



SPRING 2011

2011: An “On” Year for Democratic Unity

Although the national political pundits have already moved on to the 2012 national elections, 2011 is a big year for local government. We have important elections in Montgomery County and in Upper Dublin Township. In the county we have the Montgomery County Commissioner race. The Democrats are putting forth the dynamic team of Josh Shapiro and Leslie Richards. Our current Democratic County commissioner Joe Hoeffel announced his decision not to seek re-election. Joe graciously gave Josh Shapiro and Leslie Richards his full support. “Josh and Leslie are reform minded and independent Democrats who ...understand that our party is succeeding in Montgomery

County because of our commitment to policy and principle.” stated Hoeffel.

We also have judicial candidates and County wide row offices up this year. In Upper Dublin Township we have candidates running for school board and township commissioner. For Upper Dublin school board Debbie Mendelson and David Robinson will be running for re-election. Joan Ryder Ludwig will be running for her first term. Our candidates running for the UD Commisisoner are Rebecca Gushue in Ward 5, Stanley Ropski in Ward 7 and John Minehart in Ward 1. Mike Paston is running for Magisterial District Justice.

Upper Dublin And Horsham Democrats Host Annual Petition Signing Fundraising Party

On Sunday February 27, 2011 the UD Dems hosted the annual Upper Dublin and Horsham Petition Signing and Fundraising Party. This year it was held at From the Boot Restaurant located at 110 E Butler Pike in Ambler. It is right next door to the Ambler Theater . It was a wonderful event and well attended. Everyone in attendance had an opportunity to socialize with great people and eat good food. Josh

Shapiro and Leslie Richards spoke about their vision for our county. As the dynamic duo they energized the room. The candidates running for the county wide seats were also able to share their accomplishments. Judge Kathryn Broken spoke about the important role of the State Commonwealth Court and why she would be an asset to that body. Richard Haaz and Cheryl Austin who are candi-

dates for Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas enlightened all on what they will bring to the bench when elected. Please read the bios of all our outstanding candidates in this newsletter. It is important that we all arm ourselves with knowledge to assure that we get good and responsible government.

Calling All Young Democrats

Yes! You are the future of the Democratic party and progressive politics, but to get there we need you to get involved now. The Montgomery County Young Democrats meet every third Thursday each month. Join them at Houlihans’s located at 601 W Germantown Pike. (across from the Plymouth Meeting Mall). From 5:30 to 6:30 is Happy Hour/Networking. The Business Meeting is 6:30 to 7:30 . This is open to all registered Democrats age 18-35. Come out and connect . You can get more information by visiting facebook. Also Upper Dublin Democrats are on facebook so check us out .

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 10th UDDC meeting 7pm at the UD Township Building
- Feb 27th Petition Signing Party 2-5pm From the Boot Restaurant
- March 8th Last day to file nomination petitions
- March 12th UDDC meeting 9pm at the UD Township Building
- April 7th UDDC meeting 7pm at the UD township building
- April 18th Last day for voter registration for Primary Election
- May 10th Last day to apply for absentee ballot
- May 13th Last day Board of Elections to receive Absentee Ballots
- May 14th ,9am UDDC meeting at UD Township Building
- May 17th Primary Election

UD Dems are Going Green!!

Help Us Do That

Go to our website and give us your email address

www.uddems.org

*Join Upper Dublin Democrats on facebook
All Democrats are welcome to attend our monthly meetings*

Primary 2011 Democratic Candidates County Wide Elections

Rep Josh Shapiro -Montgomery County Commissioner www.shapirorichards.com

Representative Josh Shapiro, age 37 represents the 153rd legislative District in Montgomery County in the Pennsylvania House of Representative. He was named "Best State Legislator" by Philadelphia Magazine.

Josh Shapiro is a committed public servant who has worked in federal and state government for more than a decade. While in the state house Shapiro authored and led the fight to implement the farthest reaching ethics and government reform agenda in a generation. Shapiro sponsored the first major rewrite of the House rules in decades that opened up House proceedings to the public, eliminated certain legislative perks and made House expenditures subject to public disclosure. As chairman of the Legislative Audit Committee, Shapiro secured unanimous support to require the General Assembly to return its nearly \$200 million surplus to the taxpayers and establish stricter financial controls over the expenditure of state funds. Shapiro received his law degree from Georgetown University and is a member of the PA Bar. He was raised in Upper Dublin township, and now lives in Abington Township with his wife and four young children.

