

# Amber Waves of Green

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The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan Volume 7, No. 1 Fall 2005

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Washington, DC demonstration of over 200,000 sends clear message:

## Bring our troops home now!



They came from as far away as Alaska and California, from Europe to the nation's capital itself, to make a clear statement that United States military forces should withdraw immediately from Iraq. Hundreds of thousands marched making it the largest demonstration in the capital since the winter of 2003.

With President Bush's approval rating falling every week, the American peace movement is expanding its focus to include denouncing the horrible suffering seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and across the Gulf coast.

At the opening rally near the White House, the speakers blasted the foreign and domestic policies of what they described as a nefarious and out of touch political leadership. The speakers list included: Cindy Sheehan, the military mother whose son Casey was killed in Iraq last year and the driving force behind the peace encampment established outside President Bush's vacation ranch in Crawford, Texas; Rev. Jesse Jackson, longtime civil rights activists and head of the Rainbow/Push Coalition; Curtis Muhammad, veteran civil rights activists advocating on behalf of his fellow community members in New Orleans, and many more.

"If you are against the war you must be against the war against blacks, poor black uneducated people," said Curtis Muhammad. "We want to say to you that we thank you for all the food and water and clothes

that you've sent. But the time has arrived to honor those people, to honor their voices, to honor their genius, to honor their desires and their hopes for self-determination. It is your job now to find out what they are asking you. And I am going to give you the three things here today."

"One: we wanna go and find our people, they are

*(Continued on page 10)*

**True face of Democrats and Republicans ...**

## The Murder of New Orleans



**U.S. Coast Guard photo of New Orleans.**

New Orleans, Sept. 1, 2005 -- It's criminal. From what you're hearing, the people trapped in New Orleans are nothing but looters. We're told we should be more "neighborly." But nobody talked about being neighborly until after the people who could afford to leave -- left.

If you ain't got no money in America, you're on your own. People were told to go to the Superdome, but they have no food, no water there. And before they could get in, people had to stand in line for 4-5 hours in the rain because everybody was being searched one by one at the entrance.

I can understand the chaos that happened after the tsunami, because they had no warning, but here

*(Continued on page 11)*

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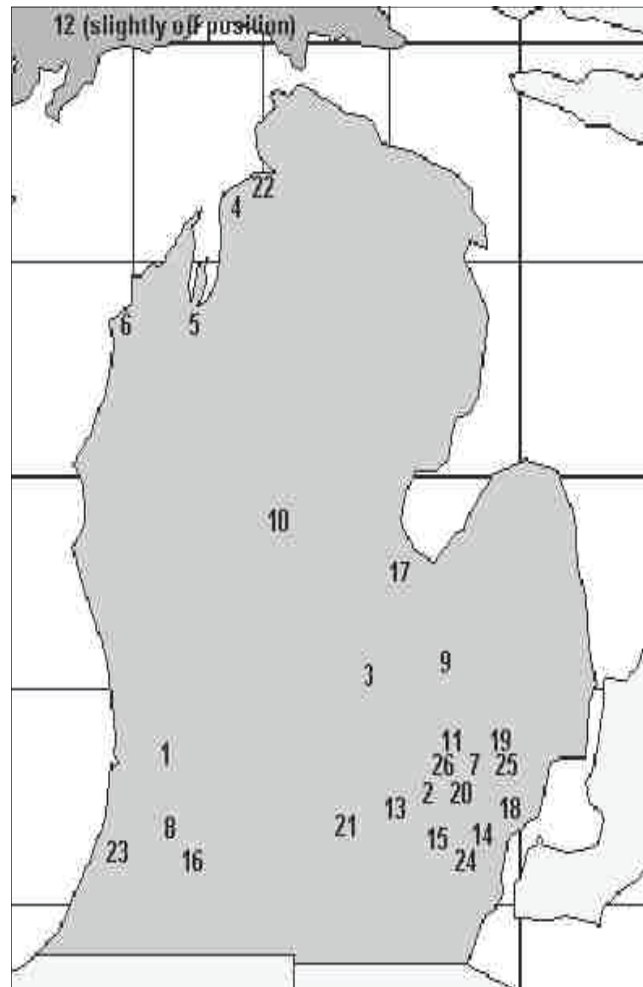
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# **Amber Waves of Green**

## **Volume 7, No. 2— Fall 2005**

### **The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan**

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# Greens elected to office to date in 2005

