



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

November, 2007 Newsletter

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## Congressman Kagen Highlights December Pie Party Fundraiser

Mark the date: **Thursday, December 9, 2007, 4:00 PM**, at Bjorklunden (note changed date from previous announcement). That is when Congressman Steve Kagen will be in Door County to help the DPDC celebrate the First Annual Pie Party Fundraiser. Come prepared for fun, fellowship, and the opportunity to hear the "inside scoop" about what is happening in the Congress. You will have a chance to chat with Steve and have your concerns and questions addressed in person.



The party will feature a wide assortment of home made Door County pies with plenty for taste test comparisons, plain or à la mode. The evening will serve as a fundraiser for both the Door County Democratic Party and the re-election campaign of the Congressman. We are fundraising to be prepared to provide active and vigorous support to local, state and national candidates in the upcoming election (only a year away). News accounts suggest that the republicans are targeting Steve, and that his opponent will be very well funded by the bottomless coffers of the RNC.

Admission is \$15 per person, or \$30 per family, for the DPDC. There will also be an opportunity to contribute to the Kagen campaign. We must start now if we want to win in '08! See you there.

### **MAP TO BJORKLUNDEN**

**7590 Boynton Lane  
Baileys Harbor, WI  
839-2216**



## Upcoming Events and Announcements

**Presentation on the Future of Oil and Energy** entitled "Global Fossil Fuel Depletion & Energy Descent: What is the outlook, and how can we best respond?" by Dan Small and Shivani Arjuna, Sunday, December 2, 2007, 4:00 PM at the Crossroads at Big Creek. The speakers will present an in-depth review of global fossil fuel and energy usage, and explore the future of oil and its effects upon society.

**December Membership Meeting - Pie Party Fundraiser**, Sunday, December 9, 2007, 4:00 PM, at Bjorklunden, just south of Baileys Harbor. Details and a map are in the article on page 1.

**Breakfast Fundraiser with Howard Dean, Chair of the Democratic National Committee**, Tuesday, November 27, 2007, 8:30 AM, Milwaukee Athletic Club, 758 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, cost \$100 per plate. For reservations call (608) 255-5172, or email [DeanEvent@wisdems.org](mailto:DeanEvent@wisdems.org).

**Voter Activation Network Training**, Saturday, December 1, 2007, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, 2740 West Mason Street, Green Bay, room BI 227, 10:00 AM. This is a training session in the use of the new internet-based voter file developed by the DNC and accessible to County Democratic Parties.

**"How to Run for Local Office" Seminar**, Thursday, December 13, 2007, 5:00-7:00 PM, Green Bay Chamber of Commerce office, 400 S. Washington Street, Green Bay. Sponsored by the Brown County Good Government Council. Though oriented to Brown County, this should be very informative for anyone considering running for local office. To reserve a place contact Nan Nelson before noon on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at (920) 593-3418 or [nelson@titletown.org](mailto:nelson@titletown.org).

**January Membership Meeting**, January 24, 2007, 7:00 PM, at the Sturgeon Bay Public Library. Speaker TBA.

## Hansotia Challenges Democrats at November Membership Meeting

An unassuming manner helped Shirene Hansotia, author of *Don't Crash My Party!* charm the more than 40 attendees at the November membership meeting, even as she lambasted both Republican and Democrat political leaders: Republicans for abrogating our constitutional rights, invading Iraq, impairing our fiscal stability by creating huge budget deficits with tax cuts for



**Shirene Hansotia**

the rich, and failing to care for people beyond the unborn; Democrats for allowing themselves to be "outnumbered by a minority" (see the "Message from the Chair" on page 3) by allowing the Rove radical right Republicans to frame the issues, thereby abdicating our responsibility to convey our values to the voters and contrast them with how the Republicans have harmed our country.

Ms. Hansotia presented a bleak picture of the effects of Republican control of the administration, the congress, and judiciary, and the intimidation of the legitimate news media. She was optimistic, however, about the ability of Democrats to renew Americans' faith in our institutions if we will speak out and promote change on a wide-ranging agenda that is unabashedly Progressive. She believes that Americans are eager for change, as reflected in the '06 elections, and would welcome bold initiatives that restore honesty and concern for people to our government.

The enthusiastic crowd was energized by Ms. Hansotia's presentation as well as the content of her book, which documents and explores these issues in more detail. The book, is published by Helm Publishing, Rockford, IL and is available at book-sellers, or at: [www.dontcrashmyparty.com](http://www.dontcrashmyparty.com).

## Health Care: Our "System" is Truly Broken

The Inter-Faith Peacemakers of Edina, MN have compiled disturbing statistics from the WHO, US Department of HHS, and the CIA World Factbook, to show how poorly we compare to the rest of the world in providing health care to our citizens.

- The U.S. and South Africa are the **only** two developed countries in the world that do not provide health care for all their citizens.
- Of all countries, The World Health Organization ranks the U.S. 37<sup>th</sup> in the world in "overall health care" and 54<sup>th</sup> in the "fairness of health care".

