



## NEWSLETTER OF THE UPTOWN PROGRESSIVES

March 2008

---

### GOOD STUFF TO KNOW

The Greener Grocer at North Market has local produce/products and supports sustainable agriculture and best practices.

<[www.thegreenergrocer.com](http://www.thegreenergrocer.com)>

---

### COMING EVENTS

March 22, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.  
International Women's Day features Rwandan Women in Action <[www.rwia.org](http://www.rwia.org)>. "Stop Violence and Promote Peace;" Rwandan Dance and Fashion Show. Adults \$15, children \$5, food and beverage included. Worthington 7th Day Adv. School auditorium, 385 East Dublin/Granville; 584-0848 or <[Norah90@yahoo.com](mailto:Norah90@yahoo.com)>

March 25, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Chris Finan, president of American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, speaks on the Fight for Free Speech in America. Karl Road Library, 5590 Karl Road. <[contact@acluohio.org](mailto:contact@acluohio.org)>

March 24, Monday, 12:30 PM – 1:30 p.m. Ohio Council on Fair Trade Meeting. AFL-CIO Building, 395 E. Broad St. Meeting open to everyone; bring your lunch. <[khansen@695online.com](mailto:khansen@695online.com)>

## CANDIDATES' FORUM MARCH 20

For our democracy to work, we need to be not just voters, but informed voters. This is our chance to know the candidates for two important offices, ask them questions, and hear them discuss the crucial issues that legislators will face in the coming session.

Candidates for State Representative for Ohio House District 22 and candidates for State Senator for Ohio Senate District 16 will be on hand Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at the Whetstone Library for our Candidates' Forum.

See you there!

## EARTH DAY BECOMES EARTH WEEK

2008 Earth Day will be bigger and better than ever – and with the help of the Columbus Zoo and other organizations, it's going to become Earth Week, with activities throughout the week leading up to the big day.

Mark your calendar: Saturday, April 26, is Earth Day 2008, and its theme is: "Now Get Busy!" Volunteer worksites around town will be open from 8 to 12 noon, with room for 2,500 volunteers, and the results will be the planting of hundreds of trees, removal of non-native species, and various improvements to our community's looks!

The city-wide celebration at Goodale Park, that runs from noon to 7 p.m., will feature free lunch for morning volunteers, booths for environmental organizations, live music, and speakers, including Mayor Michael B. Coleman. Visit <[www.nowgetbusy.org](http://www.nowgetbusy.org)> for updated details and locations of worksites.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

When Americans are asked their preference for for the outcome of the 2008 election – that a Democrat be elected, that a Republican be

March 29, Saturday. Turn off all your lights, etc., from 8 to 9 p.m. Send a message about global warming. <[www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)>

March 30, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. Where do U.S. and Iran relations go from here? Hasan Rahmanian, Sohrab Behdad, leaders. Westerville Library, 126 S State St., Westerville. IRAN Action Network. <[walk@igc.org](mailto:walk@igc.org)>, 252-9255.

April 3, Thursday. From Swastika to Jim Crow. Black-Jewish relations in the U.S. \$3 members, \$5 non-members. King Arts Complex, 867 Mt. Vernon Ave. 645-5464.

April 5-9, Saturday-Wednesday. Mountaintop Removal Week in Washington DC. Register by March 15 at <[www.ilovemountains.org/action/wiw2008](http://www.ilovemountains.org/action/wiw2008)>. Low income volunteers may receive assistance.

April 9, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. "The Story of Stuff," the 20-minute video that will change the way you look at everything. OSU Museum of Biological Diversity, 1315 Kinnear Rd. 461-0734.

April 17, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Free People Think Freely: Academic Freedom in Perilous Times. Steve Aby, professor at the University of Akron. When the free flow of ideas is stymied we begin to lose control over all other aspects of our lives. Whetstone Library. Please RSVP: (216) 472-2220 or <[contact@acluohio.org](mailto:contact@acluohio.org)>.

April 21-27, Monday-Sunday. National TV Turnoff Week. Life without television may actually be more fun. <[www.tvturnoff.org](http://www.tvturnoff.org)>.

April 30, Wednesday. Fourth Annual Rail/Transit Legislative Summit, in Columbus. For details and cost: <[www.gcbl.org](http://www.gcbl.org)>.

-----  
Coalition of Democratic and Progressive Organizations of Central Ohio, new website, <http://coalitiondemscentralohio.org/>

elected, or that an independent be elected, 48% choose a Democrat and 30%, a Republican. But when they are asked to choose between Clinton/ Obama or McCain, the picture is not so rosy: 46.5% choose Clinton/Obama, 45.2%, McCain.

So it's important to remind our friends and co-workers that a McCain presidency would mean not only four more years of failed Bush policies, but putting in charge someone who has no plan for addressing the issues such as home foreclosures that are affecting Ohio; who voted against extending unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, SCHIP, protecting overtime rights and funding unemployment insurance, and who voted for privatizing federal jobs, fast track, and trade agreements that don't have adequate labor protections (NAFTA, CAFTA, Singapore and China trade agreements).

## END RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

Though grant applications for the Administration's "faith-based initiative" were supposed to be reviewed by a White House panel in a "religiously neutral fashion," David Kuo, former White House official who worked on the initiative, says the panel's ratings were "a farce". One panel member told him: "When I saw one of those non-Christian groups in the set I was reviewing, I just stopped looking at them and gave them a zero [out of a possible 100]" . But taxpayer dollars often went to Christian groups "with little more than a post office box".

No one knows the full extent of this religious discrimination because the initiative was set up to avoid congressional oversight. The separation of religion and government is more than an academic debate; it has real consequences. In the world's most religiously diverse country, we cannot allow the government to favor certain religious groups over others. The use of federal funds to support religious discrimination must end.

**JOIN U.P. TODAY!** Click [Join UP](#) on our website, and become a member of the organization politicians are talking about! Only 5 dollars!

[UptownProgressives.com](http://UptownProgressives.com)  
[UP@UptownProgressives.com](mailto:UP@UptownProgressives.com)