Election Date	Candidate, Office	Status, Votes, %
05/17/05 Special Election	<a href="#"><u>Matt Donahue</u></a> Oregon School Board, Position 4 (Benton)	Place: 1 2 running for 1 seat 4276 votes, 49.79%
05/17/05 Special Election	<a href="#"><u>Mat Marr</u></a> Oregon School Board, Position 3 (Jackson)	Place: 1 2 running for 1 seat 3199 votes, 67.5%
05/07/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>David Lanman</u></a> Texas Mayor, Marfa	Place: 1 2 running for 1 seat 304 votes, 53%
04/19/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Gary Novosielski</u></a> New Jersey School Board (Bergen) Incumbent	Place: 2 5 running for 3 seats 706 votes, 47.4%
04/05/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Brian Benford</u></a> Wisconsin Common Council, District 12 (Dane) Won his primary with 58.63% or 540 votes. Incumbent	Place: 1 2 running for 1 seat 1044 votes, 55.79%
04/05/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Pete Karas</u></a> Wisconsin Common Council, District 9 (Racine) Incumbent	Place: 1 2 running for 1 seat 427 votes, 73.24%
04/05/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Austin King</u></a> Wisconsin Common Council, District 8 (Dane) Won his primary with 78.45% or 295 votes. Incumbent	Place: 1 2 running for 1 seat 405 votes, 78.18%
04/05/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Brenda Konkell</u></a> Wisconsin Common Council, District 2 (Dane) Incumbent	Place: 1 1 running for 1 seat
04/05/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Anna Lempert</u></a> Illinois School Board of Trustees, Champaign-Ford Regional (Champaign, Ford)	Place: 2 3 running for 2 seats 11315 votes, 37.4%
04/05/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Scott Summers</u></a> Illinois Town Assessor, Dunham Township (McHenry) Write-in	Place: 1 1 running for 1 seat 5 votes, 100%
04/05/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Scott Summers</u></a> Illinois Board of Trustees, McHenry College (McHenry)	Place: 2 4 running for 2 seats 12450 votes, 25.9%
03/15/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Steven Krulick</u></a> New York Village Trustee (Ulster) Incumbent	Place: 2 4 running for 2 seats 327 votes, 60.4%
03/07/05 General Election	<a href="#"><u>Robert LaVangie</u></a> Maine School Board (Hancock) Incumbent	Place: 1 2 running for 1 seat 108 votes, 59.5%



## Green-endorsed Detroit City Council candidate ...

# Taylor campaign fights illegal election schemes

By Lou Novak, Detroit Greens

Election results in the Detroit City Council race have Maureen 'D for Detroit' Taylor with 8,947 votes or approximately 1.0%. That puts her in 24th place in a race in which 18 advance. Only a little over 3000 votes separate her from the 18th place finisher, police officer Tia Davis with 13,129 votes.



Maureen ran a very strong campaign, hobbling on an injured foot, she covered the city while maintaining the services she always provides through Michigan Welfare Rights. This was a grassroots campaign that was all over the ground.

The endorsements of the AFL-CIO of Metropolitan Detroit, Committee for the Political Resurrection (CPR) of Detroit, Detroit Green Party (GPMI), Detroit Million Worker March (MWM) Movement, Keep the Vote/No Take Over Coalition, League of Revolutionaries for a New America (LRNA), Operation Uplift, Riverfront East Alliance, Sierra Club of Southeast Michigan, Socialist Party of Michigan, Solidarity and the Triangle Pride Political Action Committee show the depth and breadth of support for the grassroots candidate.

All Taylor for Council volunteers worked long hours, starting off armed with hand copied and cut flyers and just 100 yard signs, they used face to face organizing to draw in more supporters and get the campaign message out. While other campaigns relied on TV and print advertising, the Taylor volunteers worked the streets in their neighborhoods and at large gatherings in the city. All along they kept it real. It was not uncommon for folks who took a flyer to come back and ask for a button to wear. Now everyone wants a Taylor Campaign Volunteer t-shirt of their own.

