

Calendar of Events

February 5
Primary Election

February 10
**DuPage County Democrats
Annual Gala (see p. 2)**

February 6 (note date change)
**Downers Grove Township
Democrats Meeting, 7:30p.m.**

March 5
**DuPage Dems County Convention
(All Precinct Committee)**

March 12
**Downers Grove Township
Democrats Meeting, 7:30p.m.**

April 9
**Downers Grove Township
Democrats Meeting, 7:30p.m.**

DGTD meetings are usually held at Dist. 99
Admin. Ctr., 63rd & Springside, Downers
Grove, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.
Location is subject to change. Please go to
www.dgdemocrats.org or call
630-771-5546 to confirm.

DGTD
Downers Grove Township
D E M O C R A T S
P.O. Box 785
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Who are the Downers Grove
Township Democrats?

If you received this newsletter, you live in
Downers Grove Township which includes all
or part of Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien,
Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Westmont and Wood-
ridge. Your township is the most local level of
county government and Downers Grove Town-
ship Democrats is the most local level of the
Democratic Party established by law. Our
goal is to elect fellow Democrats, both local-
ly and nationwide. We love volunteers! Learn
more about us at www.dgdemocrats.org

“We Remember”

Chet Moculeski

Longtime Committeeman
and former Township Chair
and

Geraldine Adams

Longtime Democratic Activist
and DGTD Member

Scott Harper District 13-Congressional Candidate

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make sure that all Americans have
access to good health care.

Support Innovation and Protect the Environment

For 150 years we have been world
leaders through American ingenuity
and innovation. Innovation can protect
our environment and I pledge to pro-
tect the environment, including our vul-
nerable water supplies. By supporting
more and newer innovations we can
protect and also employ our citizens.

Finally, I am running to be part of a
Congress that will not shirk its legisla-
tive duty to provide a check and bal-
ance to the executive branch.

To find out more about my posi-
tions please check out my website
www.scottharper.us or phone my
campaign at **630.848.2111**.

We need your help to change the
direction of the country.

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www.dgdemocrats.org

Message From Kim Savage

Chair of the Downers Grove Township Democrats

We are pleased to present the first
issue of our newsletter! It has
been an exciting project driven by
an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Our
goal is to issue this publication quarterly.

We are well on the way to success in
this election cycle. While it may seem that
November 2008 is a long time off, many
volunteers have been hard at work to
pave the way to success. Building upon
the outstanding results of the 2006 elec-
tions, we have stepped up our outreach
to voters by pounding the pavement. I
am extremely proud of the dedication
that has been shown by members of the
Downers Grove Township Democratic
Organization (DGTD).

Under the leadership of our former
township chair, Chris Hotchkin, the
Democratic Party of DuPage County
canvassed every weekend over the
summer to find a *record number* of
new Precinct Committeemen. Volun-
teers from DGTD volunteered in
almost every township to aid in this
effort.

In 2007, we raised over \$11,000 through
a series of events including a wine-
tasting, house parties, a garage sale
and membership dues. The money
was used for candidate support, Her-
itage Fest Booth, voter outreach, and
seed money for this newsletter. We

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How Judy Voted

Our own Republican Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R IL-13)—does she really de-
serve her “moderate” reputation? You decide, from a sample of her recent votes:

WAR AND PEACE

- voted **YES** to authorizing military force in
Iraq (Oct. 2002)
- voted **YES** to declaring Iraq part of War on
Terror with no exit date (June 2006)
- voted **NO** to Responsible Redeployment
from Iraq Act (July 2007)
- voted **NO** to prohibit unauthorized preemp-
tive military strike on Iran (May 2007)
- voted **NO** to Mandatory Troop Rest Periods
between Deployments to Iraq (Aug. 2007)
- has voted **YES** to every bill funding the war
in Iraq with no exit date

HEALTH ISSUES

- voted **NO** to SCHIP (medical care for low-
income uninsured children, Oct. 2007)
- voted **NO** to Medicare Prescription Drug
Price Negotiation Act (Jan. 2007)

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- voted **NO** to Renewable Energy Standards

(Aug. 2007)

- voted **NO** to keeping moratorium on off-
shore oil drilling (June 2006)
- voted **NO** on prohibiting oil drilling and
development in ANWR (Aug. 2001)

FREE TRADE

- voted **YES** to CAFTA (July 2005)

GUN CONTROL

- voted **YES** to protect gun manufacturers
from lawsuits (Oct. 2005)
- voted **YES** on decreasing gun waiting peri-
od from 3 days to 1 (June 1999)
- rated **A-** by the National Rifle Assn.

