from then Attorney General Janet Reno.

The potluck/meeting is open to the public and will begin at 6:30 P.M. at Salem Heights Hall, at the corner of Liberty S and Madrona, in Salem.

Jerome Takes Marion County by Storm

By Jackie Main

I first heard of Jerome at The Oregon Summit in October. [See the story about the Summit on page 2.] Jerome was the featured star in the presentation by DNC’s dynamic trainer Perag Mehta. When Parag came to Salem and did a similar presentation, there was Jerome again. And, when a few of us in Salem and throughout the state were invited to join DNC Chairman Howard Dean in Portland a few weeks ago (free for us, but a fundraising fee for others later in the day), it was because we were by then official “Jeromes.”

So just who is this Jerome and why are we doing a story on him?

Jerome is the future of the Democratic Party. He or she is the neighborhood guru on all things neighborly and political. Jerome is the Democrat who will be knocking on fifty doors four times before the 2008 general election. Jerome is getting to know neighbors, in a friendly way, and they are getting to

know him or her, more than in the two weeks just before an election. Jerome will be a full-time neighbor and friend on his or her block (and maybe the next one too). And he or she is having fun doing it.

Not only will Jerome get to know his or her neighbors, but also Jerome will recruit two others who will become Jeromes—knocking on fifty doors (and recruiting two more Jeromes each). This is the plan. Just neighbors, face-to-face, getting to know each other and discussing the things that matter to them year-round.

Jerome will be walking his or her neighborhood throughout the county, state, and nation as part of Dean’s fifty-state strategy in which ALL states and counties throughout the country will be organized.

It is said the Republicans win when people don’t vote, and Democrats win when they do. And we Jeromes are out there to make sure people do vote. The payoff is not just getting the special privileges, like seeing VIPs free or getting special attention in other ways. It is the satisfaction in getting to know our neighbors and pride and relief in getting Democrats elected and issues like Measures 49 and 50 passed.



Marion County Jeromes meet with Howard Dean. Photo by Jackie Main.

Sitting and Standing at the Oregon Summit

By Wayne Baum, MCDCC Chair

It's part political convention, part revival. It's a symposium on the Oregon and national political landscape and a rare opportunity for Oregon's Democratic leadership and party faithful to come together. The biennial event known as The Oregon Summit was held in Sunriver October 5-7, and virtually every Democratic Oregon state and national office holder was there, with the exception of Governor Kulongoski who was called to attend yet another Oregon soldier's funeral.

At first I was awestruck by all the star power. That feeling quickly dissipated as it became clear that political status takes a back seat to the desire to get to know one another, share ideas, and find out what's going on in the state and the nation. You might find yourself sharing a glass of wine with Bill Bradbury at the Friday reception, discussing health care with Ben Westlund in the hallway, or telling Hardy Myers at breakfast how much you appreciate the work he has done as Attorney General.

The Summit opened Friday night with a welcome from DPO Chair Meredith Wood Smith. Secretary of State Bill Bradbury then gave a rousing call-to-arms speech while mercilessly pillorying Gordon Smith. He was followed by Representative Earl Blumentrainer, who's speech was hilariously "interrupted" by a call from Rudy G's wife. Over the course of the weekend Representatives Peter DeFazio, Darlene Hooley, and David Wu also spoke. Senator Wyden, in addition to his scheduled talk, met privately with the county chairs and co-chairs to hear our concerns. We heard about the accomplishments of the 2007 Oregon Legislature from Oregon Speaker of the House Jeff Merkley, and the ruminations of

Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney regarding the upcoming 2008 Special Session. State Representative Brian Clem and State Senator Ben Westlund spoke out for Measures 49 and 50.

While the atmosphere was upbeat, almost giddy at times, the problems facing our country were never far from people's thoughts. A woman collapsed at lunch and was looked after by attendee Stephen Sherick, M.D. until the EMT's arrived. That evening we learned that she had begged not to be taken to the hospital because, like 47 million other Americans, she could not afford health insurance. The hat was passed and \$900 was raised to help with her medical expenses—still \$600 short of the final bill. At a breakout session, Paul Evans brought together a panel of veterans from the Viet Nam, Gulf, and Iraq wars. They included Dmitry White (Iraq), Richard Riggs from Polk County (Gulf and Iraq), and John Calhoun (Viet Nam). Their stories were personal and poignant. Their observations on the current conflict mirrored the national concern that there are few, if any, good options for the "Iraq Problem."