Maureen Taylor's fight as a grass roots candidate for Detroiters is not over. As her campaign statement of September 1 declared:

"So crooked was the recent Primary election, that our Campaign has filed a law suit. One principle allegation is that I have been the victim of identity theft caused by a person PAID to enter the race solely for the purpose of taking votes away from our Campaign. The Clerk's Of-

fice is claiming that such a practice may be corrupt and immoral, but that this is common and not illegal. If I were to use someone else's name to open a fake bank account and stole money in the process of such a scheme, that's illegal. But, if I use someone else's name and reputation to steal votes away from voters and disenfranchise people who were tricked by the name similarity, that is somehow to be over-looked.

"She never campaigned, never attended a Candidate's forum, never responded to letters sent asking that she come forward to separate herself from our Campaign. We were prepared to do battle with DTE, with the Water Dept, with the Tax Assessors Office, and with others who have been making the lives of ordinary people miserable. This scam blocked our chance to help our city, so we must step up and call attention to this treachery or it will forever continue! The relief we seek is to have the Judge order the Clerk to place my name and the fake candidate's name on the November ballot so that I can at least have a chance to be a clean contender, in the race for noble reasons!" □

## Green New York City Council candidate wins campaign matching funds

The New York City Campaign Finance Board confirmed September 29 that the Robyn Sklar for City Council campaign will be receiving matching funds.

"This is the first time in history that a Green Party candidate in District 26 has been eligible for matching funds, and only the second time in all of Queens," said Ms. Sklar. "I'm humbled by the outpouring of support I have received from voters interested in having an independent voice on the City Council calling for clean energy, affordable housing, safe transit and more after school programs."

"We are expecting close to \$27,000 from the Campaign Finance Board to arrive in the campaign bank account later today," explained campaign treasurer Rebecca White. "Hundreds of donors contributed from \$5 to \$250 to help us meet our goal. For working people to put even \$10 behind a local candidate is a huge vote of confidence and an investment in grassroots democracy."

"The incumbent has raised an obscene amount of money for this race," said campaign manager Lynne Serpe. "It certainly makes me wonder whether Mr. Gioia is focused on his district or on fundraising for future runs for higher office."

Robyn Sklar is a community organizer, educator and small business owner who lives in Long Island City. For more information on the campaign, please visit <http://www.sklarforcouncil.com>. □

# Understanding the struggle to remain rural

By Linda Cree and Aimee Dunn

Rural America is in trouble. Beyond the countryside's bucolic scenery and apparent peacefulness, the hinterland is reeling from rising rates of poverty, unemployment, hunger, even homelessness, and threatened by both old and new forms of colonialism. A better understanding of what's going on in the rural areas of our nation is critical for Greens who hope to revitalize rural America. Some historical digging turns up problematic attitudes toward rural life that appear to be at the root of many of our problems today.

Negative attitudes of policy-makers toward rural people trace back at least as far as the Enclosure Acts in England when the advent of industrialization's textile factories made having large flocks of sheep very profitable. Laws were passed to "enclose" public lands so the wealthy could gain more pasturage for their flocks. Rural people depended on these "commons" for gathering food and firewood. They also needed these pastures for the few animals they used for subsistence. With the Enclosure Acts, however, many of these ruralites were forced off the land and into the growing industrial cities. Once uprooted, they had little choice but to become virtual wage-slaves in the factories.

Small wonder that America beckoned with its promise of freedom and land for all! Yet monied elites sought to control the land of our new nation from its very inception. While Thomas Jefferson envisioned a democracy of equals based on independent small farmers and advocated giving modest parcels of land to small farmers and placing a progressive tax on estates, Alexander Hamilton hoped for a government run by the wealthy, and favored selling the American land to the highest bidder – a policy which would eventually lead to the concentration of land and power in fewer and fewer hands. In general, Hamilton's land policy prevailed.

First to be dispossessed were the original inhabitants of North America. The government's full-scale assault on native societies had two major aims: destruction of culture and land acquisition. Thousands of Native Americans were massacred and the survivors were confined on reservations that were only a fraction of their former territory. Later legislation was passed (the Dawes/Allotment Act) to enable easy acquisition of reservation lands by white entrepreneurs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs also set up boarding schools that removed Native children from their families and communities in an attempt to destroy their earth-based cultural values and connection to the land. These schools were still operating in the 1950s when the BIA also instituted an urban relocation program giving Native Americans incentives to leave their rural

reservations and find employment in the cities. Today over 80% of Native Americans in the U.S. are urban – a percentage comparable to that of the rest of the American population.

