



# KENOSHA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Jan.-Mar. 2013

kenoshacountydems.org

## Board of Directors

### Chair--Mary Jonker

[mjonker1@wi.rr.com](mailto:mjonker1@wi.rr.com)

262-658-1224

### Vice Chair--Leah Blough

[leah.blough@gmail.com](mailto:leah.blough@gmail.com)

262-697-8065

### Treasurer--Ann Wilson

(262) 654-1445

[anncurtwilson@aol.com](mailto:anncurtwilson@aol.com)

### Secretary--Judy Reynolds

[jreyno42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jreyno42@sbcglobal.net)

262-694-9773

### Srgt-At-Arms--Mike Goebel

Mike Goebel

262-496-9979

[mikeyg12@aol.com](mailto:mikeyg12@aol.com)

## Board Members At Large

### Karen Kempinen

(262) 551-0292

[ilovebaseball114@hotmail.com](mailto:ilovebaseball114@hotmail.com)

### Shanon Molina

[slmolina79@gmail.com](mailto:slmolina79@gmail.com)

262.748.3674

### Scott Page

[scottppage@gmail.com](mailto:scottppage@gmail.com)

262.308.1879

### Rollin Pizzala

(262) 658-9122

[rpizzala11th@yahoo.com](mailto:rpizzala11th@yahoo.com)

### Sally Simpson

[sjs-jr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjs-jr@sbcglobal.net)

262-694-8254

## College Dems

### Carl Bryan

(262) 945-7647

[carlbryan1989@gmail.com](mailto:carlbryan1989@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor:

Karen Erb

### Webmasters:

Karen Erb

Larry Zamba

Bryan Miller



## DEMOCRATIC CORE VALUES

Fair trade policies, collective bargaining, embryonic stem cell research, living wage, affordable healthcare for all, jobs from new energies, fairness and equality, separation of church and state, environmental preservation, women's rights, balance of power, equal opportunity, fiscally sound budgets, quality education, balancing the tax base, right to privacy, pro hunting & fishing, and keeping guns out of schools, bars, churches, e



## Message from the County Chair



### Happy Holiday to the Kenosha County Democratic Party Membership

I want to thank everyone for all of your work on this last election and in the months leading up to it. On Election Day, with your help we secured four more years for President Obama, and Tammy Baldwin's glass ceiling shattering victory. We would not be celebrating these hard-fought victories if it were not for all your efforts. You helped lay the groundwork for these grassroot movements. When we faced setbacks, you dug down and fought harder, knowing that change would come if we kept working together.

We have made great progress and we need to keep working to make changes in the state legislature. We've seen the proof that changes do come and in the coming weeks and months we will re-organize and re-energize.

Thank you, from all you have done and will continue to do in the future.

Please note this newsletter is for Jan.-March! Hang on to the calendar and check our website for events that we haven't planned yet. The Annual Dinner is March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Cortese's Banquet Hall. Send your nomination for Democrat of the Year to Leah Blough before February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Have a Happy Holiday!!!!

Mary

## Calendar

Every Tuesday, 6-7:30 pm, PROGRESSIVES FOR OBAMA, Miraz Restaurant, 7500 Sheridan  
Jan 3, 7:00 Regular Meeting Kenosha County Democratic Party, Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave,  
Feb. 7, 7:00 Regular Meeting Kenosha County Democratic Party, Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave,  
Mar. 7, 7:00 Regular Meeting Kenosha County Democratic Party, Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave,  
Mar. 23, 5:00 Annual Dinner, Cortese's Banquet Hall, 1300 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha



KDCP Board Members elected November, 2012: Leah Blough, Scott Page, Shanon Molina, Ann Wilson, Installing Officer John Steinbrink, Mary Jonker, Karen Kempinen, Rollin Pizzala, Sally Simpson, Mike Goebel, Judy Reynolds

## Annual Dinner

Yes, it is that time of the year again! The annual Kenosha County Democratic Dinner will be taking place March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Cortese's Banquet Hall, 1300 Sheridan Rd., but it is not too early for all of you to start thinking about making a donation to our 'famous' silent auction! The annual dinner is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and thanks to all of you, it keeps getting better. It's not too early- any early birds out there who would like to donate now can get in touch with me, Leah Blough, at 262-945-5791, and I will gladly take your donation off your hands. Elected officials, please remember that you benefit from the proceeds of this dinner, so we are holding you to a higher standard. ;) In the coming weeks, we'll be sending reminders and finalizing our program (including Democrat of the Year 2013), and there's a rumor that Senate leader Chris Larson may be one of our speakers, so stay tuned!