So is **Judy a moderate? We think not!**
Fortunately, we in District 13 have a
CHOICE in 2008—**Scott Harper**, our
Democratic candidate for Congress.
To learn more, visit his website:
www.scottharper.us



Downers Grove Township
D E M O C R A T S

Burr Ridge • Clarendon Hills • Darien • Downers Grove • Hinsdale • Westmont
• Willowbrook and portions of Woodridge

January 2008

P.O. Box 785, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Issue No. 1

Working Together To Elect Democrats

Scott Harper

District 13-Congressional
Candidate

I am **Scott Harper**
and I'm running as the
Democratic Candidate
for the 13th Congres-
sional seat against in-
cumbent, Rep. Judy Big-
gert. Since August, I
have attended hundreds
of gatherings around
the District, listening to
the concerns of people
and telling them about my campaign.

My background as a manufacturing
expert and international business con-
sultant gives me a unique perspective
on the challenges of working families in
today's global economy. I have the time
and I am fortunate enough to have the
resources to be able to devote myself to
getting elected to represent you.

I'm in this race because, like you, I
am so disappointed by what is hap-
pening to our country and by what
our government has been doing in our
name. *In Washington I will:*

Work for a Common Sense Foreign Policy

This means an end to the war in
Iraq and to the war mongering against
Iran. Our stature in the world has been
diminished by this arrogant and bel-
ligerent administration. In addition,
we must take care of the men and
women who have bravely volunteered
to serve our nation.

Strengthen the Middle Class

We need economic policies that will
help the middle class through good
paying jobs and education and re-edu-
cation opportunities. And we must



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DuPage Democrats Presidents Day Gala

The annual DuPage County Democrats Presidents Day Gala will be held on February 10, 2008 at Drury Lane Banquet Hall in Oakbrook Terrace, beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. This is the major fundraising event of the year for the DuPage County Democratic Party and tickets are \$50 per person. For more information on this very important event contact the DuPage Democrats office at 630-629-1125 or Chris Hotchkin at 630-963-1131.

Record Number of Democratic Precinct Committeemen

Record numbers of your neighbors have stepped forward to be on the primary ballot as candidates for Democratic Precinct Committeemen. This is the result of a concerted recruitment effort begun last spring by the DuPage Democratic Party and by Operation Turn DuPage Blue. In precincts without a current Democratic Precinct Committeeman candidate, the DuPage County Democratic Party Chair, Rob Bisceglie, may appoint precinct committeemen up until the election on February 5, and again after the County Conven-

DuPage Democrats Program Book A program book is being assembled which will be available at the Gala and at Democratic events throughout the year. Advertising may be purchased in this book at very reasonable prices and proceeds will benefit Democratic candidates in 2008. To obtain an advertising contract or for more information contact the DuPage Democrats office at 630-629-1125. Advertising copy and payments will be accepted until January 25, 2008.

tion on March 5.

Who are precinct committeemen and what do they do? They are the vital, local grassroots neighborhood contacts for the Democratic Party. Some of the activities of precinct committeemen include distributing candidate information to voters, registering voters, and reminding voters about elections. Anyone interested in serving as a Democratic Precinct Committeeman may contact Chris Hotchkin, Precinct Recruitment Chair, at 630-963-1131 or Chotchkin@sbcglobal.net.

tion. These machines have been decertified in other jurisdictions. *Until the machines are removed from use, we urge voters to utilize the opti-scan machines, which use a paper ballot.*

Our township organization has a proud history of perseverance with a small but committed group of Precinct Committeemen and other volunteers. In this critical year, we invite you to join us in our efforts to organize at the grass roots level and to get out the vote for our Democratic candidates.

We applaud the ongoing work of volunteers who have steadfastly contacted voters in their precincts for 2, 3, 4, or more DECADES, when the overwhelming perception by the public was that Democrats could never be elected in our county. Chet Moleculeski, former Township Chair, exemplified the spirit of grassroots politics. He served his Hinsdale precinct for 46 years and was still knocking on doors and volunteering at our County Fair booth at age 91. The long term payoff has been excellent!