In Michigan, rural settlement was at first encouraged following the Big Cut of the logging era. For the settlers in northern areas, the key to survival was diversification. Despite the obstacles of a short growing season, poor soil, usurious credit and property taxes, many of the German, Finnish, French, Scandinavian, Irish, and other immigrants who chose the Great Lakes area managed by growing crops for their own table and market, as well as hunting, fishing, trapping, and bartering with neighbors. The Metis (French-Indian people who tended to live in rural-wilderness areas outside of the towns of the cut-over) often made their living by supplying townspeople with wild game.

Extreme hardship hit rural America as WWI ended. Farmers throughout the nation had been encouraged to increase production during WWI, and many went into debt to do so. When prices for their crops dropped after the war, a wave of foreclosures swept across the land.

Rural people in Michigan felt the hard times keenly, but policy makers were often unsympathetic. To a growing body of social engineers in the 1920s, the independent but barely-more-than-subsistence lifestyle carved out by people such as northern Michigan's small farmers and woods' families appeared "illogical," "backwards," and maybe even "dangerous" to society as a whole. Government experts in far-off urban centers concluded that there were too many farmers and too much land in agriculture.

That an attitude of contempt toward ruralites biased this assessment is reflected in the words of one of the experts who wrote that Michigan's cutover lands should be made off-limits to settlers because they were breeding "paupers

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**Deforested Michigan around 1900.**



*(Continued from page 7)*

and morons and fires.” He also worried that lack of neighbors to watch over them might lead people in the forest to revert to “a sort of savagery bereft of morality or cleanliness.” A decision was made to make much of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan a timber preserve, and settlement was discouraged. Game laws were also passed to make hunting and fishing a closely regulated sport, and the subsistence hunting and fishing many rural families depended on was denigrated as “un noble.”

After WWII it became official government policy to remove 50% of America’s small farmers in order to make the nation’s agriculture more efficient. While politicians gave lip service to the small family farm they passed law after law favoring large, corporate agriculture. In 1972, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz came right out and told farmers to “Get big or get out.” Another wave of foreclosures swept over the land as farmers over-extended in an effort to remain competitive. Between 1940 and 1960, 22 million people left the land, a forced exodus Theodore Roszak calls “one of the largest migrations of modern times.” As a result, two-thirds of all private lands in the U.S. are now owned by only 5% of our population.

Government attitudes toward rural areas can fairly be described as colonial. The country is seen as a source of resources for corporations, as a playground for urbanites, or as a place for landfills and other projects and developments to benefit urban areas. In Michigan’s relatively sparsely populated Upper Peninsula there are fifteen prisons and prison camps. Canada’s attitudes toward the lightly populated countryside have been similarly colonial, with some remote regions being turned into hydro-electric sacrifice areas. Dams have drowned the Cree’s homeland, the land they occupied for millennia, and also leached mercury from the soil and poisoned the waters and, of course, the fish that are a staple in the Cree diet. Huge, high-voltage transmission corridors have been built to get this power to cities in the U.S. (Incensed by this colonization of their land and the threats to the health of humans and dairy cows near these corridors, some farmers in northern Minnesota secretly cut down power poles as they were being put up. When questioned by utility representatives, the farmers shrugged and blamed the downed poles on “the boll weevils.”)

Rural areas suffer from high rates of unemployment and underemployment, which makes them especially vulnerable to colonization by corporations. The need for jobs is often used as a rationale for degrading the environment, further making more self-sufficient rural lifestyles unobtainable. All of the inland lakes in Michigan now have fish consumption advisories on them due to mercury contamination, and Wisconsin’s and Minnesota’s lakes are also contaminated. People can no longer even depend on fish from Lake Superior, for it also has a mercury advisory.

## **Join the effort for a Rural Caucus**

**Send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to: Aimee Dunn, P.O. Box 1153, Marquette, MI 49855, or e-mail: [creelinda@hotmail.com](mailto:creelinda@hotmail.com)**

**Take part in discussions on the Rural Caucus listserve by sending a blank e-mail to: [ruralgreen-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:ruralgreen-subscribe@yahoo.com)**

Another factor making rural life difficult is the recent influx of wealthy (often absentee) landowners from urban areas, as evidenced by the increase in vacation homes. This has led to gentrification of the countryside, raising land values and property taxes beyond the ability of many local people to afford. Deliberately expensive building and zoning codes further increase the difficulty of staying on the land. Like the Enclosure Acts in England, these policies coerce people from the land and into urban areas where they are wholly dependent on wage earning in order to survive.