**AM 820 Available during Daylight Hours Only**



**FM Stations Available 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM**

## News from Mike Tate

I wanted you to be the first to know about a major step we will be taking in 2013 as we begin the work of firing Scott Walker and building majorities in the state legislature.

There is no doubt that 2012 was a highly successful cycle for Democrats at the top-of-the-ticket in Wisconsin. However, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin needs a renewed focus on the state legislature and rural organizing. In order to make great strides towards winning back the Governor's office and the state legislature in 2014, one of the changes we need to implement is maintaining the infrastructure built throughout 2011-2012, rather than allowing it to hibernate throughout the off year. This means having a robust organizing effort outside of the Milwaukee and Madison areas.

I believe the work that needs to be done to win votes and campaigns from the Fox Valley to western Wisconsin cannot and must not wait until 2014 if we are to achieve success. Accordingly, beginning early next year we will be hiring and placing full time regional political organizers in three key regions of the state. These regions represent areas where we need to perform better at the top of the ticket with a heavy emphasis on where we need to win legislative seats in 2014. These first three regional staffers will be placed in:

Eau Claire - responsible for the Eau Claire/Chippewa area and the Minneapolis media market

Green Bay - responsible for the Green Bay area, the Fox Valley and Door County

La Crosse - responsible for the La Crosse area and southwest Wisconsin

This is the first wave of staff that will hit the ground earlier than ever as we look ahead to 2014, with more still to come across the state. It is my intention for these staff to be vetted and hired by a committee made up of local party leaders, local elected officials and state party staff. Once staff are hired, the plan-writing process will also be collaborative and localized to ensure that on-the-ground realities and priorities are reflected. Jake Hajdu will be reaching out to many of you in the coming days to discuss this exciting new development and you should follow up with him with any questions.

We are able to start this work earlier than ever before because of the tremendous success and growth we have had as a party. Our membership has grown exponentially, our fundraising infrastructure is among the strongest of any party in the nation and our ability to communicate our message is sharper than ever before.

This is a very exciting development as we cannot cede any county, any region or any demographic to the Republicans if we are to regain control of our state. We will take the fight to the Republicans and use every tool in our arsenal to win votes and campaigns, regardless of what part of the state you live in.

I hope to talk to all of you soon and Happy Holidays.

Mike

Editor's Note: Yes, we wish Kenosha area were mentioned, but we fall under the leadership in Milwaukee and have always been included in campaign activities. It's nice to know our dues will be used to put forth a state-wide effort to take back Wisconsin's Assembly, Senate, and the Governor's Mansion. **Please keep your dues current.**



# College Dem News

The Fall semester has just come to a close, and with it creating a load of memories for the College Democrats at UW-Parkside. I am proud to say we had a large group of dedicated Democrats at Parkside help create a presence on and off campus, but most of all, we were proud to have taken part in activities in electing President Barack Obama and other Democrats.

Every Friday throughout October and November, we set up Pizza & Politics sessions where we've invited locally elected Democrats and candidates to speak to the students about various issues in Wisconsin and across the country. We hosted listening sessions with people like Rob Zerban, Rep. Peter Barca, and Senator John Lehman who spoke to issues pertinent to students and other groups. In addition, we hosted a debate along with the College Republicans for the candidates of the 22nd Senate District. It was a slam dunk for Senator Wirsch!

One of the most memorable moments we've had as an organization include the visit of coach Craig Robinson and actor Kurtwood Smith as part of the Organizing for America - Heartland Tour. At the event that attracted around 150 students on campus, they both spoke to the necessity of getting involved and helping re-elect the President. The week following, our impressive organizing skills had attracted the attention of the Wisconsin Obama campaign, and as such enlisted our support in hosting the visit of Vice President Joe Biden to Parkside! It was a day none of us would forget.

All told, the College Democrats managed to pull off a successful organizing campaign in mobilizing the students to deliver a victory for President Obama. At the polling location on campus, the President had won decisively by a margin of 56.3% for Obama and 43.7% for Romney. Democrats down the ballot also held decisive majorities over their Republican opponents. The hard work we put into the election helped solidify the Democrats' presence on campus and create an organization that will last.