- DuPage County has the second largest number of Democratic voters of any county in Illinois. No Democratic candidate can win a statewide race without garnering a healthy percentage of Democratic votes in DuPage County.
- Votes for the Democratic Presidential Candidates increased from 25% in 1984 to 48% in 2004.
- Lisa Madigan received 66% of the Downers Grove Township votes in 2006, with precinct percentages ranging from 42% to 78.6%. She received in excess of 70% of the vote in 38 of our 128 precincts.
- Jesse White received 54% and Dan Hynes received 52% of the 2006 votes in our township.

Based on these results, we are extremely optimistic about the prospects of our outstanding pool of candidates:

- Scott Harper**
U.S. Congress in the 13th District
- Audrey Manley**
State Senate District 41
- Max Havlick**
County Board District 2
- Barbara Dahl**
County Board District 2
- Robert "Bob" Brandt**
County Board District 3
- Matt Mostowik**
Forest Preserve District 3

Continued ►

Point

CounterPoint

Party Matters? Party Matters!

by Elliot Curry

by Carla Feinkind

With the ever increasing importance of the political process, it's essential to review our motivations in order to gain some perspective. The current administration's reckless exploitation of partisan divisions as a tool for consolidating power has broad implications beyond the immediate national stage. Now, the Democratic Party has embraced the importance of winning elections at all costs and has put the core foundation of the party in peril.

Winning elections is the crux of any party successfully implementing its own philosophy. But, when the pursuit of victory commands a party's agenda, principles and ethics will be sacrificed. We could pick candidates and platforms based on winning elections, and while these victories might provide additional political leverage, these wins would deny the public "true" political leadership and the public service for which it longs.

In an attempt to counter recent Republican success, we have, to some degree, adopted their strategy. Because the Republican Party's platform centers on self-interest, it can sustain this persuasion. The Democrats cannot. As Democrats we strive towards improving public welfare; for us the motivation to win elections in conjunction with promoting our ideals cannot exist.

This insidious mindset of capturing elections also warps our perceptions of partisan identity. I am not a Democrat. I am fortunate enough to have found a group that shares similar beliefs and convictions with me placing me under the label of a Democrat. However, this does not define who I am or who you are.

This supposed division between Republicans and Democrats is self-imposed. The acceptance and utilization of our differences is not only the cornerstone of a successful democracy, but used to be the foundation of our own party.

As Democrats, we are supposed to be accepting and tolerant and not mirror the attitudes of our counterparts. Unification and acceptance once were and should remain our guiding principles for the future. Awful tolls have been inflicted in the past few years, but retribution and retaliation merely divert our attention away from our true adversaries: inequality, poverty, and lack of education.

Party Matters now more than ever! We are Democrats and being a Democrat means something. It means:

- a party that has a family/people centered agenda—social and economic safety nets for those in need.
- healthcare for all
- a secure old age
- education and opportunities for all.
- jobs and product safety
- a protected environment for us and future generations.
- clean, safe energy and energy self-sufficiency.
- not sowing fear of those different from ourselves because of their race, creed, or sexual orientation.
- respecting the Constitution & protecting freedoms of speech and religion.

Being a Democrat means working for a sane and responsible foreign policy, not bellicose war threats. It means:

- ending the war in Iraq and securing Afghanistan.
- protecting our borders and nation through a sane immigration policy.
- truly caring for those who serve our nation and making sure that they get home leave and their families cared for.
- taking care of our national heroes after they are wounded and need our best healthcare, rehabilitation and job and educational opportunities!

It is repeatedly said that the Democratic Congress is a do-nothing Congress but, we barely have a majority in the Senate (not enough to override a filibuster) and we do not have veto-proof majorities in Congress.

So February 5th and next November, vote for the values that we all share and vote Democratic! This is a dangerous time and no time to slack off!

AND then, my friends, keep up the pressure. Tell our government what matters to you. Being a Democrat means something and we must communicate that to the people we put into office to represent us! Your work is NOT over on Election Day. Party matters and you matter to the strength of the party!