Supervisor Leslie Richards-Montgomery County Commissioner www.shapirorichards.com

Supervisor Leslie Richards represents Whitemarsh Township having lived there for 17 years. A business-woman who has helped create private sector jobs, Richards has made a difference in the community. Richards served as both Chair and Vice Chair of the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors and protected taxpayers by cutting government waste and balancing the budget for three consecutive years without raising taxes. Leslie Richards supported numerous measures to make government more open and transparent, such as establishing the first government cable channel and citizen lead ethics advisory board. As a Project Manager at a civil engineering firm Richards is experienced with managing multi million dollar infrastructure projects like bridge rehabs, environmental assessments and feasibility studies. She understands the importance of getting a job done on time and budget, as well as meeting a payroll. She received a masters of Regional Planning from Univ of Penn. Leslie Richards lives in Whitemarsh Township with her husband and three children.

Richard Haaz—Court of Common Pleas haazforjudge.com

Richard Haaz, a trial attorney was highly recommended as a judicial candidate by the Montgomery County Bar Assoc based upon over thirty years of courtroom experience, integrity and demeanor. Haaz has tried cases in federal courts under six different acts of Congress. He serves as a hearing committee chairman for the Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court regarding the prosecution of lawyers charged with ethical misconduct, Richard is a twenty year board member to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and was recently selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers of PA. Richard and his wife Jennifer just celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary and have three children.

Cheryl Lynn Austin—Court of Common Pleas cherylaustinfojudge.com

Cheryl Austin is a career public servant, first serving 24 years in the Navy retiring as a Captain. Cheryl has served Montgomery County as a criminal prosecutor. In private practice she worked as an elder lawyer protecting the quality of life for seniors. Cheryl Austin is a trustee for the Montgomery County Community College and on the Advisory Board to Laurel House, and agency assisting domestic violence victims. As a prosecutor and in private practice Cheryl has tried numerous cases with the expectation of obtaining justice. Cheryl Austin is committed to a fair justice system with dignity for all people. She want to use her extensive professional skills to contribute to our justice system to enhance the quality for all Montgomery County citizens. She lives in Abington with her husband and daughter.

Primary 2011 Democratic Candidates County Wide Elections

Linda Hee - Recorder of Deeds www.uddems.org

Linda Hee is Assistant Counsel to Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and represents the agency in a variety of civil proceedings arising under the Older Adults Protective Services Act. Previously she served as Assistant Counsel for the AIDS Law Project of PA where she represented individuals with AIDS. Linda Hee has been a Democratic Committee Person for about 10 years in Abington. She was recently appointed as a Hearing Officer for the PA Disciplinary Board and was listed on the First Judicial District's 2010 Pro Bono Roll of Honor for her volunteer work at the Face to Face Legal Clinic in Germantown. Linda Hee received her J.D. from Temple University School of Law and B.A. in Mathematics from Univ. of Scranton. Linda is a committed member of her community and lives in Abington with her husband and their 9 year old son.

William A Holt Jr—Sheriff www.uddems.org

Detective Sergeant William Holt retired from the Abington Police Department after 42 years of service. He has over 20 years of administrative law enforcement experience. He has extensive knowledge in crime investigation, incident command and hostage negotiation. He is the recipient of several awards including the induction into the Police Officers International Hall of Fame. Will Holt is certified to teach in the Municipal Police Officer Training Commission and his extensive experience has been recognized with Police officer of the year awards from Region 13 PA State Detectives Assoc. and the optimist Club of Montgomery County. Will is a graduate of Abington High and a Vietnam veteran. He is an avid sports fan and enjoys outdoor activities. Will A Holt Jr is committed to bring leadership to the Montgomery County Sheriff department.

Jason Salus—Treasurer www.jasonsalus.com

Jason Salus has been involved in Montgomery County many years as a Democratic Area Leader and as a member of the Conshohocken Borough Council since 2008. As a member of the Council he has cut property taxes by nearly 13% and implemented an audit program that has realized over \$1 million in delinquent taxes. As a member of the Montgomery County Industrial Development Authority he supported projects that create jobs and grow our economy in Montgomery County. In the private sector, he works to bring economic development and create jobs. He also works for developing real estate projects that remove blight and brownfields. encourages businesses and residents to use public transportation, and fosters small business growth. Jason holds an MBA from Temple University and a B.S. in Finance from Penn State Univ. Jason and his wife Lisa, a public school library media specialist, have a 10 month old son Max.

Ann Thornburg Weiss—Clerk of Courts (Incumbent) www.voteweiss.com

As Montgomery County's first Democratic Clerk of Courts, Ann Thornburg Weiss has cut backlogs and increased productivity through the effective use of technology. Ann has used automation funds, rather than taxpayer dollars, and is the first of the Court related offices to use RFID technology for file tracking, eliminating time wasted locating files. Ann served as an Upper Dublin Township Commissioner in Upper Dublin for six years and was the Upper Dublin Municipal Chair. She has practiced with the Timoney Knox law firm in Fort Washington since 1984. Ann and her husband John has been married for 31 years and have one son who is a junior in college. Ann is active in her church and community, and serves on the Board of the Ambler Community Ambulance.

