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The Green Party of NJ Bulletin - March 2004

Special Pre-Convention Issue

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EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE GREEN PARTY OF NEW JERSEY

Please join us on Sunday, April 18 - 9:00am to 5:00pm - for GPNJ's Eighth Annual Convention. It will be held at the Rutgers Labor Education Center in New Brunswick (see directions below). We will be electing party officers, hearing reports from the locals, and considering proposals to change party rules and bylaws. There will be time for GPNJ standing committees to meet. This year we will also be electing delegates to represent us at the National Green Party Nominating Convention being held in Milwaukee, WI June 23-28.

GPNJ needs volunteers to help with the Convention. We need setup and cleanup crews, and folks to help with registration, publicity, and program development. Please contact Ted Glick at 973-338-5398 or FutureHopeTG@aol.com if you'd like to help out. Let's make this convention our best ever!

Convention Credentials: You must be a paid-up GPNJ member in order to vote at the convention. Annual dues are \$25 for regular dues, \$10 for students and low income. New membership dues must be sent in by March 19 in order to have a vote at the convention. Renewals may be paid at the door.

*Ecology * Democracy * Peace * Justice * Community*

Directions to the convention:

The Rutgers Labor Education Center is located at the corner of Ryders Lane and Labor Center Way in New Brunswick, near the Cook College and Douglass College campuses.

If driving, take the NJ Turnpike to exit 9; then Route 18 North (less than a mile) to Route 1 South. Proceed slowly as you get onto Route 1 South, because you want to make an IMMEDIATE right turn into the Sears parking lot. At the very back-left corner of the Sears parking lot there is an outlet road that leads directly toward the Labor Education Center parking lot (make a quick left after exiting the Sears parking lot).

If you happen to miss the turn-off for Sears, stay in the righthand lane of Route 1 and proceed to the first exit (less than 1 mile), which is: Ryders Lane/New Brunswick. Proceed on Ryders Lane to the first intersection that has a traffic light (about a half mile) and make a right turn. You will see the Labor Education Center on your right.

Via mass transit: Amtrak and NJ Transit trains stop in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick train station is located at the corner of Albany Street and Easton Avenue. From there take the "EE" Campus Bus, which runs every 10 minutes 9:10am-8:15pm, every 12 minutes 7am-9am, and every 20 minutes after 8:15pm. Cab service is available from the train station. Rutgers bus schedules and maps available at <http://gobble.rutgers.edu/newpats/bsched.htm>

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

** The proposal below for Candidate Nomination and Endorsement Policy is being made due to Section 8 not having sufficient guidance and being contrary to what has taken place and discussed in previous election cycles. Nomination and Endorsement and what parts of the Green Party of New Jersey and locals have in responsibility are specified within the new language.

Submitted by George DeCarlo

Bylaws Proposal for Candidate Nomination and Endorsement Policy

1 The Green Party of New Jersey may nominate or endorse candidates for local, regional, state, and national offices.

2 The word "nomination" will be used when the candidate will be publicly identified with the Green Party. The word "endorsement" will be used in all other cases.

3 A nomination/endorsement may occur at the state convention or at any official Green Council meeting of the Green Party. Any nomination/endorsement by the convention or GC will be subject to the usual process of review by the locals, unless:

- . the local has already nominated or endorsed the candidate;
- . the proposed nomination or endorsement was specified on an announcement distributed to all affiliated Green Locals at least one month prior to the convention or GC.

4 A candidate may be proposed for nomination / endorsement by any member of the Green Party or affiliated Green Local.

5 No candidate will be nominated or endorsed by the Green Party if the nomination or endorsement is opposed by any affiliated Green Local in that candidate's electoral district and that engages in electoral activity.

6 It is mandated that candidates who wish to be considered for nomination:

- . Seek the nomination of all locals within their district, and then seek the Green Party nomination;
- . Attend or send a letter to the Green Party meeting at which their nomination will be considered.

7 It is encouraged that candidates be active members of an affiliated Green Local.

8 Candidates who accept a Green Party nomination for office will be considered official Green Party candidates. As such, they should be a member of a Green organization, embrace the platform of the Green Party, and identify themselves as "Green Party candidates."

9 State conventions or an affiliated Green Local may endorse independent candidates who support the Ten Key Values and who generally endorse the state platform.

** The proposal below for Ballot Access and Status is being made to give emphasis and direction in the legal requirements for consideration as a political party. In fact this may be the title for a new section or the proposal may be placed where appropriate as determined by the convention in the current bylaws.

