



# Gettysburg Area DFA

Progressive Values/Fiscal Responsibility  
**Democracy for America**

Energizing democracy  
at the grass roots

July 2007

## August Meet-up Focuses on Trip to Iran

The Reverend Sandra Mackie will report on her recent trip to Iran at DFA's next meet-up on Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Reverend Mackie was part of a sixteen person delegation from Civilian Diplomacy, a grassroots organization that supports people-to-people contacts between countries in conflict. The group met with people from many walks of life and a variety of faith traditions, including representatives of Jewish, Christian, and Zoroastrian communities. As Reverend Mackie wrote in a recent article, "People everywhere want to live in peace and security. People everywhere want to have health care and education available for their children. People everywhere want work with purpose. Now I can say with great certainty that the people of Iran want these same things."

For more info on Civilian Diplomacy trips to Iran, please visit the Fellowship of Reconciliation at [www.foruse.org](http://www.foruse.org).

## Bob Edgar to Speak in September

Bob Edgar, the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches and the newly appointed head of Common Cause, will speak on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Masters Hall at Gettysburg College. His talk will be entitled "Holding Powers Accountable in an Unstable World" and will weave together Edgar's longstanding concern with faith and public life with an analysis of issues such as the war in Iraq and campaign finance reform. The event is co-sponsored by Gettysburg Area Democracy for America along with the Eisenhower Institute and the Religion, Philosophy and Political Science Departments at Gettysburg College.

Dr. Edgar, a Methodist minister, has written a new book titled *Middle Church: Reclaiming the Moral Values of the Faithful Majority from the Religious Right*. President Jimmy Carter describes the book as "a stirring call to American believers, [reminding] us that faith belongs in the public realm—not to advocate war, privilege, and environmental degradation, but to promote peace, the eradication of poverty, and the preservation of our fragile planet."

Edgar is also well known for his service as a six-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was the first Democrat in more than 120 years to be elected from the heavily Republican Seventh District of Pennsylvania. His election and service demonstrated the bipartisan, ecumenical quality that has marked his whole life and ministry. His wide-ranging career has also included pastorates at United Methodist congregations and stints as a teacher, college chaplain, community organizer, and director of a "think tank" on national security issues.

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## Rendell Backs Windmills

On Tuesday June 20, 2007 Gov. Ed Rendell dedicated Pennsylvania's latest wind farm in Schuylkill County. The Locust Ridge wind farm is the seventh farm on line in PA, a state that is aggressively pushing wind power as an alternative to electricity produced by dirty fossil fuels.

At present, the state's wind farms generate enough electricity to serve about 45,000 homes, or less than one percent of the Pennsylvania market. But the state expects another four wind farms to begin operating within the next year, more than doubling capacity.

"Wind energy is part of our future," Rendell said. "It can do for Pennsylvania what coal and oil and gas did for us in the '20s and '30s and '40s and '50s."

## A Letter from the Chair

July 2007

Dear Friends,

Although we are not having a regular Meet-up in July, there are many ways to promote the values we Progressives cherish in our families and communities. The Senate voted this week to have all new cars and trucks get 35 miles per gallon by 2020. This is the first time in 30 years that fuel efficiency standards were increased—a major victory for the environment. Thanks to everyone who took action on this topic – and keep watching for the House to vote on the same legislation. For more information, see the Union of Concerned Scientists at [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org).

Immigration is another huge topic for the nation – and for all of us in Adams County. I hope we can stimulate serious conversations among all of us about how to bring justice, fairness, and economic solutions to this pervasive problem. One of the best groups working on this issue is the Center for Community Change. Read about their new project FIRM at <http://www.fairimmigration.org/>.

Many PA for Democracy groups are deeply involved in promoting universal health care in PA. Read the facts at <http://www.pafordemocracy.com/>. To get involved in promoting Single Payer Health Care Reform, contact Kevin Shaw at [kjshaw238@hotmail.com](mailto:kjshaw238@hotmail.com). And remember that our own DFA task forces need your help – as well as our progressive candidates running for numerous county and municipal offices in November. I hope you are having a great summer! Peace to all!

Elaine

## Take Back America Conference in D.C. June 18-20: A report from Alan Olson

DFA's annual conference in Washington D.C. brought about 2000 progressives from across the country together. Some of the parallel sessions of interest were: The War of Ideas: A Real Security Agenda for America; Out of Iraq: What Comes Next?; Terrorism: A Real Security Response; and NextGen Religious Voters: The New Values Debate. Each of these sessions were led by a panel experts, and sometimes one or two members of Congress, with time for questions afterwards.