Primary 2011 Democratic Candidates County Wide

Mark Levy—Prothonotary (Incumbent)

Mark Levy has come under budget and has been an shining example of doing more with less. He has been able to reduce the size of his office through attrition, and improve services, decrease expenses, and add efficiency through an updated system under the watch of the county judiciary and bar association. He was voted Court-house Employee of the year with unanimous support of the Montgomery Bar Association. At the end of his first term he will be able to return \$8 million dollars in surplus to help relieve the burden on taxpayers. His office has managed to drastically reduce the wait time for victims of domestic abuse in obtaining a Protection for Abuse order. Mark Levy is a Temple University graduate, former US Army Sergeant and Democratic Chair of Plymouth Township. Mark Levy has been one of our county government's bright spots during the last four years.

D. Bruce Hanes—Register of Wills (Incumbent)

Bruce Hanes was elected as Montgomery County Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans Court in 2007. Since taking office in January 2008 he has embarked on a program of increased computerization and cost cutting in the Register's office. He has streamlined many of the practices in the office making the probate, Orphans Court filing and marriage license procedures faster and more efficient. By his careful management of staff, Hanes has saved Montgomery County approximately \$100,000. per year since 2008. D. Bruce Hanes is a US Army veteran and graduated from Temple Law School. He served as an Assistant Attorney General in the PA Department of Justice before entering into private practice specializing in civil litigation, wills and estates. Hanes has been married for 40 years and has two adult daughters. He is active in his church and community serving as the attorney advisor for an inner city high school Mock Trial team. He is a member of Temple Univ. Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry Board.

Diane Morgan—Controller (Incumbent)

Diane Morgan is the first female and Democrat elected Controller in Montgomery County. As Controller she has saved taxpayers money by identifying millions of dollars of accounting errors in the Employee Retirement Fund. She also demanded all valuable documents and contracts to be sent to her office for accountability and legal purposes. Diane Morgan demonstrated the ability to think outside the box by developing more efficient processes in her office. She is an independent minded Controller dedicated to protecting tax payer money.

Dr Walter I Hofman M.D.- Coroner (Incumbent)

Dr. Walter I Hofman a board certified forensic pathologist, was elected Montgomery County Coroner in November 2007. He has completely re-vitalized the office, established standards and provided advanced training for his staff. He renegotiated all existing contracts and even in these difficult economic times, he has managed his department under budget and has saved the county well over \$250,000. Dr Hofman is the only board certified forensic pathologist/coroner in all 64 Pennsylvania coroner counties. His office is the only one in all 67 Pennsylvania counties where all examinations are performed by board certified forensic pathologist

Michael Paston—District Magistrate Upper Dublin and Ambler Borough

Michael Paston has served on the Upper Dublin School Board since 2003 and is the current President. He is designated one of only 18 Master School Board members by the PA School Board Assoc. He received his J.D. from Temple Law School and serves on the Board of Trustees of Montgomery Community College and the PSBA Board of Directors. He lives in Upper Dublin with his wife Carrie, an emergency room physician and their three children

Primary 2011 Democratic Candidates Upper Dublin

Debbie Mendelson—UD School Board (Incumbent) www.uddems.org

Debbie was re-elected for her second term on the UD school board in 2007 where she is secretary. She served on the Educational Advisory Committee for 12 years and currently their board liaison. Debbie received her BS degree from Penn State and a Masters as a Reading Specialist from Temple University. She teaches at the Center school, a private school for children with learning differences. The Mendelson family have been resident of Upper Dublin for 24 years and have two sons who are alumni of UDHS. Debbie is an active and committed member of the Upper Dublin community.

David Robinson—UD School Board (Incumbent) www.uddems.org

David is serving his second term on the UD school board and he is Treasurer and Policy Committee Chair. David earned his J.D. from Temple Law School and has a masters in Asian Studies and is fluent in Japanese. David and his family has resided in Upper Dublin since 2000 and both of his children are current students in the district. He is a corporate attorney, commercial litigator and international business consultant. He is also our district Montgomery County Legislative Liaison.

