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# GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA

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## Training Conference

Plans for a DFA-sponsored political training conference, September 10-11 at Gettysburg College, are in full swing. Everyone is welcome, but registration is limited to 200. Be sure to sign up at [www.GettysburgAreaDFA.com](http://www.GettysburgAreaDFA.com) (click "Training Opportunities"). You do NOT need to pay the \$50 fee (\$20 students) until the day of the event, but do register now to avoid being closed out.

## No Quiet Summer

With the announcement of the nomination of US Court of Appeals Judge John Roberts for the Supreme Court, the stage is set for an intense round of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Expectations are rising, however, for a straightforward confirmation process. If Judge Roberts is indeed confirmed, he will be the sixth graduate of Harvard Law School and the third Catholic on the Supreme Court when the new term begins in October.

But before the hearings begin.... Join GADFA at our Meet-up on August 3 for our own lively discussion:

### "The Future of the Supreme Court"

Nationally- known speaker and central-PA resident **Kate Michelman** will be our special guest. After 20 years as President of NARAL, Pro-Choice America, Kate Michelman has a new book, *With Truth and Justice for All; A Life Spent Protecting the Right to Choose*, in press, with a projected publication date in December 2005. She is a seasoned lobbyist and skilled political activist who led the Campaign "To Save the Court" for the Democratic National Committee in 2004. Kate's talk (with ample time for discussion) will follow a short business meeting.

Even before Justice O'Connor's resignation, the Supreme Court has already accepted some cases on hot-button issues for the fall term. *Rumsfeld v. FAIR*, billed as a gay-rights case, concerns the legality of military recruiters on campus. *Gonzales v. Oregon* will address the legality of the Oregon statute on assisted suicide. An abortion case, *Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood*, will consider a New Hampshire law requiring parental notification.

Many years have passed since Senator Arlen Specter's relentless grilling of Anita Hill concerning her complaints of workplace sexual harassment by then nominee Clarence Thomas. Yet the memory of October 1991 hangs heavily over the current process. That year the Judiciary Committee split seven-seven on Thomas' nomination and sent the matter to the full Senate without recommendation. The resulting vote, confirming Thomas, was 52 to 48.

More telling, many members of the Judiciary Committee from 1991 linger on. With the current Republican majority, Arlen Specter has taken over chairmanship of the committee from Joe Biden (D-De). Although Biden, who has already indicated an inclination to run for President in 2008, remains on the committee, Patrick Leahy, (D-Vt) serves as the ranking democrat. With so much at stake, and as constituents of Senator Specter, we have a particular responsibility to watch over the questioning of this nominee, especially as other Court vacancies may occur during the present administration.

-JoAnn Udovich  
Deputy Newsletter Editor

## Remove Rove

-Warren Steen

Let's show our indignation! Join in condemning the "traitor-gate" actions that exposed a CIA operative for political reasons, and has led to the jailing of NY Times reporter, Judith Miller. Demand the removal of White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove and any others involved. This is a great time to send your comments to the editors of our local newspapers. Send a letter, even a short line or two, urging the President do the right thing - come clean with the American people on this issue. If you have any questions, or need any help, contact Warren Steen, 259-7870 or [steenwe@adelphia.net](mailto:steenwe@adelphia.net)

## Lobby Visit on Iraq

Members of GADFA traveled to Washington on July 14 to meet with representative Todd Platts and an aide to Senator Arlen Specter. After waiting forty-five minutes in the Washington summer heat for a promised meeting with Senator Rick Santorum, the group moved on after staff were unable to locate the senator, although the group did speak informally with staff person, George Bernier. Task Force chair, Alan Olson, was joined on the trip by Elaine and Bill Jones, Will Lane, Lou and Pat Hammann, Sherrill Brown, Pat Naugle, Jake Schindel, JoAnn Udovich, and Margaret Borock. The group delivered a

policy summary (see insert, page B) focused on the intolerable cost of the war and the lack of a strategy for bringing the conflict to an end.

