

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*  
**THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER**

October 2008

[WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG](http://WWW.BENCODEMS.ORG)

**HOTLINE 509-585-7682**

**Officers**

---

Chair	Bob Parazin	<a href="mailto:chair@bencodems.org">chair@bencodems.org</a> 946 6363
Vice Chair	Regina Speer	<a href="mailto:vicechair@bencodems.org">vicechair@bencodems.org</a> 946 5744
Treasurer	Pending	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bencodems.org">treasurer@bencodems.org</a>
Secretary	Gloria Cummins	<a href="mailto:secretary@bencodems.org">secretary@bencodems.org</a> 430 8718
Editor	Steven Link	<a href="mailto:newsletter@bencodems.org">newsletter@bencodems.org</a> 948-0054
SCW	Mimi Latta	<a href="mailto:scw@bencodems.org">scw@bencodems.org</a> 627 2679
SCM	John Latta	<a href="mailto:scm@bencodems.org">scm@bencodems.org</a> 627 2679

---

**From The Vice Chair**

October has arrived. With the turn of the calendar page comes the last 5 weeks of campaign 2008. Ballots will be arriving in Washington voters' mailboxes in the next couple of weeks. The time for making choices is now.

At the time of this writing, Congress and the White House are dealing with the most serious financial crisis facing this country since the 'Great Depression.' The current administration and Congress are planning on spending \$700 billion or more American tax dollars to bail out bad decisions by Wall Street. Main Street tax dollars will pay the bill, not Wall Street. Are you aware and actively making a difference?

Today, 4000 plus American lives have been lost in a war that should never have occurred. While Iraq may be better than it was several months ago, it still is a war zone and more Americans will lose their lives before America leaves and some form of stability reigns. Further, this war has drained the American treasury of billions of dollars that could be spent at home. Are you aware and actively making a difference?

A record number of Americans are facing foreclosure on their homes, more than during the 'Great Depression.' Predatory lending schemes, outright fraud, and greed have ruined the hopes and dreams of many Americans to own their own homes. Wall Street bankers made loans with unconscionable terms. Are you aware and actively making a difference?

When this administration took office almost 8 years ago, President Bill Clinton left a balanced budget and a surplus. Within months irresponsible tax cuts plundered the American treasury and created a deficit. That deficit without the latest crisis will be over \$400 billion dollars in the current fiscal year.

America has lost its standing in the world community. "Cowboy" diplomacy has created animosity from friends and foes alike. The "with us or against us" mentality that pervades current American foreign policy frequently leaves the United States in the company of a select few.

Health care is still in crisis in this country. 47 million Americans remain uninsured and countless more are underinsured. Premiums for those who do have insurance are rising well beyond the rate of inflation. Even the American Medical Association recognizes there is a crisis in the health care industry.

Republicans have proven they are incapable of governing. As a Democrat are you ready for four more years of this failed administration? As a Democrat do you really want four more years of political and financial disaster for Main Street?

Democrats cannot afford to be on the sidelines. Your future is in your hands. If you choose to **not** actively participate in this campaign, choices can and will be made that affect your job, your children, your retirement, your healthcare, and all Americans futures.

Are you prepared to face the consequences of inaction?

Democrats must take back the White House, retain the Congress, retain the Governor, and the Washington state legislature. Not succeeding is not an option. Every Democrat must take action. Engage-Activate- Five more weeks- Make this a Democratic Year!

## **Tri-Cities United for Obama**

### **Gail Blegen-Frost**

Tri-Cities United for Obama (TCU4O) meets each Monday at the George Fearing for Congress headquarters in Richland. The goal of this grassroots organization is, of course, to help get Barack Obama elected and its strategy can be described as the "Three V's": 1) Voter Registration, 2) Visibility and 3) Volunteerism.

Members of this group have set up voter registration tables at numerous community events including farmer's markets, food festivals, 4th of July celebrations, street fairs as well at local high schools. As a result, hundreds of new voters have been registered to vote in the upcoming important election.

The group adopted a personalized version of Barack Obama's campaign logo and has more than 100 of its yard signs distributed throughout the community. In addition many people are wearing TCU4O t-shirts and/or lapel buttons to proudly proclaim their presidential choice.

Inspired by Barack Obama's message of creating a positive change in the world through public service TCU4O has been doing just that. A drop off site at HQ for food bank donations has been established. Donations from our members and the community at large have been generous and appreciated. When Obama asked his supporters to contribute to the American Red Cross to help with the hurricane relief efforts, members of TCU4O responded by organizing and holding a bake sale. As a result an \$800 donation was made to the Red Cross. Possible future community service projects include contributing to the local Habitat for Humanity projects.