Submitted by George DeCarlo

Bylaws Proposal for Ballot Access and Status

The Green Party of New Jersey will seek and maintain statewide ballot access as allowed by state law. This will include, but is not limited to, running candidates for local, regional, state, and federal offices in order to gain and retain ballot access. GPNJ will also reserve the right to exercise legal action (i.e. lawsuits, amica curiae, etc.) as necessary where ballot access and status or electoral laws are determined to be unduly restrictive or not in accordance with democratic principles.

** The proposal below for Removal of Members is being made due to Section 3 defining the manner for membership but giving no procedure for removal of members.

Submitted by George DeCarlo

Bylaws Proposal: Removal of Members

A) Initiating Membership Revocation

i. Members may submit a Petition for Removal to the Green Council. A revocation petition summarizing the allegations against the member facing removal and justifying a removal action shall be signed by ten members in good standing representing at least two locals. A petition for removal should begin with the language, "We move to exercise our right of association and disassociate and expel _____ for any and all of the following reasons: We believe that _____ has engaged in behavior inimical to the aims of the GPNJ, which may include but is not limited to violations of the Ten Key Values or the Bylaws, or persistent disruption of party activities. Specific reasons for this request include:"

ii. Signatures on petitions shall be dated within six months of the submission date.

iii. The timetable for scheduling and beginning the discussion of the petition shall begin upon receipt of a physical petition. E-mail may be used to expedite and facilitate the proceedings but is not a suitable substitute for a physical document.

B) Distribution and Notification

i. The Secretary/Record Keeper shall ensure that a copy of the petition, including any amendments, and notification of the dates of the removal discussion and vote are sent to each party to the petition at least 15 days before the removal discussion is scheduled to begin. The copy sent to the member facing removal shall be sent via certified mail, personal service, or other method which provides confirmation of receipt.

ii. The Secretary/Record Keeper shall send notice of the outcome of the proceedings to the member facing removal within 2 days after a decision is reached.

C) Preparation for Discussion of petition

i. The GC shall schedule a discussion and vote on the removal between 15 and 30 days after receiving the petition.

ii. Prior to beginning the removal discussion, the GC shall make any necessary inquiries of the members submitting the petition to clarify the petition. The results of these inquiries shall be forwarded to the entire GC.

iii. The results of these inquiries shall be kept as part of the GPNJ's permanent records and a copy shall be sent to the member facing removal.

iv. All parties to the petition, the member facing removal and the complainants, shall receive access to the GC e-mail list for the duration of the discussion of the petition upon individual request. Requests may be made to any GC member, who shall transmit them to the GC.

D) Discussion of petition

During the GC discussion of the petition,

- i. The GC shall give the member facing removal an opportunity to make a written response via the GC e-mail list, which may include statements from other members.
- ii. The GC will then have 10 days from the beginning of the removal discussion to discuss and vote on the motion.
- iii. Once discussion is complete, but prior to the final vote, a GC member may propose limiting action on the petition to a suspension of the subject's membership for six months.

E) Resolution of petition

Once the discussion is complete:

- i. If a proposal to limit action on the petition to suspension is passed, the GC shall vote on the question "Shall the GPNJ suspend _____ for a period of six months?"
- ii. If there is no proposal to limit action on the petition to suspension, or if such a proposal is offered and defeated, the GC shall vote on the question "Shall the GPNJ disassociate from _____ by revocation of his/her membership?" An affirmative vote is a vote to remove, with a 3/4 supermajority needed to pass the motion and effect the removal.
- iii. GC members who are parties to a removal petition may vote.
- iv. Prepaid membership dues shall be refunded in full after a vote to revoke membership.
- v. Half of prepaid membership dues shall be refunded after a vote to suspend membership.

F) Effects of Suspension and Expulsion

- i. An individual whose membership has been revoked is no longer a member of the GPNJ. Individuals conducting GPNJ or GPNJ local events open to the general public may bar the former member from participating.
- ii. An individual who has had their membership suspended is still a member of the GPNJ, but may not participate in any event or activity restricted to members in good standing and may not cast votes as a GPNJ member. They shall not be barred from GPNJ events and activities open to the general public.

G) Normalization of Membership Status

- i. Former members whose membership has been revoked may apply for membership one year after revocation.
- ii. Suspended members shall have all privileges of membership reinstated after six months.