Charles Fitzpatrick, aide to Specter, reported that the senator had written letters to the families of the 83 service people from PA who have died in the war. He also indicated that the Senator had questioned defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld at length about the extended conflict, and held hearings concerning the detainees at Guantanamo. Pat Naugle inquired about the scheduled deployment of the Gettysburg national guard unit to Iraq in 2008, and Fitzpatrick replied that the troops would leave when the Iraqis are capable of handling things themselves. Fitzpatrick noted that "Senator Specter is very interested in knowing what his constituents have to say, especially when they are willing to take the time to come and express their views."

Rep. Platts also gave the delegation significant time, expressing his deep concern about the troops and noting that he had attended six funerals. Having visited Iraq three times, Platts said that the media fails to convey the progress we are making in Iraq. The most common theme heard in Washington was that Americans cannot leave Iraq any time soon.

(The forgoing article was redacted from a GADFA press release. A fuller version appeared in the *Gettysburg Times* on July 20, 2005)

## Tongass National Forest (Alaska)

-Brett Snyder

The Environmental Task Force hosted a slide presentation on May 22 with Keith Nyitray, an Alaskan who advocates on behalf of Tongass National Forest. The issue at hand is the Bush Administration's desire to allow the timber industry access to the forest's last stands of old growth trees (only 1.5% of the total acreage) in the world's largest remaining temperate rainforest along the southern Alaska coast. The old growth forest in the Tongass represents a complete ecosystem, rich with a diversity of life that can not be replaced after clear-cutting takes place. The Administration is proposing 1000 miles of new roads (in addition to the 4000 miles of existing roads in the forest already) in this pristine ecosystem. Road building in national forests is always funded by the federal government to encourage timber companies to clear-cut. Due to the remote location and rugged landscape, the cost for building roads in these areas is between \$125,000 and \$300,000 per mile. The timber companies pay only a fraction of this cost in taxes and fees. Permanent jobs are not created in the process, and the clear cutting threatens the tourist industry that does provide permanent jobs.

For more information, on what you can do to effect congressional action on this important issue, contact Brett Snyder at [refugerescue@gmail.com](mailto:refugerescue@gmail.com).

## The Truth about Santorum ...

Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum insists that "liberalism" set the stage for the Roman Catholic Church pedophile scandal. The Boston Globe reported on July 13 that Senator Santorum refused to back off remarks he made three years ago on a website called Catholic Online. "It is no surprise that Boston, a seat of academic, political, and cultural liberalism in America, lies at the center of the storm" of the clergy sexual abuse scandal, said Santorum. Boston's "sexual license" and "sexual freedom" nurtured an environment where sexual abuse would occur, added the Senator.

**Tell Congress You're  
Watching!**

**Call Senators Specter  
and Santorum and Rep.  
Todd Platts**

\*

**Switchboard at the  
Capitol  
202-224-3121**

## **Progressive Candidates Needed**

**-Roger Lund**

The Candidate Development Committee is seeking candidates to write-in for the fall elections. The final list of open seats will be released from the county Board of Elections at the end of August, and we are aware of a number of seats vacant (that's NO Democrat, NO Republican, NO Green) for the November election. That means we need only (1) find a candidate, and (2) get them one or more write-in votes (assuming no other write-in campaign.)

Additionally, we need to hear from people with ideas for finding a candidate to oppose Congressman Platts. He has less than \$90,000 in his campaign fund and is one of only 3 Congress members from PA lacking ANY opposition in the last election. We must make sure a candidate runs! Please put your thinking caps on and share names of those you think might be good and might have an interest.

Also, we need eventual opposition to Maitland, Nichols and Punt, and a candidate for the county commission.

We will never make changes in this county without candidates to run for office. Consider running yourself! Please e-mail me with your ideas ([rlund@thechristmasha.com](mailto:rlund@thechristmasha.com)) or come to our next Candidate Development meeting at the Ragged Edge on Wed., August 10 at 7 PM.