As historical research shows, for centuries it has been a struggle to stay on the land. Yet living in the country has always been more than a physical placement in space for many people. It has a strong spiritual component that comes from being intricately connected to the community of the land. The passing from spring to summer to fall to winter is not a distanced show nature puts on, but an intimate and detailed rhythm of life. Chickadees and deer, wolves and skunks, earthworms and butterflies are all members of the land’s richly diverse community, and for those accustomed to this diversity, the relatively mono-species environment of non-rural areas can be a harsh deprivation. Everything from buttercups to stars to the dawning of each morning works together to make rural living not only a spiritual delight but a spiritual necessity. Undermining or denying access to this spiritual component is a denial of a basic human right.

Rural people often see things differently than their urban or suburban counterparts. Having a better understanding of rural issues and a strong voice for rural people within the Green Party will strengthen the Greens at the grassroots level. Ruralites are in a unique position to “speak for Wolf,” a Native custom of including the animal community in their decision-making. Rural Greens can speak within the human community for the needs of creatures whose voices are seldom or never heard in other political parties. They can be what organic farmer Maynard Kaufman calls “the eyes on the land.” As “eyes on the land,” Rural Greens can help keep the Green Party abreast of the State of the Land and further the Green Party’s efforts to nurture bio-diversity, grassroots democracy, ecological wisdom, and a just and sustainable society for all. □



## Spreadin' the Green around ....

### DETROIT

By George Corsetti

On September 10, at the Dally In the Alley, Detroit's annual alternative street party near Wayne State University, we sold 70 bumperstickers, gave away a bunch more, and distributed a lot of literature. Also, lots of folks left their names on our sign up sheet, **MANY MORE THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.**

There is clearly a very large part of the population that is thoroughly disgusted with the two major political parties, the handling of the Katrina disaster and with the war in Iraq in particular. Many thanks to all the volunteers who endured the heat of the day to spread the Green message at our table.

The Women in Black demonstration on the same day, which was the largest I've ever seen, stretched 3 city blocks long and the march went down to Campus Martius in downtown Detroit where they were having some sort of car race. We didn't get an unkind word from anyone and even picked up a few people standing around who joined the demo once they knew what it was about. That doesn't happen too often.

And the Camp Casey closing rally was also very impressive. There's something particularly compelling about the statements of relatives of military people, and the Military Families Speak Out group that organized the tour seems to be beating the drums for a good turnout in DC on Sept 24th. ☐

### Solidarity with Northwest Airlines Mechanics!

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association:

The Detroit Green Party supports your struggle to achieve a just and fair contract for good jobs, safe working conditions and job security in the current conflict with the greedy owners of Northwest Airlines. We urge all people in the Detroit metro area to support your struggle. We all suffer if you and your union lose.

Please use our website to let us know of anything that we can do to help. Detroit Green Party ☐



Detroit Greens in antiwar demonstration, Sept. 24.

## “Currently Speaking” suppresses Green point of view

By Doug Campbell, former Green Party candidate for governor, Oakland Greens

Question: Are there any meaningful differences between the political parties?

Answer: Absolutely. But you won't find out about them from Andy Rapp's “Currently Speaking” program.

“Currently Speaking” assistant producer Brian Gulliver, setting up a program to discuss the essential differences between the political parties, contacted the Green Party of Michigan for a representative.

I volunteered and he slated me to appear next Tuesday. A few hours later, he called again to say the invitation was revoked by higher-ups within the program staff who decided to invite only Republicans and Democrats and discuss only the differences between those two parties. Frankly, looking at only the differences between Ds & Rs, I don't know how they'll stretch such limited material into an hour-long time slot.

On the biggest issues of the day - the deficit, military occupation of foreign nations, energy policy - they're in lockstep. The Senate Ds & Rs voted unanimously to spend another \$82,040,000,000 on the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Unanimously. 100 to zero. Not one senate Democrat voted, even symbolically, against the Bush agenda. Not one even abstained. Every one of them - including 2004 presidential candidate John Kerry, 2008 presidential candidate-apparent Hillary Rodham Clinton and several other likely 2008 presidential candidates - affirmatively support the Bush agenda.