H) Appeal

- i. An individual may appeal to a GPNJ Convention to reverse suspension or the revocation of their membership, according to the following procedure:
- ii. The appeal must be made within 6 months of the Convention's decision to revoke membership.
- iii. The appellant must notify the Meeting Manager of the intent to appeal no less than three weeks before the Convention.
- iv. The appeal must be made in person and accompanied by a petition signed by 10 members representing at least two locals requesting reversal of the membership revocation or suspension.
- v. The Convention must allocate at least 15 minutes for discussion of the appeal, and the appeal must be resolved before election of Officers and discussion of Bylaws, Platform, or other proposals.
- vi. A decision by a Convention to reverse an expulsion or suspension shall be effective immediately.

** The proposal below for Quorum Clarification is being made to replace language under Section 7.3 Voting Procedures at Conventions (c) due to confusion as to a quorum based on local Affiliates as representatives versus members in good standing as representatives as decided upon by the Executive Committee and the word 'representatives' not being defined in this subsection leaving the convention without a quorum if less than one-fifth of the apportioned Representatives is present in the case of local affiliate voting. This does not give a definition in the case of members in good standing voting for a quorum to be established. The bar has been raised with the ratio due to the easier manner of members versus apportioned representatives in an effort to balance and give a greater sense of authority to the member voting option.

Submitted by George DeCarlo

Bylaws Proposal for Quorum Clarification

Section 7.3 (c) At an Annual Convention or Special Convention a quorum will be established for Local-Affiliate voting by obtaining one-fifth of the number of apportioned Representatives or for Members-in-good-standing voting by obtaining two-fifths of the local affiliates with Representatives eligible to vote at that convention.

** The proposal below would allow Co-Coordiators for county locals. It has come up several times that some locals would prefer to elect Co-Coordiators. I think there are instances where this would be beneficial. For example, the county group might be having trouble getting someone to volunteer to take on the responsibility of serving as Coordinator, but they might have more success if the work could be shared. Another reason: Some counties have expressed the preference to have a male and a female as Co-Coordiators. Naturally a county which goes that route will still just have one vote on the Green Council.

Submitted by Steve Welzer

The change would be reflected in the following verbiage:

Section 6 -- New Jersey Green Council

Section 6.1 -- Composition

The Executive Committee members along with the County Coordinators shall constitute the New Jersey Green Council.

Section 6.2 -- County Coordinators

County Coordinators shall be elected by the Members who reside in a particular county or group of contiguous counties, as authorized by the Members residing in those counties. County Coordinators shall serve for a term of one year on the New Jersey Green Council and act as liaisons to the GPNJ Membership Committee. A county local may choose to elect a single Coordinator or two Co-Coordiators; in the latter case, one or the other Co-Coordinator may represent the county at a Green Council meeting.

Resolution: Endorse the World Tribunal on Iraq

Submitted by Patricia Alessandrini, Bergen County

I propose that the Green Party of New Jersey become an endorser of the World Tribunal on Iraq. This endorsement is to record, for the future historic record, our opposition to the war, as the 1967 Russell Tribunal did in regard to the Vietnam War. There is a Web site with details, including a list of global endorsers at: www.worldtribunal.org.

Resolution: "Keeping Our Greens Fresh"

Submitted by Roger Sedmont, Gloucester County

. Whereas, even with excellent full-time candidates in the recent past like Ted Glick and Ralph Nader, the growth of our New Jersey party has been slow;

. Whereas, the print and electronic media (and even some of the public) have tended to stereotype and dismiss us as a single-issue environmentalist party;

. Be it resolved, that we shall be the third Green Party (after Japan and Massachusetts) to be known as Green-Rainbow. This name will be on record as an official addition to our present names (Green Party of New Jersey, Green Party State Committee, GPNJ, the Greens) at the conclusion of this (2004) annual convention of the membership, but the use in public of the new name will be postponed until after the next (2005) convention: allowing members, locals, and state committees to consider this change and allowing the next annual convention the opportunity to approve an alternative course, if it so chooses.

**MEMBERS INTERESTED IN BEING SELECTED
AS DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The following members have expressed interest in being selected as delegates to the National Green Party Nominating Convention to be held in Milwaukee June 23-28. They are listed in alphabetical order along with the prospective national candidate they support, if any.