### Letter from the Chair

Dear DFA Activist,

Gettysburg Area DFA may seem like a small, isolated group of progressives getting together to share concerns about "how to take back our country." What continues to surprise me, and others, is that what we are doing here is being recognized at the state and national level as a model for local organizing.

It is your work that has put us on the map!

You have created serious task forces on Social Security, Environmental Policy, Iraq and Foreign Policy, Senate Seat 2006, and Candidate Recruitment and have three times sent carloads of citizen lobbyists to DC to deliver position papers on issues of national concern. (These position papers can be viewed on our website, [www.GettysburgAreaDFA.org](http://www.GettysburgAreaDFA.org), thanks to the hard work of many task force members and our web guru Evelyn Steen.)

Most recently, on July 14, eleven GADFA representatives made the case that the costs of the Iraq war in both human and fiscal terms were intolerable and unsustainable. (See related story on p. 2.) Though our elected officials (all Republicans) are not likely to urge an early end to this war, we cannot be silent. As Lou Hammann put it, "At least I can look myself in the mirror and say I am doing what I can do."

Concerning local organizing, Vice-chair Roger Lund reports: "We are regularly looked at as an example of how a coalition group should be run. One example is how we have served as a mentor to other coalition groups, like Montgomery County DFA. The MCDFA Chair was finding that all tasks fell on her shoulders and she was aware that a 'top-down' structure had been created in her group. It was smothering her and participation by others fell off. After many hours of sharing with her our structure, MCDFA now uses task forces, and a steering committee set-up much the same as ours. The participation of their members has grown, with task force chairs taking 'ownership' of issues."

Roger also took the lead in securing Gettysburg as the site for a national training program run by Democracy for America on September 10 & 11. Ashad Hasan, the coordinator for such programs nationwide recently wrote, "You guys continue to impress me with how much you've accomplished for your training." Already more than 110 activists signed up to participate for the political training program at Gettysburg College. It is clear this will be a sold-out event, attracting people from Washington DC, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Jason Townsend produced the first DFA newsletter in Pennsylvania, which has become the model for Philly for Change's newsletter and others across the state. JoAnn Udovich has become the deputy editor, and is producing the current issue.

But we do need more writers, more workers, more citizen lobbyists, and more contributors. Join us on August 3 as we continue to strengthen our base and promote progressive values.

Elaine L. Jones  
ejones@blazenet.net

## Growing Greener Initiative

-Pat Naugle

In the recent primary election, Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly voted to support the Growing Greener Bond Question. The question was “Do you favor authorizing the Commonwealth to borrow up to \$625,000,000 for the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives?”.

Over 61% of voters statewide voted “yes” - a very positive indication of the commitment of Pennsylvania’s citizens to the environment. Locally, 58% of Adams County voters (4,695 yes to 3,371 no) supported Growing Greener, and Franklin (8,404 yes to 5,785 no) and Cumberland Counties (14,600 yes to 10,135 no) also voted strongly in favor. Unfortunately, the voters in York County were less enlightened and voted against the initiative.

Somewhat surprising was the overwhelming support from the large cities and heavily populated suburban counties. Evidently, people will support environmental initiatives that do not provide local benefit.

Could it be that we are all environmentalists on some level?

## Adopt-A-Highway!

-Sue Bumbaugh

The environmental taskforce announces GADFA’s participation in PennDot’s Adopt-A-Highway program. The first trash pickup has been scheduled for **August 20 starting at 8:00 a.m.** We will meet at The Christmas Haus, 110 Lincoln Way West, New Oxford. Coffee will be available starting at 7:30 a.m.

Our area is a two-mile section of route 30E near New Oxford. PennDot has already installed signs near Kilpatrick and Brickcrafters Rds. displaying our name, GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA.

Safety will be our top priority! Everyone must review safety requirements and sign a release form. You must be at least 8 years of age, and everyone under 18 needs a signature from a parent or guardian. Participants will receive an orange safety vest and gloves. Penn Dot “Litter Crew Ahead” signs will be posted at each end of our section while we work.