Joan Ryder Ludwig—UD School Board www.uddems.org

Joan Ryder Ludwig and her husband, Robert Ludwig have been residents of Upper Dublin since 1988. Their two children, are both 2005 graduates of Upper Dublin High School. For the past five years Joan has served on the UDSD Educational Advisor Committee. She worked for 30 years in human factors, cognitive engineering and training research and development, primarily at CHI Systems in Fort Washington. Currently she consults in cognitive engineering and is an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Drexel Univ...Joan received her Ph.D from Brandeis in psychology

Rebecca Gushue—UD Township Board of Commissioners Ward 5(Incumbent)

Rebecca Gushue, a resident of Upper Dublin for eleven years was recently appointed to fill the vacated Upper Dublin Ward 5 Commissioner position. Rebecca is a seasoned Human Resources Executive with over 14 years combined experience in Human Resources and Industrial Health and Safety. Rebecca gives back to the community in significant ways through instructing at Temple Univ., Philadelphia Univ., student speaking engagements, curriculum development and assisting two local high school speech and debate societies. She is also a team leader for the annual Philadelphia Breast Cancer Awareness Walk sponsored by the American Cancer Society and plans to volunteer her time this spring to help build a home in Upper Dublin through Habitat for Humanity. Rebecca has the full support of the UD Dems in her appointment and election efforts.

John Minehart—UD Township Board of Commissioners Ward 1 www.uddems.org

John Minehart was born and raised in Upper Dublin. He loves this community and is committed to continue to push for efficiencies in delivery of services and financial stability. He has been a lifelong Democrat who is very respectful and will be able to work well together with all of the UD commissioners for the benefit of the whole community. John is committed to community service and has worked with UD sport teams and the Ambler Area YMCA. He is married with two children who are students in the Upper Dublin schools.

Stanley Ropski—UD Township Board of Commissioners Ward 7(Incumbent)

Stanley Ropski has served with distinction as Ward 7 Commissioner. He is known for his outstanding constituent service and accessibility. Stan was one of the key commissioners on the most recent comprehensive strategic plan for Upper Dublin. Stanley Ropski is running for re-election as ward 7 Township Board of Commissioners because he loves this community and has demonstrated that he is a thoughtful public servant and fiscally responsible.

Community News

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County is building hope and transforming lives. As you probably know the recycle bank no longer will allow points to be used for non profit contribution. Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity wants to thank everyone who generously contributed there points. Stay tuned for upcoming fundraisers in the future and visit the website at www.habitatmontco.org. Donations are always needed and welcomed.

UD High School Update:

The UD high school construction is on target with the time table and moving into phase three. The students and faculty moved into the new building over winter break. The temporary classroom structures have been removed this spring and that will usher in the final phase to completion.

UD Dems Green Initiative

You can help us keep you informed and save trees and money. Just go to our website www.uddems.org and leave your email address under the contact tab. You will then get our newsletter by email. We will not share your email address with any third party and our newsletter is only produced three times a year.

Application for Absentee Ballot

If you will be unable to vote on Tuesday May 17th for the Pennsylvania primary election ,please get an absentee ballot so your voice can be heard. . Applications can be found on line at www.voteпа.com or you can obtain one from your Democratic committee person. Deadline for absentee ballot application is May 10,2011

Montgomery County Democratic Women Leadership Initiative

MCDWLI is a newly organized Democratic Women's group to encourage women to run for office, and to support Democratic Women candidates. If you are interested in learning more about this dynamic group check out the website at www.demwomenleaders.org. You can also email them at demwomenleaders@gmail.com.

Important Primary for Upper Dublin School Board

We have our three Democratic candidates running for school board and we need our Dems to turn out to support them. For the primary the ballots reflect cross filing of the democratic and republican candidates, so there are seven candidates listed on the ballot. **Our Dems are David Robinson, Debbie Mendelson and Joan Ryder Ludwig.** The others names on the ballot are Republican candidates. Two of the republicans Art Levinowitz and Vanessa Good are incumbent school board members and have served the community well.

UD Dems Let Us Hear from You

Check out our website: www.uddems.org Email us at : info@uddems.org You can email your committee person, attend a meeting or call our co chairs for information: Betsy Parziale 215-646-2332, Nita Hester 215-659-9055

Facts about Upper Dublin Democrats: We Are Sill on the Move!

In 1998 only one of Upper Dublin's wards had a Democratic majority. Now all seven have a democratic majority. Six of the seven wards have Democratic township commissioners. That makes Upper Dublin only one of two of the larger municipalities in Montgomery County to have such a high percentage of elected Democrats.

In 1998 there were only three elected Democrats representing Upper Dublin at any level below President of the United States. Now even with recent losses, we have sixteen. We can be proud to say that in the 2010 election Upper Dublin Democrats had the highest percentage turnout among all Democrats in the 62 Montgomery County municipalities. This was true for both the primary and the general election. Thank all of you for making that happen. Also in 2010 the percentage net gain in registration for Upper Dublin Democrats was the highest among the 62 municipalities in the county, and in absolute numbers we were the second highest in the county. Yes, we are on the move, but we cannot let what is known as "an off year" thwart our momentum. Please continue to encourage your fellow Democrats so we can exceed our own record. Keep yourself informed of what is happening in our township and county. Your Democratic committee person is there to help. With your continued support we will keep our gains and be a force for good in our community. GO DEMS!