PATRICIA ALESSANDRINI, Bergen County, pro-Nader
My initial awareness of a National Green Party was during the 2000 Presidential campaigns when I heard Ralph Nader, in a TV interview, state that he was running as a Green Party candidate. I went to the web-site indicated and joined immediately. I am now serving as Secretary to the Bergen County chapter and as Treasurer for the Clean Money Campaign. It was my fervent hope that a Green Party could be organized in the U.S. as I had researched the origins of the Green Party for a paper in graduate school and was quite inspired by their goals and objectives. I would consider it an honor and frankly, exciting, to attend the National Convention as a delegate. My intention would be to support a "Draft Nader Initiative" or for the Green Party to not run a "Green" candidate and support Nader's campaign.

LIZ ARNONE, Ocean County, pro-Nader
I'm the current Treasurer of GPNJ and I've been the Ocean County Coordinator since the Nader campaign in 2000. Last year I ran for Assembly in the 10th District and garnered close to 3,000 votes. I had originally intended to run as a "stand in" candidate but this changed somewhat when I began receiving inquiries from various organizations and invitations to press meetings. I hope to give it another try in 2005. I have started attending local township council meetings and plan to become more involved with local issues. The position I take for the 2004 Presidential election is that I support the "Draft Nader" effort; however, if that does not succeed, I would support his candidacy in whatever capacity I can. I believe now as I did in 2000 that Ralph Nader shares our values, has been a tremendous asset to the Green Party, and is the best alternative we can offer this country.

NONI BOOKBINDER BELL, Burlington County, pro-Nader
Noni has been a member of GPNJ since learning about us through the 2000 Nader campaign. She has been a freelance journalist for Reuters and the Philadelphia Inquirer. She ran as an independent for council in her hometown, Shamong, in 2002.

SUSAN DECKERT, Mercer County, pro-Nader
Susan, a retired environmentalist, is a GPNJ Lifetime Member (a founder who gave a large contribution prior to the first convention). She is currently Treasurer of the Green Party of Mercer County. She was a Freeholder candidate in 2000 and a National Convention delegate that year. She is a USGP Disability Caucus voting member.

KENNY EYERMAN, Cumberland County, uncommitted
Kenny is a recent Green Party member and registrant. Memberships: Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Pacem In Terris. Activities: Weekly candlelight vigils for peace, Woodstown; workshop for American Friends Service Committee: "Organizing against militarism in our schools;" Pacem In Terris/A.F.S.C. Memorial Procession, Dover Air Force Base; attended national peace rallies.

TED GLICK, Essex County, pro-Cobb

A longtime movement activist, Ted is currently Chair of the GPNJ Finance Committee. He was our candidate for US Senate in 2002. He works with the national organization United for Peace and Justice and is also National Director of the Independent Progressive Politics Network.

CARL MAYER, Mercer County, pro-Nader

Carl has been a Green Party member since 1998 and has run for US Congress three times under the Green banner. He currently serves as Treasurer of the national Nader 2004 campaign.

IRWIN NACK, Bergen County, pro-Nader

Irwin is a History professor at William Paterson University specializing in labor studies. He became active with GPNJ during the 2000 Nader for President campaign.

GARY NOVOSIELSKI, Bergen County, pro-Nader

Gary has been a longtime activist for alternative politics and was a founding member of GPNJ. He was our first Chair and our first elected official (Rutherford School Board, 1999). He is currently Chair of the Bergen County local and has been one of the two GPNJ representatives to the USGP Coordinating Committee for the past year.

JONATHAN ORIOLE, Hudson County, uncommitted

I am currently the Secretary and Membership Chair of the Hudson County Green Party, a member of the Lavender Greens GLBT Caucus, and a member of the Green Party of the United States' International Committee. In 2003 I ran for NJ General Assembly in the 31st District and received just under 1,000 votes.

I believe that whoever we nominate should have the best interest of the Green Party at heart. The main reason for running a Green presidential candidate is to "grow" the party and to bring Green issues to the forefront of the national debate. The best candidate to do this would be Ralph Nader. While I have concerns about the extent of his commitment to the party, his stature, experience and dedication to "Green values" are a significant asset to the Green Party. I will only support a Nader nomination, however, if it becomes clear between now and the USGP convention that he will officially accept the nomination and run as the Green Party's candidate. If Ralph Nader does NOT declare interest in the USGP's nomination, I will support David Cobb for President. He has demonstrated the most enthusiasm and dedication to running a Green presidential campaign out of any of the candidates. Being uncommitted to a specific candidate, I will be able to take into consideration the truest possible intentions of the members of the GPNJ and will have the flexibility to change my position depending on how the convention develops.