With the semester at an end, the College Dems are wrapping up a food donation drive. Next semester, we plan to get out the vote for several statewide nonpartisan elections and find ways to partner with other groups on campus to create caucuses to strengthen Democratic causes. Officer elections for the following academic year will also be held. The College Dems are excited more than ever, since there is a lot to look forward to. We appreciate all the support that KCDP has provided us!

## Two Santa Clauses or How The Republican Party Has Conned America for Thirty Years

Published on Monday, January 26, 2009  
by CommonDreams.org  
by Thom Hartmann  
<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2009/01/26-0>

Odds are you've never heard of Jude Wanniski, but without him Reagan never would have become a "successful" president, Republicans never would have taken control of the House or Senate, Bill Clinton never would have been impeached, and neither George Bush would have been president.

When Barry Goldwater went down to ignominious defeat in 1964, most Republicans felt doomed (among them the then-28-year-old Wanniski). Goldwater himself, although uncomfortable with the rising religious right within his own party and the calls for more intrusion in people's bedrooms, was a die-hard fan of Herbert Hoover's economic worldview.

In Hoover's world (and virtually all the Republicans since reconstruction with the exception of Teddy Roosevelt), market fundamentalism was a virtual religion. Economists from Ludwig von Mises to Friedrich Hayek to Milton Friedman had preached that government could only make a mess of things economic, and the world of finance should be left to the Big Boys – the Masters of the Universe, as they sometimes called themselves – who ruled Wall Street and international finance.

Hoover enthusiastically followed the advice of his Treasury Secretary, multimillionaire Andrew Mellon, who said in 1931: "Liquidate labor, liquidate stocks, liquidate the farmers, liquidate real estate. Purge the rottenness out of the system. High costs of living and high living will come down... enterprising people will pick up the wrecks from less competent people."

Thus, the Republican mantra was: "Lower taxes, reduce the size of government, and balance the budget."

The only problem with this ideology from the Hooverite perspective was that the Democrats always seemed like the bestowers of gifts, while the Republicans were seen by the American people as the stingy Scrooges, bent on making the lives of working people harder all the while making richer the very richest. This, Republican strategists since 1930 knew, was no way to win elections.

Which was why the most successful Republican of the 20th century up to that time, Dwight D. Eisenhower, had been quite happy with a top income tax rate on millionaires of 91 percent. As he wrote to his brother Edgar Eisenhower in a personal letter on November 8, 1954:

"[T]o attain any success it is quite clear that the Federal government cannot avoid or escape responsibilities which the mass of the people firmly believe should be undertaken by it. The political processes of our country are such that if a rule of reason is not applied in this effort, we will lose everything—even to a possible and drastic change in the Constitution. This is what I mean by my constant insistence upon 'moderation' in government.

"Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our politi-

cal history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are H. L. Hunt [you possibly know his background], a few other Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or business man from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid.”

Goldwater, however, rejected the “liberalism” of Eisenhower, Rockefeller, and other “moderates” within his own party. Extremism in defense of liberty was no vice, he famously told the 1964 nominating convention, and moderation was no virtue. And it doomed him and his party.

And so after Goldwater’s defeat, the Republicans were again lost in the wilderness just as after Hoover’s disastrous presidency. Even four years later when Richard Nixon beat LBJ in 1968, Nixon wasn’t willing to embrace the economic conservatism of Goldwater and the economic true believers in the Republican Party. And Jerry Ford wasn’t, in their opinions, much better. If Nixon and Ford believed in economic conservatism, they were afraid to practice it for fear of dooming their party to another forty years in the electoral wilderness.

By 1974, Jude Wanniski had had enough. The Democrats got to play Santa Claus when they passed out Social Security and Unemployment checks – both programs of the New Deal – as well as when their “big government” projects like roads, bridges, and highways were built giving a healthy union paycheck to construction workers. They kept raising taxes on businesses and rich people to pay for things, which didn’t seem to have much effect at all on working people (wages were steadily going up, in fact), and that made them seem like a party of Robin Hoods, taking from the rich to fund programs for the poor and the working class. Americans loved it. And every time Republicans railed against these programs, they lost elections.

Everybody understood at the time that economies are driven by demand. People with good jobs have money in their pockets, and want to use it to buy things. The job of the business community is to either determine or drive that demand to their particular goods, and when they’re successful at meeting the demand then factories get built, more people become employed to make more products, and those newly-employed people have a paycheck that further increases demand.

