

Marion County Democratic Central Committee

Newsletter

October 2007



DEMOCRATIC VALUES

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

A Grand Opening for Salem Progressive Film Series

By Adrienne Pauly

The Progressive Film Series launched its first viewing on Thursday, September 13 at Grand Theater in Salem with *War Made Easy*. A publicity blitz brought in 160 people, with many new faces in the crowd and a number of young people.

The idea for the series was sparked by movie night home viewings at MCDCC members' households. Claudia Baum explains, "Six of us got together and thought why not bring these informative documentaries to a wider audience?" Sean Stewart, Monica Moran, Ed Taylor, Cindy Kimball, Don Fries, and Claudia Baum got to work making it happen. They decided to add a speaker at each event knowledgeable in the subject and allow for audience discussion after each showing. Three more films are in the series through December. A new series will start in the spring. "We're aiming to make it a tradition," says Cindy Kimball.

"To make it sustainable, we had to appeal to the general public for financial backing," says Claudia. Businesses made donations, and others supported the venture in response to mailed requests. The modest \$3 admission doesn't carry the full load.

The group passed out flyers across Salem. They also got an article in the *Statesman Journal*, along with a calendar listing. And, they got a feature story in the *Salem Monthly*.

Peter Bergel of PeaceWorks spoke after the movie and conducted a discussion with the audience.

Emphasizing that the Film Series is completely separate from the Central Committee and was not billed as

partisan, Claudia said, "We wanted to attract non-actives and exhibit films that deal with issues that effect all of us." It is one way for progressives to be part of the community and contribute to it.

The series is welcome, judging from the response of Laura Tesler, City Councilor from Ward 2: "We need more of this kind of stuff." It's coming.

Wong and Gervais to Speak October 15

Peter Wong and John Gervais, both long-year veterans of the Oregon political scene, will be our speakers for the Central Committee meeting on October 15.

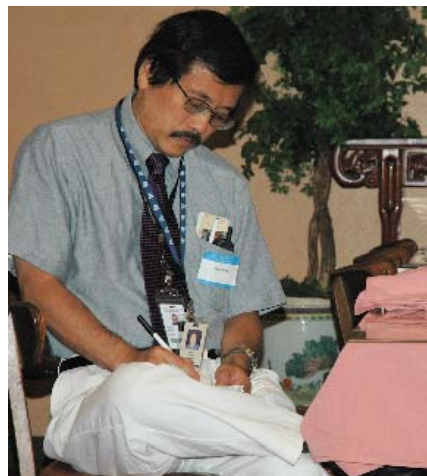
Peter Wong, the dean of the Capitol press corps, has covered the Oregon legislature since 1980 for daily newspapers in Roseburg and Medford, and for the *Statesman Journal* since 2000. He graduated in political science and journalism from the University of Southern California. An engaging and humorous speaker, he

has been a recent guest speaker at the Salem City Club, and is seen frequently covering speakers at the Demo Forum luncheons.

John Gervais, the lead reporter for the *Woodburn Independent*, covers all of the community news in north Marion County. He is a former lobbyist and has been involved in the political scene for over thirty years.

We hope to learn from our guests about how the press views the legislature; what gets reported, what doesn't, and why; and how we can work more effectively with the press.

The program, open to the public, will begin at 7 P.M. and end at 8 P.M., at Salem Heights Hall, at the corner of Liberty and Madrona, in Salem. Our regular monthly business meeting will begin at 8 P.M.



Peter Wong working at a recent DemoForum.
Photo by Jackie Main.

**Coming Next:
The End of
Suburbia**

See page 3 for details.



From Where I Sit

By Wayne Baum, MCDCC Chair

It was a small delegation; twelve people of varying ages, sex, and occupation. We represented five of the seven counties included in the 5th Congressional District: Marion, Polk, Clackamas, Lincoln, and Multnomah. We had little in common but for our party affiliation and an urgency to convey a critical message to our elected representative.

We sat around a large table with Darlene Hooley near the middle. As we introduced ourselves individually, she graciously welcomed and thanked us for coming. This warm, friendly woman, born in North Dakota, educated in Salem and at OSU, who has ably served the 5th CD for over ten years, was steeling herself for yet another assault from “activists” members of her own party. It wasn’t to be. We were simply there to report what we have been hearing on the streets, in the parks, and at the fairs this summer. From Joe Six-packs to rank-and-file Democrats; from disaffected youth to nonaffiliated voters; even some Republicans: “Why aren’t the Democrats standing up to Bush? Why don’t they stop funding the war in Iraq and bring the troops home? Why isn’t Congress impeaching the bastards? Why did we vote for them in 2006 if they’re not going to lead?” In short, people were mad as hell with the Democrats for caving into Bush and betraying the people’s trust. She’s heard this all before, but this time it’s emanating from deep within the body politic—the first audible sound at the leading edge of the quake.

