

# Marion County Democratic Central Committee

## Newsletter

## March 2008



### DEMOCRATIC VALUES

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

## 2008 MCDCC Auction Fundraiser A Big Success!

By Cindy Kimball

The Marion County Democratic Auction Fundraiser just keeps getting better with each year. For those of you who missed it, over 150 people gathered in the Grand Ballroom on Wednesday evening, February 20th, to celebrate our Democratic Values, honor our candidates running for office and to raise money for our local Marion County Democratic Party. Beautifully arranged platters and bowls were filled to the brim with delicious food catered by Occasions Catering, while John Pulvers and Nathan Tenney provided acoustic music on their guitars. Paul Evans, Bill Bradbury, and special guest Carl Wolfson (of radio station KPOJ) were speakers for the evening, and thanks to Ralph Groener, our auctioneer, we were able to raise over \$8,700.00 for our local party.

Of course, with an event of this magnitude, there were many volunteer helping hands. We'd like to thank Claudia Baum, Wayne Baum, Bill Bradbury, Marla Brummer, Bill Burgess, Tina Calos, Bill Dalton, Suzanne Devlin, Carolyn Estelle, Paul Evans, Ralph Groener, Rich Harisay,



Rich Harisay places a bid in the Silent Auction room. Photo by Evelyn Smith.

Mary Kamppi, Aileen Kaye, Cindy Kimball, Mark Knecht, Claudia Kyle, Jackie Main, Monica Moran, Carla Moyer, Kathleen Moynihan, Laurel & Hinrich Muller, Helen Paulus, Jackie



Secretary of State Bill Bradbury had a chance to chat with Senator Ben Westlund at the MCDCC Auction. Photo by Jackie Main.

Pierce, Ted Piper, Richard Sayer, Robin Stewart, Sean Stewart, Sarah & Dmitry White, Linda Whitehead, Pat Williams, Carl Wolfson, and Willamette Valley Vineyards for their generosity in helping to make this event such a big success.

## Lloyd Chapman Running for Mayor

Lloyd Chapman, long-time neighborhood activist and current Transit Board member is running for Mayor of Salem. Chapman spoke at the February MCDCC meeting to discuss his candidacy and employ our help.

While many people Lloyd meets say they will support him because of their discontent with the current mayor, Lloyd brings his own valuable credentials to the job: past employee with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (as a citizen involvement specialist, forest policy planner and finally, computer administrator), member and past chair of the Salem-Keiser Transit Board, activist in his neighborhood association.

Lloyd believes in land use planning and commits to uphold the state's land use laws. As a transit board member, he understands the importance of incorporating public transportation in planning for growth. And as a neighborhood activist, Lloyd is committed to includ-

ing all voices of Salem to ensure that citizens drive the future of Salem, not just a select few. To learn more about Lloyd, contribute to his campaign, or volunteer in any way, see [lloydchapmanformayor.com](http://lloydchapmanformayor.com).



Carl Wolfson warms up the Auction crowd. Photo by Evelyn Smith.



Lloyd Chapman introducing himself at February MCDCC meeting. Photo by Evelyn Smith.

## Superdelegates Have Too Much Power

By Rich Harisay, Legislative Committee

It has been infuriating enough to learn that our constitutionally given right to vote has been subverted in many different ways by Machiavellian elements within the Republican Party, but we are now confronted by the establishment within our own party who think that we are too stupid to be entrusted with such important matters as choosing our presidential candidate.

Using the concept of the *superdelegate*, they have developed a strategy by which they can overturn the will of the people if it does not agree with their choice. This is where the back room deals are made, old favors owed are cashed in, and the common good is subverted to the corporate good and the good of the elite. It is about the establishment remaining the establishment. This is where democracy goes to die.

This is not a new system but it is now coming to light. According to a comment by SC on BlueOregon.com:

The rules committees of the 1980s and 1990s failed to anticipate how visible these unelected delegates would become because of today's technology. Now that it's obvious, people don't like it.

It is now time to change this system. It does not matter which of the candidates you support, the final choice must be fair—and democratic. Contact our twelve Oregon superdelegates and tell them that their commitment should be dictated by the will of the people they represent.

DPO Chair Meredith Wood Smith, Vice-Chair Frank Dixon, and DNC members Jenny Greenleaf, Wayne Kinney, and Gail Rassmussen have already stated that they believe in listening to the voters.

Of the seven superdelegates who are elected officials, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Rep. Darlene Hooley support Clinton, Rep. Earl Blumenauer supports Obama. Sen. Ron Wyden, Secretary Bill Bradbury, Rep. Peter DeFazio, and Rep. David Wu are uncommitted.