Other sessions involved discussions about Labor and its role in the middle class, DNC training director Parag Mehta charting a winning course for 2008, Jenny Greenleaf with "armchair (internet) activism," freshman Jean Cowan and others talking about Democratic victories in "red" counties, and a hands-on workshop on the legislative budget process. There was a panel discussion focusing on the "Power of Youth" which included Kento Azegami, Oregon Federation of College Democrats. I had the pleasure of sharing a house with Kento that weekend. He is a charming and highly articulate young man. Other young Democrats at the Summit included six from Willamette University including Bradley Dunn and Michaela Gore. These young activists are so full of energy, ideas, and enthusiasm. Our party must find better ways to engage and



Wayne Baum with Linn County DCC chair Loyd Hennion and State Attorney General candidate Greg Macpherson. Photo by Jackie Main.

nurture them. I spoke with Bradley later and we are planning a similar panel discussion at a Central Committee meeting in the near future.

For many, the highlight of the Summit was keynote speaker Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer. This Democratic governor in a red state is a consummate storyteller who's "aw shucks" rancher persona belies a keen mind and extensive knowledge in business and agriculture. Elected in 2004, he has pursued an agenda which includes developing wind energy power, outreach programs to Native Americans, and calling for the return of National Guard troops from Iraq to help with Montana's wildfires. He has a 70% approval rating in Montana; at the Summit he garnered a 100% standing ovation.

On Sunday U.S. Senate candidates Jeff Merkley and Steve Novick offered their visions for the future. It was a study in contrasts. Merkley, at over six feet, was quiet, assured, and somewhat cautious. Novick standing four feet nine inches with a hook for a left hand is funny and pugnacious and was not the least intimidated by the Merkley-leaning audience. Both men have impressive resumes: Merkley's primarily legislative; Novick's as a public interest and Federal prosecutor. Both are supremely capable for the job they seek.

The Summit is different for everyone. Some go primarily to network, some to learn, some to promote themselves, some to party hardy Friday and Saturday nights. It was an exhilarating and exhausting experience. I learned some new things, but more importantly, I gained insight about the leadership and party I entrust with my vote. When 2009 comes around, consider attending, you'll be glad you did.



Veterans Dmitry White, Richard Riggs, and Paul Evans. Photo by Jackie Main.

Committee Corner

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH EMAIL Marion County Democrats are now sending notices about the DemoForum, the Progressive Film Series, and other local events of interest to Democrats via email. If you are not yet receiving our email announcements and would like to, send an email to dbmgr@msn.com with your correct email address and ask to be placed on the Marion County Democrats email distribution list. To be sure that an email filter (either yours or your service provider's) does not filter out our emails, add editor@mariondemocrats.org to your email address book.

THE ANNUAL AUCTION BENEFIT FOR MCDCC will be held on Wednesday, February 20 in the Grand Ballroom in Salem. The Fundraising Committee needs volunteers to help with the event. Money raised will help to build the party and elect Democrats in 2008. Early reservations are encouraged since last year's event was completely sold out. Call Claudia at 503-364-9741.

NORMAN SOLOMON will be a guest speaker at the Anderson Room of Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, November 17 from 3 to 5 P.M. Norman will discuss his book *War Made Easy... How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death*, which analyses the strategies used to promote war, from Vietnam to Iraq. Norman's new book, *Made Love, Got War*, traces five decades of rising American militarism and scant media skepticism. He shows how the mainstream media has shaped our view of war, technology and national purpose. Both books will be on sale and Norman will autograph them. For more information call 503-588-8713.

DEMOFORUM State Representative Betty Komp will be the speaker at the DemoForum on Wednesday, November 14 from noon to 1 P.M. at Kwan's Restaurant, 835 Commercial St SE in Salem. The luncheon costs \$11.00. To make reservations, call 503-363-8392 or email mariondemoforum@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER 15 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Excerpted from the minutes submitted by Sean Stewart & Monica Moran, co-secretaries.