VOTE

Organization of Political Parties in Illinois

Political parties in Illinois are established under the Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5). State, county, municipal, and township parties are established by law when a political party receives at least 5% of the vote in the last general or municipal election. The law establishes a State Central

Committee and a County Central Committee.

State Central Committeemen and Committeewomen are elected by Congressional District at the Primary Election in non-presidential years.

The Democratic Party of DuPage County, also known as the DuPage County Dem-

ocratic Central Committee, is the officially recognized arm of the Democratic Party for the county.

The Downers Grove Township Democratic Organization is the officially recognized political party representing Democratic voters in the township.

Precinct Committeemen are

elected at the Primary election to represent the Democratic voters in their precincts in the township organization and on the DuPage County Democratic Central Committee.

The Chair of the County Party may appoint Precinct Committeemen to fill vacancies.

We want to thank Winfield Township Democratic Organization for inspiring us to create this newsletter.

Julia Beckman

Proud to be your Democratic State Central Committeewoman

Election night, March 2006—I was pleased and proud to learn that I had won the position of State Central Committeewoman, 13th Congressional District. I believed then and now that it is an honor to represent the Democrats of the “Thundering Thirteenth.” (How do you like the nickname?)

Many have asked, “So—o-o-o-o—what do you do?” The short answer is that I am one of 38 committeemen and women from 19 congressional districts throughout Illinois who are charged with creating the Illinois party’s platform, finding and supporting candidates for office. However, the really meaningful and rewarding part of this position is working with all 14 diverse townships of the District. They stretch across large portions of three counties, from Lyons, Orland, Palos, Homer and Lemont Townships in Cook County to Lockport, Plainfield, Wheatland and DuPage Townships in Will County to Naperville, Lisle, Downers Grove and parts of York and Winfield in DuPage

Torture: A Veteran’s Perspective

On the afternoon of December 23-24 (take your pick—International Dateline), the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo was released from North Korean captivity after eleven months. Within two hours they arrived at the 121st evacuation hospital near Incheon.

I was responsible as duty medic on ward C-13 to do a physical assessment of about five of the 82 sailors. Quartermaster Charles Law asked me if I could look at his foot. His great toe was broken as a result of being struck by a North Korean rifle butt. He had bruises and lacerations on his back from beatings.

County. (DuPage Township is not in DuPage County—just one of the many quirks of Illinois government!)

I attend as many township meetings as I can, as well as fundraisers, picnics, parades and the all-important precinct-walking. As I’ve learned to know more of you (how cool to have so many new friends!), I can see that for all our diversity—occupations, interests, ethnic backgrounds—we share the over-arching goal of electing Democrats so that we can improve the lives of all the people of Illinois. We must never lose sight of that goal—so many in need are depending on us.

I certainly don’t have all the answers (not even close!) I see myself as the messenger—listening to you, taking notes on your victories and passing them on to others. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with ideas, words of wisdom or just to say “Hello.” Soon I hope to have our website up and running, so that we can stay in touch more easily. Until then, contact me at beckman110@comcast.net or 630-985-4688.

One Marine, a Korean linguist, had slashed his wrists as a protest over almost thirty-six hours of severe abuse. Robert Hammond’s near-suicide brought a prompt end to the beatings.

Torture produces feelings of hatred that are impossible to describe. If we engage in such behavior, Americans are reduced to the level of our enemies. What goes around comes around.

We must remember the words of our first and greatest President: “Treat captives well and they will be less willing to sacrifice their lives in battle.”

—George Strejcek
Sp/4 U.S. Army 1967-1969

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Carol DiCola** on her graduation from the Institute for Women in Leadership Program, December 6, 2007.

Congratulations to **Gordon Goodman**, Downers Grove Citizen of the Year for 2007

5 to 4

5 to 4 is a headline that we have seen many times and it is not a baseball score. It is the count on many recent Supreme Court verdicts. Without Sandra Day O’Connor we can expect that many of the future 5 to 4 verdicts will go in favor on the conservative members of the court.

5 to 4 is also the number of young conservative and neo-conservatives justices on the court versus the older (ready to retire) liberal justices. As in baseball the next roster change to the court can determine the team that will dominate the game for a good many years.

It is time to change the make up of the team. A Democrat must manage the White House and a Democratic Senate must agree to the changes recommended by the manager.