## From Where I Sit

By Wayne Baum, MCDCC Chair

The phenomenal success of the Salem Progressive Film Series is something its founders can take great pride in. They regularly draw more than 260 people to the Grand Theater each month to see provocative documentaries on everything from the war and occupation of Iraq to the safety of our food supply. They engage the audience with knowledgeable speakers who critique the films and entertain questions to further the discussion. Although the majority of its founders are Democrats active in the Marion County Democratic Party and the series promotes progressive values, it is in no way a part of the party. This was by design. The founders wanted to engage and educate citizens in important issues regardless of party affiliation and regardless of their current level of participation in the political process. Their goal is simply to encourage people to take action in whatever form they choose to help right the wrongs portrayed in the films.

Much of the success of the series derives from its ability to create a sense of community within its audience—people sharing common values and reinforcing their beliefs in a group setting—not unlike going to church. Like church, it is easy to develop a smug moral superiority following the sermon (the film), knowing you would never behave as or believe the way the bad guys do. It can be tempting to walk out of the theater, having affirmed your righteous sense of self, and do nothing until it's time to return to “church” for next month's offering.

Like many of you, I have enjoyed going to the series and have been enlightened on many subjects, but maybe we can do more to help fulfill its (and our) mission: We both want people to take action rather than remain passive receptors of information. The next time you attend, make a point of engaging someone you don't know. Find out what their concerns are and share your insights and offer your assistance. This time of year it's important to remind people to register to vote, or to re-register if they've moved. Voter registration forms are available at the Film Series. Invite them to a Democratic function, to a candidate event, or just to coffee. True, taking that extra step may be a little hard for some, but real change only happens when we commit. What better place to do it then in a room full of like minded individuals?

## Progressive Film Series Tackles Media

The monthly Salem Progressive Film Series event features the film *Independent Intervention* at Salem's Grand Theater (191 N High St.), Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 P.M.

People come to understand the world around them through media, and the corporations that own the media are some of the most powerful institutions in the world today. In a democracy it is crucial that important matters of state, such as war, are discussed and debated. Today we face a new era of war coverage, where embedded journalists and the Pentagon provide the majority of our information. Public debate has essentially been silenced by the administration and their partners in the media.

*Independent Intervention* shows how a Norwegian filmmaker in the

United States questions American media coverage of the war in Iraq. As the major networks remove human suffering from their presentation of war, Operation Iraqi Freedom is portrayed as a success for the spread of democracy and freedom. The film explores how the growing media democracy movement in the United States works to challenge the mass media.

Guest speakers will include Alan Bushong, Executive Director of CCTV. Doors open at 6:15 P.M. for lobby networking and information resources. The film starts at 7:00 P.M. with post-film speakers and audience discussion. Admission is \$3, or \$2 for students.

For more info: [www.salemprogressivefilms.net](http://www.salemprogressivefilms.net), Cindy Kimball 503-588-8713.

## Upcoming DemoForums

Throughout the primary season, Marion DemoForum will host luncheons on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Kwan's Cuisine.

Marion DemoForum luncheons are held at Kwan's Cuisine, 835 Commercial SE, Salem. The cost of \$11 includes a buffet luncheon, tea, and gratuity. Reservations are required. Email [mariondemoforum@yahoo.com](mailto:mariondemoforum@yahoo.com) or call 503-363-8392.

### Senator Rick Metzger, March 12

Senator Metzger, a candidate for Secretary of State, was first elected to the Oregon Senate in 1998. During the 2007 legislative session, he chaired the Business, Transportation and Workforce Development Committee. Metzger is perhaps best known for his 16 years as a television anchorman at KOIN-TV.

### John Kroger, March 26

John Kroger is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Oregon Attorney General. He is a professor at the Lewis and Clark Law School and graduate of Yale and Harvard Law schools. He served as a policy director for Bill Clinton and as senior policy analyst at the Treasury Department.

### Benefit Supports Community Radio Station for Salem

A KBOO-style community radio station is in the works for Salem this year, thanks to the efforts of Karen Holman and the Salem Folklore Society. The station would be a source for local, national, and international news, music, environmental issues, local events, free speech, and more. It would be a great place for Democrats and other nonprofits to announce upcoming events and activities.

A Benefit concert to help jump start the radio station is planned for Saturday, April 12, at 7:30 P.M., at the Historic Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE, with Neal Gladstone and Friends and Kristen Grainger and Dan Wetzel of True North.