Also, most of the Democratic Presidential candidates spoke including Sen. Mike Gravel, Gov. Bill Richardson, Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Hillary Clinton and Rep. Dennis Kucinich. All in all, I found the conference really uplifting, informative, and well run. I hope I can live up to its challenge. I was impressed by the number of state legislators I met there who were attending a parallel conference for the Candidate Development and Leadership Tracks.

A surprise came out of the NextGen Religious Voters session, given our dread of the "evangelicals" that blindly follow Bush. Research shows that voters 18 - 30 years old, self-identifying as evangelical, are tired of the hard-line stance on choice and gay marriage, do not support their older leaders, do not attend church regularly, and want to find a middle ground on these issues. They are not motivated by fear, but more by hope. Barack Obama was invited to Rick Warren's church in California, and was wildly received by the young people there.

To my knowledge, I was the onliest one there from Gettysburg area, so I had to make a lot of friends! For more detail, pictures, and videos, and share the inspiration, please check it out at [www.ourfuture.org](http://www.ourfuture.org).



## The Gettysburg Conversations on America' Future

"That government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

With a newly re-energized Democratic Committee in Adams County, do we need to re-imagine the role of DFA in order to complement rather than duplicate the efforts of that committee? What can we do that ACDC cannot? The Gettysburg Conversations would build on the excellent work we have been doing in the area of educational programming by conducting a series of public forums on key issues. Each forum would be supported by postings, links, and a blog on our website (coming soon, we hope, by late summer.)

Care would be taken to develop a public identity for the series that is welcoming and non-threatening to as wide a range of community members as possible. This identity might well draw from the ideals embodied in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. By inviting civic leaders from around the community to speak or participate in panels we would build our organization and spread our influence. Whenever possible, we would co-sponsor events with other groups and institutions. Programs could be recorded (audio and/or video) and made available on our website and elsewhere.

Ideal issues for the forums would have both a local and a national/global impact, e.g. immigration, water, sunshine laws etc, but others—like the war in Iraq—could be addressed as well. Overall, the project would complement but in no way replace the other important work that DFA is doing, such as lobbying for progressive positions on issues.

What do you think? Is this a direction Gettysburg Area DFA should pursue? To offer an opinion, please send your thoughts in an email to [wlane@gettysburg.edu](mailto:wlane@gettysburg.edu)

- Will Lane -

## If You Are an Environmentalist...

Why engage in the struggle to preserve the wilderness or clean up the air and water? Why argue for improving miles per gallon in our enormous fleet of automobiles? Why use efficient light bulbs, keep your tires properly inflated, oppose irradiating our food, and on and on? This piece of native wisdom may provide the profound motivation needed to keep us going in the right direction.

**Seventh Generation** is a precept of the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee [the six nation Iroquois Confederacy], which requires that chiefs consider the impact of their decision on the seventh generation. Why seven generations? Why not 6 or 10? As a child, I knew my great grandparents and someday I hope to know my great grand children. With good health and luck, in my life I will know seven generations including my own. It is a real connection we experience through our lives and can make a promise to. When we think of the seventh generation, most of the decisions we are worried about are the negative ones. Climate change, environmental poisons, nuclear war. And they are definitely worth the worry. But we could also make positive decisions that will enrich the seventh generation. In the Middle East, for centuries people planted date trees. Many of these trees take 80 years or more to mature to the point where they can produce dates. The person who plants the tree will never taste the dates, yet people have always planted them. It is part of their commitment to future generations. The seventh generation standard argues that the effect of any decision today should be judged by its effect in six generations, both the negative and the positive. While we work to halt the destruction in the present, we must continue to plant the seeds of the future.

This is a **little common sense** from indigenous peoples of the world and the Alliance for Democracy, submitted by Lou and Patricia Hammann

## **Calendar of Events for August and September**

- **A report on Reverend Sandra Mackie's trip to Iran will be the focus at the August Meet-up on Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg**
- **Bob Edgar, the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches and the newly appointed head of Common Cause, will speak on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Masters Hall at Gettysburg College. His talk will be entitled "Holding Powers Accountable in an Unstable World"**

### **Task Force Meetings**

- **Environmental Task Force meets on the third Thursday of each month, Café Noel at Hundred Fold Farm, 7:00 p.m., contact Sue Bumbaugh at [longpinelake@yahoo.com](mailto:longpinelake@yahoo.com)**
- **Iraq Task Force meets on the fourth Wednesday, Ragged Edge Coffee House, 7:00 p.m., contact Alan Olson at [AlanOlson@earthlink.net](mailto:AlanOlson@earthlink.net)**

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