—Jim Speta

Reedy at Random

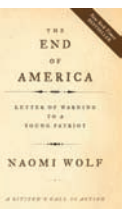
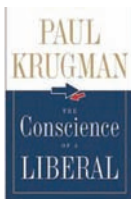
During these cold winter months you may find time to do some serious reading. That’s right, turn off the tube and pick up a book. I’m sure you have your favorites, but let me make a few suggestions.

In 1960, Barry Goldwater wrote his classic, *The Conscience Of A Conservative*, in which he asserts his Conservative ideology. It is a statement of what Conservatism is all about. Over the years Republicans have referred to Goldwater as one of their heroes. One of my heroes is Paul Krugman, and he has written *The Conscience Of A Liberal*. I recommend this book to everyone who is concerned about the direction this country is taking.

Screwed: The Undeclared War Against the Middle Class, by Thom Hartman is another must read. Be careful. It will make you angry.

The End Of America: Letter Of Warning To A Young Patriot, by Naomi Wolf. The publisher writes, “Wolf shows that there are ten classic steps dictators or would-be dictators always take when they wish to close down an open society. Each of those ten steps is now underway in the United States today.”

—Bill Reedy



Democrats On The Ballot

Max Havlick

County Board District 2

A resident of Villa Park, Max holds a doctorate from UIC and is co-founder of New World Community Enterprises. He promises “a campaign of personal contact that visits all 160,000 people in 153 precincts to listen, inform, and encourage civic involvement. Rather than polarize complex issues and demonize opponents, we seek productive discussion and citizen-driven progress toward practical solutions.”

maxjh33@webtv.net

Bob Brandt

County Board District 3

Woodridge resident Bob Brandt is an estate planning attorney. As Village of Woodridge Trustee, he never missed a meeting and earned a reputation for responsiveness to residents’ concerns. He plans to address DuPage County budgetary problems with “shared sacrifice,” including salary cuts for County Board members and a program of streamlined operations and fiscal responsibility.

Bob@BobForDuPage.org

Matt Mostowik

Forest Preserve District 3

A six-year Air Force veteran, Matt is currently the international support/relationship manager with a major computer corporation. He has experience with many difficult decisions as three-term member of the Darien District 61 School Board. The out-of-doors is always part of his life—he uses all DuPage County trails as training facilities for competition-level biking and running. Matt explains his dedication to the Forest Preserve: “The open spaces we leave will be our legacy.”

m.mostowik@comcast.net

Audrey Manley

Illinois State Senate Dist. 41
amanley@comcast.net

Barbara Dahl

County Board District 2
dahlfam3@comcast.net

You already know this is your chance to help choose the Democratic nominee for President of the United States. It’s also important to stand up and be counted for our local candidates from precinct committeemen to countywide office.

Stand Up and Be Counted!

VOTE

Message From Kim Savage Continued

Having excellent candidates is a great start, however, *electing* the candidates requires the cooperation of *everyone* in our township. Funding for these candidates does not filter down from the national or state parties. It comes from local supporters, the township organizations, and the county party. *If you are tired of one-party domination in DuPage County*, please consider a donation, large or small, to one of the candidates, the Downers Grove Township Democratic Organization or the DuPage County Democrats. Your help is vital to success in 2008.

We welcome and thank our new Precinct Committeemen and look forward to working with all of you to elect Democrats in 2008 and hope that you will help us to spread the word to your friends and neighbors. From the President down to the County Board, electing Democrats requires commitment from everyone to help get out the vote at the Primary and General Elections. The Primary Election is scheduled for February 5, 2008. Early voting will be from January 14-31 and is available at the Downers Grove Village Hall. Please exercise your civic duty and let every-



Don’t forget to vote on Tuesday, Feb. 5 in the Primary Election!

Not sure of your polling place?

If you need to know WHERE to vote on Feb. 5, call the County Board of Elections at 630-407-5600, or visit their web site at

www.dupageelections.com

VOTE

one know there are Democrats in Downers Grove Township.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Future issues of the newsletter depend on contributions from our readers and membership dues. People who join or renew their memberships during our January membership drive will receive all newsletters that are published during the course of the year. Additional contributions to expand the distribution of the newsletter are welcome.

Happy New Year, and I look forward to working together for Democratic victories in 2008!