I further request that the membership of the GPNJ allow me to continue as a member of the International Committee for another year. Over the past year I have participated in numerous online discussions and decisions regarding USGP international policy and platform positions.

STEVE WELZER, Mercer County, pro-Nader

I've been a Green activist for over ten years. I think Ralph Nader will be viewed as the most significant alternative candidate in the race this year, and if the Green Party is prominent in helping to build the Nader campaign we'll continue to be viewed as the most significant alternative party - the logical party to join for those energized by the campaign. Nader was our standard bearer in 1996 and 2000; his politics are very close to ours; he has the ability to shake the foundations of the two-party system; he continues to promote the Green Party; he has said he will campaign for down-ticket Green Party candidates; and our alliance with Ralph Nader has benefited the Green Party for eight years. For all these reasons we should back the Nader campaign in 2004.

CHUCK WOODROW, Gloucester County, pro-Nader

I am a 54 year old "senior programmer analyst" from Gloucester County. I have been a member of GPNJ for about a year and ran for State Assembly in November. I would be in a position to attend the convention at my own expense. If selected as a delegate I would vote to nominate Ralph Nader as the Green Party presidential candidate, even if this required a "write-in" vote. Following the convention I would remain a GP loyalist and support whomever was nominated, if anyone.

CANDIDATES FOR GPNJ OFFICE

Beresford Jones for Chair:

I would like to declare my candidacy to run for GPNJ Chair.

I have had much experience chairing organizations. I have served as academic department chairperson in two colleges and associate dean and division director in another. I also served as chairperson of the faculty union (UFCT), and I chaired the citywide black faculty and staff association at the same time. In addition, I served on numerous boards and committees with various degrees of responsibility.

At its March 3rd meeting the Essex Greens agreed unanimously to support my candidacy.

I received my bachelors degree from Columbia University and the Ph.D. degree from the Pennsylvania State University. I taught at John Jay College/CUNY, Dartmouth College and William Paterson University, as well as part-time at Rutgers.

I am interested in chairing the GPNJ for these reasons: The two party system is failing the American people. There is need of a strong third party to address the critical needs. But the Green Party is generally considered unimportant or irrelevant by the majority of the voters. Too many who know of the Green Party feel that voting for Green candidates is to waste your vote.

The GPNJ is in need of bold and imaginative leadership to challenge the power structure and capture the imagination of New Jersey voters. The GPNJ is not having the kind of impact it needs to have to be able to bring about the changes that are necessary. The failures of the two party system must be exposed. The business-as-usual, same old/same old must be shown to be corrupt and bad for the people. The Green Party must be shown to be the only viable alternative to bad government, and represents the only hope for good government.

The people need leadership, but they are not getting it from their elected officials. So more than half the registered voters don't even bother to come out to vote. There is a crying need for a new force, inspired and directed by a new vision.

This is the challenge I will accept if I am elected GPNJ chair.

Beresford Jones, Essex County

ESSEX COUNTY GREENS ENDORSE CANDIDATES IN WEST ORANGE AND IRVINGTON FOR MAY 11 ELECTION

The Essex County Greens have endorsed the candidacy of independent Natalie Heard running for Township Council in West Orange. Ms. Heard is the daughter of Nathan Heard, who gained prominence in the late sixties with his powerful novel "Howard Street," a depiction of Newark's tragic ghetto life. She has been a teacher in the South Orange-Maplewood school district for almost a decade.

Ms. Heard is currently an Adjunct Professor of Special Education at New Jersey City University. She holds a Ph.D. in Religion, a Master's in Special Education, and a second Master's in Educational Administration.

The Essex County Greens are also supporting two insurgent challengers running for Town Council in Irvington. Irvington's Town Council is made up of seven members - one from each of four Wards (North, South, East, West) plus three at-large members. Three of the four incumbents in the race are part of "Team Irvington" - a corrupt, insider group that has dominated Irvington politics for a decade and a half. During that time Irvington has seen a sharp decline in every standard of living index. In fact, while the nation's crime rate has been declining, Irvington's has been escalating, until now Irvington has the most per capita crime of any municipality in the state. One of the original "Team Irvington" misleaders is serving time in federal prison.

Council seats for the four Wards are up for election. One challenger is a Green Party member. Another is a community activist of long standing. Along with two other reform candidates, they have the opportunity to win a majority of the seven Town Council seats and halt the downhill slide that Irvington has experienced.