Conventional wisdom has it that Greens are the Far Left of American politics and Libertarians are the Far Right, and suggests that Greens align with Democrats and Libertarians align with Republicans. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Greens and Libertarians completely agree with each other in opposition to the D/R agenda: American troops should be withdrawn from Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and a dozen or more other hotspots around the globe immediately.

“Currently Speaking” is broadcast to mid-Michigan and the Thumb each Tuesday evening at 8:00 from stations WDCQ (Channel 19, University Center) and WDCP. (Channel 35, Bad Axe/Ubly).

Let them know what you think about their policy of suppressing alternative ideas. Their phone number is 1-877-472-7677; their e-address is [currentlyspeaking@delta.edu](mailto:currentlyspeaking@delta.edu). If you do, we'd appreciate a copy: [info@migreens.org](mailto:info@migreens.org). ☐

## Anti-war march ...

*(Continued from page 1)*

hiding them from us. They have scattered them all over the country. We want to knock every one of those doors, talk to them about all this activity, see if they want the space that they left. And if they build a condo on it, its yours. What ever they build on that spot of land that we had to leave, we want it."

"We are asking that what ever town you are living in to find our people to put it on our web page: [www.communitylaborunited.net](http://www.communitylaborunited.net). Let us know where our people are. If you are a teacher, tell us where the children come from. If you are a social worker, tell us where they come from. They say they don't know where our people are. We need volunteers to knock doors."

"Number 2, we want the labor movement to pay for those door knocking processes. Help us train volunteers to knock those doors. We are going to use the month of October we think to knock on every door in Baton Rouge."

"Number 3, we want the unions, the skill craft unions, to pay for and to assist in the apprenticeships of learning how to rebuild their houses and put their lives back together."

"You must understand that nobody has ever respected the voices of these people. So our number one program is to hear the voices of these people. Thank you, thank you. Stop the war against black and poor people in America," Muhammad concluded.

Anan Shalal from the Iraqi-Americans for Peaceful Alternatives said "2,000 U.S. soldiers and over 100,000 Iraqis are dead and counting. We were told that we went into Iraq looking for weapons of mass destruction which they knew there were none. We were told that we would conduct this war on the cheap. We have already spent \$200 billion and there is no end in sight."

"With each passing day, with each siege of an Iraqi city, the insurgency is growing, hatred towards our military is growing, anger towards Americans is growing. Why? Because when you kill innocent people, when you destroy someone's home, when you create conditions that make it not worth living, like cutting off water and electricity or access to hospitals, you leave people little option but to join some kind of resistance," the Iraqi-American pointed out.

**Bring our troops home now!**  
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"We stand together to tell this administration we are tired of their lies and we demand an end to this war and to bring the troops home now," he concluded.

Leslie Cagan of United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) one of the two main organizers (the other was the ANSWER Coalition) of the demonstration, also spoke.

"As far as you can see the people have come to Washington and we are angry. The president, that dangerous man who pretends to be the leader of this country, he won't come to talk to us, so we come to talk to him. We are here because its not only the White House where the problem is but those people, besides a handful, aside from the Cynthia McKinneys, Lyn Wolseys and the Dennis Kucinichs, aside from them, the co-conspirators up their on Capital Hill need to hear from us."

"Will we continue to pour billions of dollars and endless lives into a war based on greed and empire building or will we turn this country around and start by rebuilding the Gulf coast? Our choice is clear. The problem is the policy makers don't know. So we're here not only today in massive numbers but today and tomorrow and Monday in every way possible by marching and rallying and by civil disobedience on Monday at the White House and a day of lobbying on Monday on Capital Hill, we say end the war, bring the troops home now," Cagan said.

Cagan introduced the Rev. Jesse Jackson. He said, "Cindy Sheehan we thank you for being a witness in the great tradition of Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hammer, Helen Keller and Harriet Tubman. Thank you for being a witness without guns and bombs, armed only with integrity. Your light challenges the darkness. Thank you Cindy Sheehan."

Rev. Jackson continued by saying that "America, the whole world is watching. National security begins in New Orleans. Homeland security at home. In our quest to make this a more perfect world, a world of peace, there is a time for war and peace. There is a time for war. Fighting a war to preserve the union and end slavery, a war worth fighting. ... Invading Grenada was not such a war. Bombing Panama was not such a war. A war fought in Iraq is not such a war. An Iraq war built up on lies. 2,100 Americans dead, tens of thousands of Iraqis dead. \$200 billion later we deserve peace and justice," Rev. Jackson continued.