Wanniski decided to turn the classical world of economics – which had operated on this simple demand-driven equation for seven thousand years – on its head. In 1974 he invented a new phrase – “supply side economics” – and suggested that the reason economies grew wasn’t because people had money and wanted to buy things with it but, instead, because things were available for sale, thus tantalizing people to part with their money. The more things there were, the faster the economy would grow.

At the same time, Arthur Laffer was taking that equation a step further. Not only was supply-side a rational concept, Laffer suggested, but as taxes went down, revenue to the government would go up!

Neither concept made any sense – and time has proven both to be colossal idiocies – but together they offered the Republican Party a way out of the wilderness.

Ronald Reagan was the first national Republican politician to suggest that he could cut taxes on rich people and businesses,

that those tax cuts would cause them to take their surplus money and build factories or import large quantities of cheap stuff from low-labor countries, and that the more stuff there was supplying the economy the faster it would grow. George Herbert Walker Bush – like most Republicans of the time – was horrified. Ronald Reagan was suggesting “Voodoo Economics,” said Bush in the primary campaign, and Wanniski’s supply-side and Laffer’s tax-cut theories would throw the nation into such deep debt that we’d ultimately crash into another Republican Great Depression.

But Wanniski had been doing his homework on how to sell supply-side economics. In 1976, he rolled out to the hard-right insiders in the Republican Party his “Two Santa Clauses” theory, which would enable the Republicans to take power in America for the next thirty years.

Democrats, he said, had been able to be “Santa Clauses” by giving people things from the largesse of the federal government. Republicans could do that, too – spending could actually increase. Plus, Republicans could be double Santa Clauses by cutting people’s taxes! For working people it would only be a small token – a few hundred dollars a year on average – but would be heavily marketed. And for the rich it would amount to hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts. The rich, in turn, would use that money to import or build more stuff to market, thus increasing supply and stimulating the economy. And that growth in the economy would mean that the people still paying taxes would pay more because they were earning more.

There was no way, Wanniski said, that the Democrats could ever win again. They’d have to be anti-Santas by raising taxes, or anti-Santas by cutting spending. Either one would lose them elections.

When Reagan rolled out Supply Side Economics in the early 80s, dramatically cutting taxes while exploding (mostly military) spending, there was a moment when it seemed to Wanniski and Laffer that all was lost. The budget deficit exploded and the country fell into a deep recession – the worst since the Great Depression – and Republicans nationwide held their collective breath. But David Stockman came up with a great new theory about what was going on – they were “starving the beast” of government by running up such huge deficits that Democrats would never, ever in the future be able to talk again about national health care or improving Social Security – and this so pleased Alan Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, that he opened the spigots of the Fed, dropping interest rates and buying government bonds, producing a nice, healthy goose to the economy. Greenspan further counseled Reagan to dramatically increase taxes on people earning under \$37,800 a year by increasing the Social Security (FICA/payroll) tax, and then let the government borrow those newfound hundreds of billions of dollars off-the-books to make the deficit look better than it was.

Reagan, Greenspan, Wanniski, and Laffer took the federal budget deficit from under a trillion dollars in 1980 to almost three trillion by 1988, and back then a dollar could buy far more than it buys today. They and George HW Bush ran up more debt in eight years than every president in history, from George Washington to Jimmy Carter, combined. Surely this would both starve the beast and force the Democrats to make the politically suicidal move of becoming deficit hawks.

And that's just how it turned out. Bill Clinton, who had run on an FDR-like platform of a "new covenant" with the American people that would strengthen the institutions of the New Deal, strengthen labor, and institute a national health care system, found himself in a box. A few weeks before his inauguration, Alan Greenspan and Robert Rubin sat him down and told him the facts of life: he was going to have to raise taxes and cut the size of government. Clinton took their advice to heart, raised taxes, balanced the budget, and cut numerous programs, declaring an "end to welfare as we know it" and, in his second inaugural address, an "end to the era of big government." He was the anti-Santa Claus, and the result was an explosion of Republican wins across the country as Republican politicians campaigned on a platform of supply-side tax cuts and pork-rich spending increases.

Looking at the wreckage of the Democratic Party all around Clinton by 1999, Wanniski wrote a gloating memo that said, in part: "We of course should be indebted to Art Laffer for all time for his Curve... But as the primary political theoretician of the supply-side camp, I began arguing for the 'Two Santa Claus Theory' in 1974. If the Democrats are going to play Santa Claus by promoting more spending, the Republicans can never beat them by promoting less spending. They have to promise tax cuts..."