We told her we understood her frustration about not being able to get her message out this summer. She’s worked hard to increase the minimum wage, to get better and more low-interest loans for college students, to clean up the Willamette River, to fight meth addiction, reduce identity theft, and help veterans get the services and care they were promised. For all of that, polite applause at the townhalls. These would be wonderful accomplishments in normal times, but these are not normal times, we said.

The nation is in great peril, and Democrats in Congress must act now to restore the balance of power that is the cornerstone of our democracy. The 2008 election, regardless of its outcome, will not correct the real and present threat of presidential tyranny that exists today. That is the message we imparted to Darlene Hooley and pleaded that she take it to Nancy Pelosi and to her blue dog, yellow dog, and Republican colleagues as well. That was our message from the people. One we hope will not be lost in the everyday chatter of Washington, D.C.

Note: Marion County was represented by Tina Calos, lead organizer, Sarah White, David Vancil, John Estelle, and Wayne Baum. Polk County represented Jason Brown, Suzie Price, and Timothe Seelbach.

Sec’y of State Candidate Brown to Speak at DemoForum

By Andy Bromeland

The speaker for the DemoForum on Wednesday, October 17 is State Senator Kate Brown, candidate for Secretary of State. First elected to the Oregon House in 1991, Kate was elected to the Oregon Senate in 1996. In 1998, she became Democratic Leader, where she successfully led the Senate Democratic Caucus from a 10–20 minority to an 18–12 majority. She was then elected by her caucus to serve as the Oregon’s first woman Senate Majority Leader in 2004. Her campaign web site is <http://www.katebrownfororegon.com>.

All DemoForums are held from noon to 1 P.M. at Kwan’s Cuisine,

835 Commercial St. SE, Salem. A buffet luncheon is prepared by Kwan’s. Cost of the luncheon is \$11 per person. Kwan’s will prepare individual meals to accommodate luncheon guests with special dietary needs. You can make reservations to DemoForum by e-mailing mariondemoforum@yahoo.com or by telephoning 503-363-8392. In your message, please give your name, phone number, any special dietary needs, and the number of people who will attend.

DemoForum is currently seeking small donations to MCDCC to help defray costs and to free up funds for other activities of MCDCC including candidate support.

Save Good Food— Vote Yes on 49!

By Trudy Margules

The *New York Times* (9/26/07) wrote an article on a migration of chefs in the last five years to Portland. They came from San Francisco, Seattle, and almost everywhere else to make Portland “a full fledged dining destination.”

The reason they came was for bountiful local, fresh foods; nearby farmers committed to growing environmentally responsible produce with maximum flavor; local fisheries and small beef, lamb, and pork producers; fruit growers supplying fragile berries and colorful stone fruits; world class Willamette Valley wines; and micro-distilleries and breweries. All add to the vibrant abundance!

Oregonians know it isn’t true only for Portland, but also for Salem and other large and small cities in our state. The *Statesman Journal* of 9/29 reinforces the kudos for Oregon’s wonderful food production. It said “In recent years, the popularity of purchasing locally grown vegetables and produce while supporting local agricultural economy has pointed people to farmers markets.”

Will our health and pleasure in food be gone with the farmers, and their supporting business, if Measure 37 frees developers to build large subdivisions and commercial developments on Oregon’s agricultural lands?

Measure 49 will fix Measure 37 by allowing only very limited building on farm land. Vote YES on Measure 49!

The new web site
is up and running!

Check it out at
marion.oregondemocrats.org

SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

Committee Corner

THE DEMOFORUM is filmed by Lloyd Kumley and broadcast regularly on CCTV Channel 21. The times are Wed. at 5 P.M., Fri. at 6 P.M., Sat. at 9 P.M., and Sun. at 10 P.M.



Lloyd Kumley.
Photo by Wendy Brokaw.

DEMOFORUM The regular meeting date for the DemoForum will switch in November and December from the third Wednesday to the second Wednesday of the month to accommodate the holidays. The November DemoForum is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14. The December DemoForum is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12.

THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 10th at 7 P.M. at the home of Dmitry White (2040 Church St. NE). Call Dmitry at 503-763-7209 for more information.

THE CANDIDATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE will meet on Tues. October 16th at 7 P.M. at Sarah White's home (2040 Church St. NE). Call Sarah at 503-763-7209 for more information.