The Essex County Greens are supporting the following two candidates: Cedrick Hunter, a Green Party member, has formed two community-based organizations during the 25 years he has lived in Irvington. Elouise McDaniel, a retired school teacher and town resident for over 30 years, has been a longtime community activist. She ran for Council four years ago. Their two wards combined have only 18 voting precincts, which is a very manageable area to cover in the two months until the election.

Jonathan Fluck, who recently worked on the Matt Ahearn and Matt Gonzalez campaigns, has signed on as campaign manager. He reports: "We're developing a campaign combining constant meeting of the constituents and low-level confrontation with 'Team Irvington.' We're psyched and they're nervous. But they have lots of money and a machine behind them ... and they know how to play hard-ball!"

Greens throughout New Jersey are being encouraged to help win a victory in Irvington. Money and volunteers are needed. A big literature drop is being planned for Saturday, April 17 (rain date: Saturday, April 24). If you can help out, please RSVP to Jonathan and let him know what time you can get to Irvington. They have food, music and fun planned for afterward - pot luck (so let Jonathan know what you might be able to bring to share; he can be reached at: jonathanfluck@yahoo.com).

Please contribute! Checks can be made out to "Committee to Elect Cedric Hunter & Elouise McDaniel." Include your name, address, and occupation. If you're contributing \$200 or more, please also include the address of your employer, per New Jersey law.

Mail to:
Committee to Elect Cedric Hunter & Elouise McDaniel
c/o Elouise McDaniel
214 Nesbit Terrace
Irvington, NJ 07111

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GREEN PARTY SPONSORING REFERENDUM

The Lawrence Township (Mercer County) Green Party will be joining forces with Common Cause and others to try to get a referendum on the November ballot in favor of stronger laws against "Pay to Play." To get a referendum on the ballot in Lawrence requires collecting a minimum of 700 signatures on a petition.

BURLINGTON GREENS CONSIDER BACKING NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES

The Mt. Holly Town Council recently announced a plan to destroy 379 low income housing units and replace them with 180 moderate and higher income houses. This would effectively outprice the residents now living there, forcing them to leave. The area has been a sore spot in the town, with some crime and absentee landlords, but many of the homes are owned by elderly people who have paid off their mortgages.

This situation has motivated the Burlington County Green Party (BCGP) to consider backing Pedro Vazquez, John Lazzarotti, and Giuseppe Harris, a nonpartisan team of candidates for town council who are committed to turning things around dramatically. The arbitrary ruining of people's security - their HOMES - means Mount Holly town council as it stands now needs drastic changes.

Members of the BCGP attended public forums about the issue and heard the people there testify how they were scared, outraged, and terribly saddened to think they'll have to leave their communities. They were in no way included in the decision, which is illegal. The township, in fact, is being sued by a coalition of citizens for crimes of discrimination against African and Hispanic Americans (under the Fair Housing Act of 1968) as well as nine other counts under NJ housing laws.

Submitted by Doris Pulone
Recording Secretary, Green Party of Burlington County

AVOCADO EDUCATION PROJECT

Interest in the Avocado Declaration has motivated Peter Camejo to start up the Avocado Education Project (AEP). Peter will be touring the country over the next several weeks to talk about and promote this project. He'll be appearing in New York City, along with Howie Hawkins, on Saturday, March 27, 4:00pm, at 25 West 43rd St. (19th floor - Queens College Labor School Extension - between 5th and 6th Aves.).

The AEP has been set up to educate about the history of struggles for democracy in the United States and their relationship to a multi-party political system. Americans have repeatedly called for a multi-party democracy throughout our history, but the political establishment has resisted moving towards a multi-party framework. Through its website, publications, conferences and symposiums, the AEP will provide a forum where all those committed to advancing democracy in the United States can share ideas, and learn from each other. Visit: www.AvocadoEducationProject.org.

PEACE ACTION DINNERS IN APRIL

New Jersey Peace Action's 47th Annual Dinner will be held Sunday, April 25, 12:15pm to 4:00pm. Location: Friar Tuck Inn, Cedar Grove. This year's keynote speaker will be the investigative reporter Greg Palast, speaking on how to "Reclaim Our Democracy!" He is the author of the New York Times bestseller, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*.

Tickets for the dinner are \$40 prior to April 5; \$50 thereafter. Checks made out to: NJ Peace Action. Mail to: New Jersey Peace Action, 89 Walnut Street, Montclair, NJ 07042. Phone: 973-744-3263. Email: njsane@igc.org. Visit: www.njpeaceaction.org.