Ed Crane, president of the Libertarian CATO Institute, noted in a memo that year: "When Jack Kemp, Newt Gingrich, Vin Weber, Connie Mack and the rest discovered Jude Wanniski and Art Laffer, they thought they'd died and gone to heaven. In supply-side economics they found a philosophy that gave them a free pass out of the debate over the proper role of government. Just cut taxes and grow the economy: government will shrink as a percentage of GDP, even if you don't cut spending. That's why you rarely, if ever, heard Kemp or Gingrich call for spending cuts, much less the elimination of programs and departments."

George W. Bush embraced the Two Santa Claus Theory with gusto, ramming through huge tax cuts – particularly a cut to a maximum 15 percent income tax rate on people like himself who made their principle income from sitting around the pool waiting for their dividend or capital gains checks to arrive in the mail – and blowing out federal spending. Bush even out-spent Reagan, which nobody had ever thought would again be possible.

And it all seemed to be going so well, just as it did in the early 1920s when a series of three consecutive Republican presidents cut income taxes on the uber-rich from over 70 percent to under 30 percent. In 1929, pretty much everybody realized that instead of building factories with all that extra money, the rich had been pouring it into the stock market, inflating a bubble that – like an inexorable law of nature – would have to burst. But the people who remembered that lesson were mostly all dead by 2005, when Jude Wanniski died and George Gilder celebrated the Reagan/Bush supply-side-created bubble economies in a Wall Street Journal eulogy:

"...Jude's charismatic focus on the tax on capital gains redeemed the fiscal policies of four administrations. ... [T]he capital-gains tax has come erratically but inexorably down — while the market capitalization of U.S. equities has risen from roughly a third of global market cap to close to half. These many trillions in new

entrepreneurial wealth are a true warrant of the worth of his impact. Unbound by zero-sum economics, Jude forged the golden gift of a profound and passionate argument that the establishments of the mold must finally give way to the powers of the mind. He audaciously defied all the Buffetteers of the trade gap, the moldy figs of the Phillips Curve, the chic traders in money and principle, even the stultifying pillows of the Nobel Prize."

In reality, his tax cuts did what they have always done over the past 100 years – they initiated a bubble economy that would let the very rich skim the cream off the top just before the ceiling crashed in on working people.

The Republicans got what they wanted from Wanniski's work. They held power for thirty years, made themselves trillions of dollars, cut organized labor's representation in the workplace from around 25 percent when Reagan came into office to around 8 of the non-governmental workforce today, and left such a massive deficit that some misguided "conservative" Democrats are again clamoring to shoot Santa with working-class tax hikes and entitlement program cuts.

And now Boehner, McCain, Brooks, and the whole crowd are again clamoring to be recognized as the ones who will out-Santa Claus the Democrats. You'd think after all the damage they've done that David Gregory would have simply laughed Boehner off the program – much as the American people did to the Republicans in the last election – although Gregory is far too much a gentleman for that. Instead, he merely looked incredulous; it was enough.

The Two Santa Claus theory isn't dead, as we can see from today's Republican rhetoric. Hopefully, though, reality will continue to sink in with the American people and the massive fraud perpetrated by Wanniski, Reagan, Laffer, Graham, Bush(s), and all their "conservative" enablers will be seen for what it was and is. And the Obama administration can get about the business of repairing the damage and recovering the stolen assets of these cheap hustlers.

*Thom Hartmann (thom at thomhartmann.com) is a Project Censored Award-winning New York Times best-selling author, and host of a nationally syndicated daily progressive talk program The Thom Hartmann Show. www.thomhartmann.com His most recent books are "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight," "Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights," "We The People: A Call To Take Back America," "What Would Jefferson Do?," "Screwed: The Undeclared War Against the Middle Class and What We Can Do About It," and "Cracking The Code: The Art and Science of Political Persuasion." His newest book is **Threshold: The Crisis of Western Culture.***

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Parkside College Dems, Craig Robinson, and Kurtwood Smith for the Heartland Tour



Senator Bob Wirth debates candidate Pam Stevens for the 22nd senate district



Vice President Joe Biden speaks to students at Parkside's Sports & Activities Center



Vice President Joe Biden with College Dems chair Carl Bryan



College Dems working to recruit fellow Democrats at the annual Parkside organization fair



Students hard at work getting out the vote at the Student Center Bridge on Election Day



College Dems posing with 1st CD candidate Rob Zerban

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