YES ON 49 CAMPAIGN Ballots are going out soon. The campaign is reaching out to Oregonians in neighborhoods all across Oregon. Volunteer to talk to voters in your area—it's the most effective way we can spread the word about Measure 49. Find a list of upcoming action days at Yeson49.com.



Voter Information Analyzed

Tina Calos presented a slide show indicating the percentage breakdown of Democrats, Republicans, and nonaffiliated voters in each of Marion County's house districts. Her intent was to educate attendees about the political makeup of their home district. The slides indicated that districts 17, 18, and 19 are majority Republican; districts 20, 21, and 22 are considered swing districts. Overall, the Democrats have a slight majority over the Republicans throughout the State of Oregon.

Attendees were encouraged to get a list of Democrats in their neighborhoods and call them to remind them to vote, particularly in those districts considered swing or with lower voter turnout.

Tina also talked about organization, stressing the importance of getting involved at the House District level. She handed out applications for people interested in being elections workers stating that Republicans have, in the past, dominated these positions.

Trudy Margules began presenting proposed changes to the by-laws. After some debate, Dmitry White proposed that a special meeting of PCPs be scheduled to address the changes, rather than have it be a part of the MCDCC agenda. Notices of the time and loca-

tion of the proposed meeting would be sent via U.S. mail. The MCDCC would pay for the cost of the mailing and the room rental for the proposed meeting. Motion to authorize funds for a special meeting of the PCPs to evaluate and approve changes to the by-laws was made and passed unanimously.

Jason Brown from House District 23 said he would run again for the legislature, but only if he had a campaign group to help him and enough funds to hire a campaign manager.

Dmitry and Sarah White asked attendees to write postcards to send to Darlene Hooley, urging her to help pursue contempt of Congress charges against Harriet Miers and Joshua Bolton.

Sarah White talked about canvassing for Measure 49 and directed people to talk to Josh Balloch, a representative for the Yes on 49 campaign. PCPs were urged to push the vote by contacting precinct voters via phone calls, home visits, etc.

Sarah White spoke about the Oregon Summit, to be held October 5–7. Parag Mehta will be offering a training workshop for activists and leadership on Wednesday, October 10, at 1:00 p.m. [Contact Wayne at 503-364-9741 for information.]

Progressive Film Series Features End of Suburbia

By Ed Taylor

The Salem Progressive Film Series will present its second film on October 11 (second Thursday). The feature is *The End of Suburbia*, an analysis of the development, the promise, and the reality of the American "suburban dream." It also takes an in-depth look at the imminent demise of the suburban lifestyle in the face of global resource and environmental challenges. It predicts not just the potential, but also the certainty, of large scale social disruption if we do not urgently move toward more sustainable patterns of land use, demographics, economic organization, and energy consumption.

Guest speakers will be Rep. Brian Clem, Sid Friedman of Friends of Marion County, and award winning urban designer, Matthew Arnold. Doors open at 6:15 for lobby networking and information resources. The film starts at 7:00, with post-film speakers and audience discussion until 9:00. (Psssst: Tell your friends.)

MCDCC CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2007

October 8 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Executive Committee. Home of Wayne Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. Ph. 503-364-9741.

October 11 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series. *The End of Suburbia.* Speakers: Brian Clem, Sid Friedman, & Matthew Arnold. Grand Theater, Court and High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

October 15 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Central Committee. Speaker: Peter Wong & John Gervais. Salem Heights Hall, corner Liberty and Madrona.

October 17 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Kate Brown. Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

NOVEMBER 2007

November 6 ★ Tuesday ★ 8 P.M. ★ Election Deadline. Get your ballots in!

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 19 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Central Committee. Salem Heights Hall, corner of Liberty and Madrona.

Note: To find out more about MCDCC's many active committees and to get involved with Democrats in Marion County, contact the committee chairs listed at the right.

Next MCDCC Meeting
October 15, 7 P.M.
Salem Heights Hall
Speakers: Peter Wong & John Gervais

MARION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

MCDCC Officers
Chair: Wayne Baum
Vice Chair: Sarah White
Secretary: Sean Stewart & Monica Moran
Treasurer: Cindy Kimball

Newsletter
Editor-in-Chief: Laurel Muller
Laurel@LMGraphics.com
Copyeditor: Trudy Margules
Committee Chair: Jackie Main

Web Site
www.marion.oregondemocrats.org

Tel.: 503-363-8392

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Executive: Wayne Baum, 503-364-9741
Legislative: Dmitry White, 503-428-2657
Programs: David Vancil, 503-981-8863
Candidate Support: Sarah White, 503-428-2657
Communication: Jackie Main, 503-363-9395
Membership: John & Carolyn Estelle, 503-364-5228
Fundraising: Claudia Baum, 503-364-9741

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**Marion County
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