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The Coalition for Peace Action's Annual Membership Gathering and Dinner will be held Friday, April 23, 5:30pm to 9:00pm. Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Jonathan Tucker, Senior Researcher in the Center for Nonproliferation Studies' Washington DC office. He previously directed the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Program. In February 1995, he was a United Nations biological weapons inspector in Iraq.

Among the Volunteer Honorees is Green Party member Paul Williams. For the dinner (you must be a member of CFPA) make your reservation by April 19th - \$30 per person (or \$15 limited income). For \$10 you can choose to just attend the program, which starts at 7:00. Checks payable to: Peace Action Education Fund. Mail to: Coalition for Peace Action, 40 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08542. Phone: 609-924-5022. Email: cpfa@peacecoalition.org. Visit: www.peacecoalition.org

MARCH 20: "THE WORLD STILL SAYS NO TO WAR"

Board the Peace Train to New York City for the international protest on the anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. The Peace Trains will leave from Trenton, Hamilton, Princeton, New Brunswick, Elizabeth, and Newark on the Northeast Corridor branch of New Jersey Transit; from Somerville, Westfield, and Scotch Plains on the Raritan Valley Branch; from Dover, Morristown, Montclair, and Bloomfield on the Northwest Branch; and from Red Bank on the Coastal Branch. Bergen Action will travel by bus. See contact information below.

There will be pre-boarding rallies at Trenton, Hamilton and Princeton (Shuttle/Dinky Station) all beginning at 9:15am. The March and Rally in NYC begin at 12 noon. New Jersey groups plan to meet at 33rd Street and 7th Avenue at 11:45 to march to an opening rally in Madison Square Park (23rd and Madison Ave.), a march down 6th Avenue, and back to the park for concluding rally.

For more information about local events, contact: New Brunswick - Tina Weishaus 732-572-0335; Princeton - The Rev. Bob Moore 609-924-5022; Red Bank - Carol Gay 732-785-1503; Trenton - Kate Esposito 609-273-0170; Westfield - Leigh Davis 908-272-8487; Hamilton - Carol Lerner 609-883-8878; Bloomfield/Montclair - Madelyn Hoffman 973-744-3263; Elizabeth - Paula Borenstein 908-289-3584; Somerville/Bridgewater - Susan Johanesen 908-281-6108; Westfield - Diane Beeny 908-233-7344; Morristown - Susan Berkowitz 973-334-3826; Newton - Litsa Binder 973-726-3245.

WHISTLEBLOWER FEATURED AT 3/28 UNPLUG SALEM PROTEST

Note: The Eco-Chorale will appear at this event and needs singers! Come on out and have some fun!
Contact Steve Welzer: 609-443-6782 SteveWelzer@aol.com

A whistleblower who has provided the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with detailed information on safety culture problems at all three of PSEG's nuclear power plants will be the featured speaker at the upcoming UNPLUG SALEM Protest to be held Sunday, March 28th, 2-4 pm, on the access road leading to Artificial Island, in Lower Alloways Township. Rain location will be the Salem Quaker Meetinghouse, on Route 49 in downtown Salem.

This will be the first time that the PSEG whistleblower will be speaking in public. He will describe the reasons why he decided to go to the NRC with his safety concerns, and will discuss those concerns in detail. The protest will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the meltdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant outside of Harrisburg, PA.

In addition to the whistleblower, there will be a number of other expert speakers, including: Matt Ahearn of the Green Party of New Jersey; Roy Cannon of the Green Party of Delaware; Dave Lochbaum, nuclear safety engineer for the Union of Concerned Scientists; Joe Mangano, chief researcher for the Radiation and Public Health Project; Jim Riccio of Greenpeace; Jane Nogaki, Pesticide Coordinator for the NJ Environmental Federation; Dr. Judith Johnsrud of Three Mile Island Alert; Norm Cohen of the UNPLUG Salem Campaign; and Grace Costanzo of the Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch. Entertainment will be provided by the Green Party's Eco-Chorale, and the protest will be powered by solar power provided by LBI Solar.

The NRC's annual assessment letters, dated March 3, 2004, continue to point out the NRC's concerns with the poor safety culture at both of the Salem Nukes and the Hope Creek Nuke. Commented Norm Cohen, UNPLUG Salem Campaign Coordinator, "For the last three years we've been saying that the safety environment at PSEG's nuclear plants is dangerous. Now we have concrete proof. Close those dangerous nuclear plants down now!"