Journalists Explain Newspaper Practices

The program began with introductions of Peter Wong from the *Statesman Journal* and John Gervais, who covers north Marion county. The theme of the program was Politics and the Media. Peter Wong discussed how stories are selected to be put into the newspaper, and spoke generally about how a paper is put together and how pages are laid out. John Gervais spoke after Mr. Wong. Mr. Gervais covers six cities and four school districts. He discussed how smaller newspapers give more focus to local, community issues. Questions were fielded from the audience.

Under a new format, one committee will be spotlighted per month at the meetings, while information about the other committees can be found on the website. This month the committee of focus was the Fundraising Committee. Claudia Baum, chair of the Fundraising Committee, spoke about the silent auction to be held February 20, 2008. Volunteer sheets were passed around for anyone wishing to help with the silent auction. Next August will be the Capitol Campaign, to be held at Willamette Valley Vineyards for the purpose of meeting political candidates. Claudia urged all attendees to give at least one hour of their time to either function. It was also stated that automatic deductions are still an option for those attendees looking to donate money to the MCDCC.

Josh Balloch from the Yes on Measure 49 Campaign spoke, updating the Central Committee on progress.

PROGRESSIVE FILM SERIES *The Future of Food* will be shown at Salem's Grand Theater (191 N High St.) on Thursday, November 8th at 7:05 P.M., followed by a discussion with Rick North of Physicians for Social Responsibility and Chris Schreiner of Oregon Tilth. The film is a stark wake-up call urging us to think about what we grow, how we grow it, and how we deliver it to the world. For more information call Cindy Kimball at 503-588-8713.

Rich Harisay, Bill Dalton, and Joye Camacho were unanimously appointed as PCPs.

Tina spoke of a delegation from Congressional District 5 to Representative Darlene Hooley. Several counties were represented. The delegation communicated that the push for impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney were not simply "hot-head" issues, but a far more commonly held opinion among Representative Hooley's constituents. Since the meeting, Representative Hooley has taken more concrete action, stating that impeachment is not off the table.

David Loera spoke about his candidacy for United States Senate.

John Estelle announced that PCP handbooks were available to all PCPs.

Bill Burgess, clerk for Marion County, announced that the ballot drop site will be moved to the Marion County Courthouse in downtown Salem. There is also a new drop site at the DMV on Liberty Street, and at the Public Works office on Silverton and Cordon Rd.

Latke Party Dec. 5

No need to search for the perfect latke. We already found them last year at



the first latke party. Join all your MCDCC friends for seasonal cheer at Wayne and Claudia Baum's for the second annual latke party and open house, Wednesday, December 5th starting at 5:30 p.m., 3435 Fir Tree Dr SE, Salem (about 2.5 miles south of Kuebler, off Battle Creek Rd).

Wayne and Claudia will provide the latkes and liquid refreshments. Please bring a side dish or a salad.

Don't forget to RSVP (so we'll know how many potatoes we have to grate!) at 503 364-9741.

MCDCC CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2007

November 8 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series. *The Future of Food.* Speakers: Rick North and Chris Schreiner. Grand Theater, Court and High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

November 12 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Executive Committee. Home of Wayne Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. Ph. 503-364-9741.

November 14 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Betty Komp. Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

November 17 ★ Saturday ★ 3 P.M. ★ Norman Solomon. Salem Public Library Anderson Room. Ph. 503-588-8713.

November 19 ★ Monday ★ 6:30 P.M. ★ Central Committee. Potluck and speakers Greg Macpherson and John Kroger. Salem Heights Hall, corner of Liberty and Madrona.

DECEMBER 2007

December 5 ★ Wednesday ★ 5:30 P.M. ★ Latke Party. Home of Wayne and Claudia Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. RSVP 503-364-9741.

December 12 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Brad Avakian. Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

December 13 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series. *Maxed Out.* Grand Theater, Court and High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

Note: To get involved with Marion County Dems, contact the committee chairs listed at the right.

Next MCDCC Meeting
November 19, 6:30 P.M.
Salem Heights Hall
Potluck (bring main dish, salad or side)
Speakers: Greg Macpherson and John Kroger

**MARION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

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