Tickets (\$12 advance, \$14 at the door) are available by emailing [radiofreesalem@yahoo.com](mailto:radiofreesalem@yahoo.com) or calling 503-588-8713 or 503-362-9185.

## FEBRUARY 25 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

### WU Students Speak at February Meeting

At the beginning of the meeting, State Senator Jeff Merkley, candidate for U.S. Senate against Gordon Smith, spoke for fifteen minutes.

A forum consisting of four students from Willamette University College Democrats was introduced. The students answered questions from the audience and provided suggestions on how to get younger people involved in politics.

Results of the questionnaire were released. The audience listed the following items in order of importance; war, health care, economy, environment and civil rights. The students ranked civil rights, war/civil rights, environment, health care and economy in order of importance.

There will be a benefit performance of the environmental satire *Betty the Yeti* at Pentacle Theatre for Polk County Democrats on June 4. Visit their website ([www.polkdems.org](http://www.polkdems.org)) for more info.

Friends of Marion County is sponsoring a forum entitled "Marion County Governance in the 21st Century" Thursday, March 6, from 7 to 9 in the Anderson Room of the Salem Public Library.

Kasia presented the treasurer's report. The beginning balance for the month was \$10,807.47. The ending balance is \$19,514.77. One hundred forty-one people attended the auction and the

profit was \$8,379. The profit is a reflection of the auction as the cost of food/catering was offset by the ticket purchases.

Wayne reported on the Platforms and Resolutions meeting with Linn, Polk, and Benton Counties. A motion to approve the planks as submitted to audience with the ability to form an ad-hoc committee to work on the planks before a March 2 deadline was submitted and passed.

The 2008-2009 budget will be submitted for approval at the next (March) MCDCC meeting.

Sarah White requested approval for the rental of office space from the end of May until the end of November. The motion was approved. More information (approximate size, cost, etc.) will be presented at the next meeting.

With the approval of the new by-laws in January, a new Rules committee was created. Wayne is seeking interested persons to be members.

The Candidate Support Committee is also seeking a chair and additional members. See David Vancil for more information.

The final day to file for election as a Precinct Committee Person is March 11. See Wayne Baum for an application.

To sign up to be a Neighborhood Leader, see Tina Calos.

### March 17 Meeting to Feature Local Leaders

By David Vancil, Programs Committee

The program for the March 17 MCDCC meeting will be a report from our elected Democratic leaders that serve Marion County in the State Legislature. History was made in February as the Oregon Legislature conducted an experiment to see if annual sessions are a good choice for the future. Oregon is one of only six states that does not have annual sessions.

Oregon State Senate President Peter Courtney and Representatives Betty Komp and Brian Clem will discuss the February session and their feelings about putting an annual session to the voters for a permanent change in the Oregon State Constitution.

Not only did the Democratically controlled session make history, it did so in record time, adjourning a week earlier than required, after handling the key issues being. Considering a revenue projection that reduced funds by \$200 million, we were fortunate that such a session was scheduled.

Please mark your calendars and plan to come and support our elected officials and give them a well deserved pat on the back for a job well done.

The program, open to the public, will begin at 7 P.M. at Salem Heights Hall, at the corner of Liberty and Madrona, in Salem. A business meeting will follow the program and run until 9 P.M.

# MCDCC CALENDAR

## MARCH 2008

**March 10 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Executive Committee.** Home of Wayne Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. Ph. 503-364-9741.

**March 12 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Rick Metzger.** Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

**March 13 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series.** *Independent Intervention.* Grand Theater, Court & High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

**March 17 ★ Monday ★ 7:00 P.M. ★ Central Committee.** Courtney, Clem, & Komp. Salem Heights Hall, corner of Liberty & Madrona.

**March 26 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ John Kroger.** Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

## APRIL 2008

**April 10 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series.** *Subdivided.* Grand Theater, Court & High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

**April 14 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Executive Committee.** Home of Wayne Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. Ph. 503-364-9741.

**April 21 ★ Monday ★ 7:00 P.M. ★ Central Committee.** Program TBA. Salem Heights Hall, corner of Liberty & Madrona.

**For more calendar events and information, visit [mariondemocrats.org](http://mariondemocrats.org)**

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

**Next MCDCC Meeting**  
**March 17, 7:00 P.M.**  
Salem Heights Hall (corner of Liberty & Madrona)  
*Program:* Peter Courtney, Brian Clem, and Betty Komp discuss February session.

**MARION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**MCDCC Officers**  
*Chair:* Wayne Baum  
*Vice Chair:* Sarah White  
*Secretary:* Sean Stewart & Monica Moran  
*Treasurer:* Kasia Quillinan

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