Please come out on 3/28 and listen to and support the person who had the courage to demand that PSEG run their nukes safely, instead of for maximum short term profits. Help us send the message to the NRC and PSEG: No Three Mile Island on the Delaware! CLOSE THE SALEM NUKES NOW!

Directions to rally site (bring lawn chairs!)

From the South: Take I-95 to Delaware Memorial Bridge; then take Rt 49 East (1st exit off bridge) thru Pennsville and most of Salem. At the east end of Salem, Rt 49 veers left. You turn right onto Yorke St, which becomes Rt 658. You'll go over a bridge, past the Hancock House, and meet the access road. Turn right onto the access road - rally location is about a mile on the right.

From the North: Take I-295 south to the Rt 49 exit (last exit before bridge), then follow directions above.

From the East: Get to Bridgeton, take Rt 49 to Yorke St (beginning of Salem) follow directions above.
From the Jersey Coast: Either go to I-295 and follow directions, or go to Mays Landing, follow Rt 40 West to Woodstown, then Route 45 South to Rt 49.

Coalition for Peace and Justice
<http://www.coalitionforpeaceandjustice.org>

UNPLUG SALEM Campaign
<http://www.unplugsalem.org>

Contact: Norm Cohen 609-601-8583; ncohen12@comcast.net.

THE VITAL ROLE THE GREEN PARTY MUST PLAY

by Beresford Jones, PhD
Vice Chair GPNJ; Candidate for State Senate, 2003

The two parties are doing nothing to stop our country's slide down the disastrous path of endless war, globalization and privatization. They have brought us into this morass and are both part of the problem. There is a dire need for a people's party to courageously address needs that are being ignored, belittled or distorted.

Unfortunately, the Green Party is presently incapable of playing the part we need to play, to avert disaster. The public is wedded to the two party system, and so conditioned that an alternative is not conceivable to the majority. Almost 50% of eligible voters are not participating in the electoral process. Is that due to dissatisfaction, distrust, being fed up with corruption and business as usual?

These dropouts and politically turned-off form a fertile ground for the growth of a third party. If they could be somehow inspired, educated and motivated, the Green Party would grow like wildfire in the U.S.

People need something to believe in. If they are turned off, they need something to turn them on. If they have lost faith in the existing political system, they must be shown there is an alternative system that is worthy of their attention and allegiance.

If the Green Party is forthright and courageous, principled and uncompromising, the people, in greater and greater numbers, will turn their backs on the corrupt politicians they have been electing and will turn to the Green Party, the Clean Party, the People's Party, to save them and the nation.

If the Green Party is presented in the right way, the people will come. If they see the Green Party is a beacon and a solution, a growing force in local and state politics, they will come. If the negatives of the present political system are made clear, and the positives, ideals and programs of the Green Party are made equally clear, they will come.

Those seeking leadership will join us when they realize we are true leaders, concerned with humanity, justice, truth and a world at peace.

Many people are presently confused. They want to be patriotic and support the President and our government, but they don't know what to make of the lies that are becoming more transparent. As more and more U.S. soldiers die (more than five times the number who died in the first Gulf war) more families are asking "Why". They want truth, not justifications of illegal actions and violations of international law. They want out of the morass. They want a different future than endless wars. And the tide is turning. People are getting tired of hearing the drum call of a failing war against terrorism, and are ready to turn to a different drummer. This is a time when the Green Party can capture hearts and minds and become that different drummer.

The Green Party is in the best strategic position to become the significant third party in our country. It is a party that is not dominated by corporate money and power, not corrupted by influence and greed.

It is vitally important that the Green Party assert itself as soon as possible, and move to lead the nation back to sanity and true democracy, to being a country that the world respects and admires rather than an arrogant power that the world hates and fears.

We need not feel insignificant and irrelevant because we are presently weak, and most people have no idea of our importance. We must first believe in ourselves and the role we are poised to play in our country. We have a mission and the time is ripe. If we are inspired, we will inspire others. If we truly believe we can influence the future of our country, we can change our country for the better.

The GreenGram is circulated bi-monthly in an effort to keep all GPNJ members informed about recent matters and upcoming events. Members are encouraged to provide brief submissions of news items or opinions, as well as event announcements. Deadline for the May issue will be April 20. Please submit material to the address below or to: GreenGramNJ@aol.com

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