- Of all industrialized nations the US. ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in infant mortality and 45<sup>th</sup> in life expectancy.
- The average annual health care cost in the U.S. is \$6280 per person and **47 million** Americans are not insured. The average health care cost in all other industrialized countries is \$2307 per person and **all** are insured.
- Fifty percent of employees earning less than \$20,000 per year at Wal-Mart and McDonalds have no health insurance.

And our President vetoed the SCHIP appropriation!

**Message from the Chair:****Outnumbered by a Minority?**

One of the key moments in a wonderful talk by Shirene Hansotia (author of *Don't Crash My Party*) at our November membership meeting was her observation that Democrats have allowed ourselves to be "outnumbered by a minority"! That is, we have allowed the agenda for (or against!) government to be set by rhetoric and policies that belittle the very things that most Americans want: real socio-economic progress for ordinary citizens; an effective social contract for all citizens including excellent, affordable health care; equal rights for everyone; and a foreign policy that maintains respect for our nation and its form of government. Although a powerful minority still rules the country, the majority that wants a real democracy is waking up to the ways their strongest needs and desires have been sacrificed in recent years. The campaigns of all the Democratic candidates for President are welcome wake-up calls to citizens who had become too fearful, burdened or discouraged to speak out. And Shirene's talk was an inspirational call to action.



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

Along these lines, the November 19<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Nation* proposes that Democrats need to go one step further. Nine authors argue that while the U.S. has been so tightly focused on Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran, the rest of the world has been changing. Even within the Middle East, conditions have

been changing in ways we haven't grasped, but outside that region, developments in China, India, North Korea, Russia, South America and Africa are occurring at a rapid pace.

In the lead article, Sherle Schwenninger, a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute, argues that there will be two important challenges to our foreign policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: "how to amend the international system to accommodate the interests of new rising powers without sacrificing progressive values . . . [and] how to extend the system of international governance and regulation around the world . . . without compromising popular sovereignty at home." Of course, emerging powers want a greater voice in world affairs! Hello! And the new test of our leadership skills will be to build "what Roosevelt called a community of power" where arms control measures and multinational agreements to manage regional stability are the primary tasks of foreign policy. Our candidates can't even talk about these points yet because we are still stuck in the rhetoric of cutting taxes, increasing security, winning a "war on terror" that never should have been defined as a war, imposing religious taboos on public policy, and other follies of the past seven years.

Shirene's talk and articles like these in *The Nation* are important wake-up calls for us to become involved in politics in 2008 to do whatever we can to make sure the next President, House and Senate get it right! And we can begin here at home by asking what we have been ignoring in our County. Have we also let ourselves be "outnumbered by a minority" here at home?

**Opposition to the War, Even in Conservative Quarters**

Strongly worded opposition to the war has recently been found in some unexpected places, generally considered to be conservative bastions: Salt Lake City, Utah, and our own Door County *Advocate*.

Ross "Rocky" Anderson, mayor of Salt Lake City, addressed more than 1,000 protestors at one of many U.S. anti-war rallies on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

"Today, as we come together once again in this great city, we raise our voices in unison to say to President Bush, to Vice President Cheney, to other members of the Bush Administration (past and present), to a majority of Congress, including Utah's entire congressional delegation, and to much of the mainstream media: You have failed us miserably and we won't take it any more.

"While we had every reason to expect far more of you, you have been pompous, greedy, cruel, and

incompetent as you have led this great nation to a moral, military, and national security abyss. You have breached trust with the American people in the most egregious ways. You have utterly failed in the performance of your jobs. You have undermined our Constitution, permitted the violation of the most fundamental treaty obligations, and betrayed the rule of law. You have engaged in, or permitted, heinous human rights abuses of the sort never before countenanced in our nation's history as a matter of official policy. . . . You have helped lead our nation to the brink of fascism, of a dictatorship contemptuous of our nation's treaty obligations, federal statutory law, our Constitution, and the rule of law. Because of you, and because of your jingoistic false 'patriotism,' our world is far more dangerous, our nation is far more despised, and the threat of terrorism is far greater than ever before. . . .

(continued on page 4)

"We must avoid the trap of focusing the blame solely upon President Bush and Vice-President Cheney. This is not just about a few people who have wronged our country - and the world. They were enabled by members of both parties in Congress, they were enabled by the pathetic mainstream news media, and, ultimately, they have been enabled by the American people - 40% of whom are so ill-informed they still think Iraq was behind the 9/11 attacks ...

"History has demonstrated that our elected officials are not the leaders - the leadership has to come from us. If we don't insist, if we don't persist, then we are not living up to our responsibilities as citizens in a democracy - and our responsibilities as moral human beings. ... Let them hear us across the country, as we ask others to join us: We won't take it any more! I implore you: Draw a line. Figure out exactly where your own moral breaking point is. How much will you put up with before you say No more and mean it?