TCU4O members are "fired up" and ready to get Obama elected! They will be phone banking and canvassing our community as election day nears. To see what is planned, and to sign up to participate, check out the events on [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com). Or, better yet join Tri-Cities United for Obama on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. to learn how you can get involved! Contact Steve Lee at 509-948-2201 or Bob Bowersock at 509-943-4559 for more information or questions.

## **Plans for Eleanor Roosevelt**

### **Laurel Piippo, 943-415**

New Discoveries about Eleanor! Well, not exactly "new discoveries," but Glynn Stevens told us at the Sunday committee meeting for making your evening with Eleanor Roosevelt very special, indeed, that 2008 is the 60th anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights that Eleanor championed. This is cause for celebration! You will receive a copy of this important document at the Living history monologue of Eleanor's life at the Clarion in Richland, Thursday, Oct. 16, from 6-8 PM.

What a grand opportunity for us to be entertained and informed about the significance of this American icon, who fought for all people, not just Americans or Democrats, but for ALL! She especially was concerned about rights for women and protecting them from exploitation and abuse. This is the Year for Women in Politics -- even though we may not like all of them (AND YOU NOW WHO I MEAN.)

Jean Rice from Massillon Ohio, who researched and will create Eleanor's life for us, reminded me that Eleanor Roosevelt was born October 11, 1884. Please, let's not all sing Happy Birthday.

Several local people contacted me about their personal encounters with Eleanor Roosevelt decades ago. Judy Powell and Helen Steer, as students, met the First Lady. Jim Watts, who has given several fund-raisers for Democrats at his riverside home, escorted Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt when she visited our area to dedicate the Ice Harbor Dam and speak at CBC. He wrote a

charming article about the two-day experience, which I forwarded to many of you.

At Democrats Drinking Liberally earlier this month, I sat across from a Democrat whose aunt lived in Seattle next door to a family of Eleanor Roosevelt's relatives whom she visited during summers. His aunt played cards with Eleanor in the afternoons. The aunt is now 89 years old and WOO HOO!!! SHE STILL RIDES HER HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE! She can't come to our "Eleanor" event because her nephew will be in Europe. I wish she would jump on her HARLEY and drive over the mountains to join us.

But you and your friends, Republican, Democrat or Independent, can hear Eleanor's life story, have a glass of wine and snacks, a "sweet surprise," a silent auction, take home a colorful photo souvenir place mat of historical campaign buttons from both parties and an opportunity to order or buy a packet of four laminated mats, topped off with a "sweet surprise."

Tickets are \$25 per person until the day of the performance, when the price goes up to \$35. Obviously, you should buy your tickets in advance. Tickets are available at the Octopus on the Jadwin side of Uptown Richland; Lucky Flowers, 4525 Road 68, Pasco; Naturally Gloria, 5215 W. Clearwater, Kennewick' or call Laurel at 943-3415 and leave a message. (Speak slowly and clearly, please.)

## Upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, October 8th, Chief Joseph Middle School, Richland starts at 7:00 pm. Two Sessions, 8th LD and Benton County Commissioners. The order and precise time of the sessions is TBD.

WEDNESDAY -- October 15th, CBC Theatre 7:00 pm, 4th Congressional District race, Fearing and Hastings. Precise time is TBD. A panel of three representing newspaper, radio and TV news organizations will do the questioning.

FRIDAY – October 10, Tri-city Democrats potluck in Pasco, at the Unitarian Church (old carpenter's hall off Sylvester), 5:30 potluck and program at 6:30. Bring a potluck dish to share. - Leona Hassing



## October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		29 *Drinking Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 * Executive Board Mtg (check HOTLINE for time & place)	8	9	10	11
12	13	14*	15 Central Committee Meeting 7 pm MCLD21	16	17	18
19	20	21*	22	23	24	25
26	27	28*	29	30	31	

\* **Drinking Liberally** - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available!

NOTE O'Callahan's & Restaurant are operated by a subcontractor NOT the Shilo Inn Corporation.

RPL --- Richland Public Library      RCC -- Richland Community Center      MCLU -Mid-Columbia Library 16<sup>th</sup> & Union

MCLD --Mid-Columbia Library 405 Dayton St, Kennewick in Keewaydin Park