



NEWSLETTER OF THE UPTOWN PROGRESSIVES

January 2008

GOOD STUFF TO KNOW

Check these out: "Word Girl," kids' show on PBS, 8:30 a.m. Sundays; Progressive Radio, WVKO AM 1580.

Whetstone Recreation Program at Sharon Heights School: register Jan. 8, 1 – 8 p.m. Classes start Jan. 14. (Beginners' Tai Chi on Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., all ages.)

SWACO now has a permanent collection center at 1249 Essex Ave. (corner of East 8th Avenue), open Wednesdays 2-9 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Recyclables: www.swaco.org/SmartPeople/HHW.aspx

RECYCLE your old cell phones, pagers, PDA/s and chargers at Staples.

Moved? Name changed? Just turned 18? Now's the time to get family/friends registered in the correct precinct for '08.

Send applications for absentee ballots right away.

February 4, Monday. Voter registration deadline for the March primary.

March 4, Tuesday. Ohio Primary election.

HOW GET-OUT-THE-VOTE GROUPS WILL AFFECT '08 ELECTION EFFORTS

Will the many groups hoping to influence the '08 elections be able to help each other, or will they get in each other's way -- appealing for volunteers, raising money, vying for time and space? UP has invited a panel composed of members from independent and "527" groups to address such questions on January 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Whetstone Library. The discussion will include representatives from Democracy for America, MoveOn, and Working America's AFL-CIO affiliate.

This is also UP's Annual Meeting, in which officers and Steering Committee members for the coming year are elected. A slate of candidates will be presented, and other nominations can be made from the floor.

JANUARY FUNDRAISERS

A Salsa Dance in support of Mary Jo Kilroy's candidacy for 15th district U.S. Representative will be held Wednesday, January 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbus Music Hall, 734 Oak Street. Hosts are Bill Faith, Barbara Poppe, Fred Gittes, Chip Santer, and Cheryl Pentella. Tickets are \$50 at the door. For information email <clpentella@columbus.rr.com>.

Tuesday, January 22, there will be a fundraiser for John O'Grady, candidate for Franklin County Commissioner, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Short North Tavern, 674 N. High Street. Hosts will be Mike Brown, Mike Sexton and friends. Suggested donation, \$50, \$25 for young Dems. RSVP to <info@johnogrady.org> or 221-8476.

Friends of Marian Harris, candidate for State Representative in the Ohio 19th district, will hold a fundraiser Wednesday, January 30, at 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Club 185 Livingston Ave.).

EVENTS IN JANUARY

January 10, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. OHIO FAIR SCHOOLS Statewide Meeting. Location: First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street in Columbus. Contact Debbie@ohiofairschools.org or call (740) 592-2866.

January 13, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Roots Camp, at the Riffe Center 31st fl., High and State Sts. Dialogue between Ohio's activists, organizers, bloggers, fundraisers, etc., to share experience and ideas and build sustainability in Ohio's growing progressive movement. Free; free breakfast and lunch for all attending; donations accepted by <Alevine@americavotes.org>. Info: <www.progressohio.org>

January 13, Sunday, 12:45 p.m. What Would a Citizen Movement Look Like that Would Force America Out of Iraq? Harvey Wasserman, 1st Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 West Weisheimer, Columbus, Ohio. "The American experience is profoundly mixed. In all cases, bitter internal disputes set a clock on how long the nation would actually sustain a wartime effort. But hidden in this history is the key to stopping the war in Iraq." Free. Info: earlword@yahoo.com, 296-6304.

January 27, Sunday, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Town Meeting on U.S. Foreign Policy: What the Mainstream Media Don't Tell Us About Iran/Iraq. Speakers will be Scott Ritter, UNSCOM senior weapons inspector, and Jeff Cohen, MSNBC commentator. IBEW Hall, 23 West 2nd Ave. Free; suggested donation, \$10 per person. Contact: <chammon@columbus.rr.com> or 531-4146.

January 28, Monday. Democratic Presidential Debate. Sponsors: The Los Angeles Times and CNN.

ISSUE 29 IS MENTAL HEALTH LEVY

On the ballot at the March 4 primary will be issue 29, the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities proposed tax levy. This replacement levy, with an increase, is to provide community programs and services for both children and adults. The replacement part is 1.65 mills, and the increase 1.85 mills, for a total of 3.5 mills or 35¢ per 100 dollars of valuation, commencing in 2008.

YOUNG VOTERS TOUGH TO CONVINCE

U.S. Census figures show that voters ages 18 to 24, though still the smallest voting bloc, have shown larger gains in both registration and participation since 2000 than any other age group.

Young voters are concerned about the war in Iraq and many economic issues, polls show, but they may not use these issues to determine their vote for president. Many have no firm commitment to a political party, and may wait til the last minute to make up their minds who to vote for.

While their parents read newspapers, younger voters tend to get their news from the internet. They may have unprecedented access to information and be more aware of environmental and economic factors than older groups, but they often also live in a constant barrage from news sources that differentiate between trivia and political information even less than traditional media.

Those who study this age group say they will vote, but that the depth of their awareness of issues is declining, so that it will be a challenge for candidates' campaigns to "break through the clutter."

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