"I have drawn my line as a matter of simple personal morality: I cannot, and will not, support any candidate who has voted to fund the atrocities in Iraq. I cannot, and will not, support any candidate who will not commit to remove all US troops, as soon as possible, from Iraq. I cannot, and will not, support any candidate who has supported legislation that takes us one step closer to attacking Iran. I cannot, and will not, support any candidate who has not fought to stop the kidnapping, disappearances, and torture being carried on in our name.

"If we expect our nation's elected officials to take us seriously, let us send a powerful message they cannot misunderstand. Let them know we really do have our moral breaking point. Let them know we have drawn a bright line. Let them know they cannot take our support for granted - that, regardless of their party and regardless of other political considerations, they will not have our support if they cannot provide, and have not provided, principled leadership."

This powerful statement preceded by a week the funeral of Louis Griese, the first Door County soldier killed in Iraq. His death made the senseless nature of this war personal to our community, and prompted a strong editorial by Chuck Carlson, editor of *The Door County Advocate*, in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> issue, excerpted below.

"So now this stupid war has hit closer to home. It has found Door County and Sturgeon Bay and it has brought grief and sorrow and legitimate questions that used to belong to somebody else, somewhere else. ...

"I didn't know Louis Griese, who was killed in Iraq this week by another one of those damnable roadside bombs. I didn't know any of the other nearly 4,000 Americans who have been killed in this monstrosity either. But you don't need to know

them to know what they thought. ... Every soldier has their reasons for joining the military. ... And, yes, they all knew the risk that comes with the joining the military, especially under the current regime and the witless wonder who inhabits the White House.

"They joined because they felt, in some small way, they could help, even though many weren't sure what they were trying to help.

"Is it to help bring democracy to Iraq? Is it to stem the sectarian violence that has torn that region apart for a thousand years? Is it simply to regain order in an area that has never known that?

"Are we there to protect America's oil interest? To help this current president's legacy? What?

"No one seems to know anymore, if they ever knew in the first place.

"Louis Griese was no kid. He was 30 years old and was on his third tour in Iraq. For him, the Army was his life and that kind of commitment is rarely found anymore. Maybe that's why this is so difficult for so many people. ...

"There are nearly 4,000 families out there who have known the ultimate loss and thousands upon thousands more whose loved ones have come home badly injured.

"What would you like to say to them? Good job. Your country's proud of you. But for what? What are they fighting for? Give them a reason. Give them a goal. Let them know that what they're doing really matters.

"Louis Griese leaves a wife a baby daughter in Fort Campbell, Ky., where he was stationed.

"He will be called a hero and, in my book, anyone who goes over there is that and a lot more. But it's also just a word. It's a platitude used by the politicians who don't know what else to say and have no good answer for why they send our citizens off to do their dirty work.

"If there was a reason in the beginning, it's long over now. We have been lied to and too many of us have accepted it. The result has been that people like Louis Griese have had to pay the price. And for what?

"Which should make us all wonder how this president sleeps at night".

Thirteen hundred miles apart, and somewhat different in tone, both of these statements exemplify the frustration with our disastrous leadership felt by thoughtful citizens across the political spectrum. As Democrats, we can sit and wring our hands, or we can be active in working to push our Party leadership into taking strong positions, and doing the grassroots member and voter recruiting and fundraising necessary to elect candidates at all levels who will change our course. If we don't do what it takes, we can blame no one but ourselves.

## Time for Membership Renewal

**NOW** is the time to renew your membership in the Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC). If you have not yet renewed from 2006, you can renew now for 2007 and your membership will automatically extend through 2008.

If your membership is current, renewing now will carry through 2008 and ensure that membership renewal doesn't fall through the cracks in the busy end-of-year period.

This is **really important** because the number of delegates from Door County to the Congressional District and State Party conventions is determined in part by the number of **paid-up** members for 2008.

The renewal form is on this page. Please print out the form and mail it to our DPDC P.O. box (the address is on the form). If you have received a renewal card from the State Democratic Party, please fill out the card and **return it to the Democratic Party of Door County at our P.O. box.**

Renew now, and please feel free to make a generous donation to the local Party in addition to your membership dues (which we must split with the State Party). Thank you.

A special "thank you" to the 54 new and renewing members who have already renewed for 2008!

## "Backwards Bush" Countdown

There are now 425 days, 23 hours, 51 minutes and 14 seconds left in the Bush presidency. Here is an opportunity to keep track of this ever decreasing number with your "Backward



Bush" keychain that is counting down to Bush's permanent return to his pickup on the Crawford ranch.

Available at [www.backwardbush.com](http://www.backwardbush.com), there will be some of these great stylish mementos for purchase at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Pie Party Fundraiser. Buy one, help support your local Party and relish the diminishing time available for the Bush administration to do more harm to the country.

## Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This is a  Cell Phone  Home Phone

Email \_\_\_\_\_

County: Door

### Sign me up for:

- \$10 Senior/student/limited income
- \$25 Individual general membership
- \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)
- \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships)
- \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)

### I would also like to join:

- LGTB Caucus  Black Caucus
- Latino/Hispanic Caucus  American Indian Caucus

Return to: Democratic Party of Door County  
PO Box 863  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235