So come and join your fellow progressives as we help keep Adams County clean and gain recognition within our community. If you would like to participate contact Sue Bumbaugh at 677-6293 or [longpinelake@yahoo.com](mailto:longpinelake@yahoo.com)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wed., 8/3 7:00 p.m.	Meet-up “The Future of the Supreme Court”	Seminary Library
Thurs., 8/4, 6:00 p.m.	Bob Casey fund raiser Contact Bill Gilmartin 717-642-5314 or <a href="mailto:bgilmartin@jeffersongr.com">bgilmartin@jeffersongr.com</a>	Hidden Horse Farm
Mon., 8/8, 7:00 p.m.	Senate 2006	contact Will Lane
Wed., 8/10 , 7:00 p.m.	Candidate development	Ragged Edge Coffee House
Wed., 8/10, 7:00 p.m.	Environmental Task Force	Ragged Edge Coffee House
Sat., 8/20, 8:00 a.m.	Adopt-a-Highway	New Oxford
Wed., 8/27, 7:00 p.m.	Iraq Task Force	Ragged Edge Coffee House
Sept 10-11, all day	DFA National Event “Grassroots Organizing and Campaign Training”	Gettysburg College

**Gettysburg-Area DFA Newsletter is published each month via mail, e-mail and website posting. To add your name to the mailing list, contact [GADFA1@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GADFA1@YAHOO.COM) or Elaine Jones at (717) 677-9442.**

*Special thanks to author and editor, Will Lane, for the following position paper presented to Rep. Todd Platts, and Senators Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum on behalf of the Iraq Task Force*

**Gettysburg Area Democracy for America  
Summary of Concerns on the Iraq War  
July 14, 2005**

We come here today convinced that the war in Iraq has not made America safer but has actually weakened our country in significant ways and exposed us to a new set of risks. Our purpose in coming is to contribute to a conversation—one that we feel is essential for America's future—about how best to protect our country, our soldiers, our citizens, and our vital interests.

The costs of this war have become intolerable and unsustainable. They include:

- A heavy toll in U.S. casualties, more than 1730 killed and thousands severely injured
- The death or wounding of tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians
- A loss of focus in the “war on terrorism”
- The creation of a training ground in Iraq for Al Qaeda
- Damage to our credibility and effectiveness abroad
- Damage to our own military
- A failure to adequately address other, equally compelling threats to our economy and environment
- Lost opportunities to fully fund worthwhile programs like Social Security and support for education and access to health care.

From our perspective, these risks will continue until our country is routinely guided by the following principles:

- A broader, more balanced understanding of security and a better balance between military spending and investments in the development of our economy, the health of our environment, and the education (including retraining) of our people.
- A respect for facts
- A respect for the rule of law and a demonstrated concern for human rights
- Accountability of all public officials to the American people
- Restraint in the use of military force
- A spirit of dialogue and cooperation with other nations
- A stronger leadership role for Congress.

In terms of Iraq itself, we recognize the difficulty of our current situation but are convinced that the presence of U.S. troops has become counterproductive. We ask that Congress insist that the President set up a framework for withdrawal of American troops from that country that includes

- A recognition that the U.S. government may not be able to dictate the form of government eventually adopted in Iraq and the policies it follows
- A willingness to work with all Iraqis in the country, including insurgents
- A framework for expedited negotiations with those nationalist elements among the insurgents already identified by Secretary Rumsfeld
- A strategic plan that sets reasonable limits to direct U.S. military involvement.

**GETTYSBURG AREA DFA**

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[www.gettysburgareadfa.org](http://www.gettysburgareadfa.org)

**Gettysburg Area DFA**

Join us on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> for our August Meetup

Seminary Library Lecture Hall  
second floor Wentz Library (across from Valentine Hall)  
at 7:00 p.m.

*With special guest, Kate Michelman,  
on "The Future of the Supreme Court"*

Easy parking behind Wentz Library