"We'll change the Congress in 2006. We'll take back the White House in 2008. Its dark but the morning cometh. So march on, fight on, forward by hope, not backwards by fear. End the war, bring the troops home now," Rev. Jackson concluded.

Cindy Sheehan, representing the Gold Star Families for Peace and Bring Them Home Now Bus Tour, spoke next. "This is amazing, you are part of history," Sheehan began. Pat yourselves on the back for being here. We need a people's movement to end this war."

"My good friends in the media are not doing there jobs. Most of our friends in Congress aren't doing there

*(Continued on page 14)*

## New Orleans .....

*(Continued from page 1)*

there was plenty of warning. In the three days before the hurricane hit, we knew it was coming and everyone could have been evacuated.

We have Amtrak here that could have carried everybody out of town. There were enough school buses that could have evacuated 20,000 people easily, but they just let them be flooded. My son watched 40 buses go under-water -- they just wouldn't move them, afraid they'd be stolen.

People who could afford to leave were so afraid someone would steal what they own that they just let it all be flooded. They could have let a family without a vehicle borrow their extra car, but instead they left it behind to be destroyed.

There are gangs of white vigilantes near here riding around in pickup trucks, all of them armed, and any young Black they see who they figure doesn't belong in their community, they shoot him. I tell them, "Stop! You're going to start a riot."

When you see all the poor people with no place to go, feeling alone and helpless and angry, I say this is a consequence of HOPE VI. New Orleans took all the HUD money it could get to tear down public housing, and families and neighbors who'd relied on each other for generations were uprooted and torn apart.

Most of the people who are going through this now had already lost touch with the only community they'd ever known. Their community was torn down and they were scattered. They'd already lost their real homes, the only place where they knew everybody, and now the places they've been staying are destroyed.

But nobody cares. They're just lawless looters... dangerous.

The hurricane hit at the end of the month, the time when poor people are most vulnerable. Food stamps don't buy enough but for about three weeks of the month, and by the end of the month everyone runs out. Now they have no way to get their food stamps or any money, so they just have to take what they can to survive. Many people are getting sick and very weak. From the toxic water that people are walking through, little scratches and sores are turning into major wounds.

People whose homes and families were not destroyed went into the city right away with boats to bring the survivors out, but law enforcement told them they weren't needed. They are willing and able to rescue thousands, but they're not allowed to.

Every day countless volunteers are trying to help, but they're turned back. Almost all the rescue that's been done has been done by volunteers anyway.

My son and his family -- his wife and kids, ages 1, 5 and 8 -- were flooded out of their home when the levee broke. They had to swim out until they found an abandoned building with two rooms above water level. There were 21 people in those two rooms for a day and a half.

A guy in a boat who just said "I'm going to help regardless" rescued them and took them to Highway I-10 and dropped them there. They sat on the freeway for about three hours, because someone said they'd be rescued and taken to the Superdome. Finally they just started walking, had to walk six and a half miles.

When they got to the Superdome, my son wasn't allowed in -- I don't know why -- so his wife and kids wouldn't go in. They kept walking, and they happened to run across a guy with a tow truck that they knew, and he gave them his own personal truck.

When they got here, they had no gas, so I had to punch a hole in my gas tank to give them some gas, and now I'm trapped. I'm getting around by bicycle.

People from Plaquemine Parish were rescued on a ferry and dropped off on a dock near here. All day they were sitting on the dock in the hot sun with no food, no water. Many were in a daze; they've lost everything.

They were all sitting there surrounded by armed guards. We asked the guards could we bring them water and food. My mother and all the other church ladies were cooking for them, and we have plenty of good water. But the guards said, "No. If you don't have enough water and food for everybody, you can't give anything." Finally the people were hauled off on school buses from other parishes.

You know Robert King Wilkerson (the only one of the Angola 3 political prisoners who's been released). He's been back in New Orleans working hard, organizing, helping people. Now nobody knows where he is. His house was destroyed. Knowing him, I think he's out trying to save lives, but I'm worried.

The people who could help are being shipped out. People who want to stay, who have the skills to save lives and rebuild are being forced to go to Houston. It's not like New Orleans was caught off guard. This could have been prevented.

There's military right here in New Orleans, but for three days they weren't even mobilized. You'd think this was a Third World country. I'm in the Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans, the only part that isn't flooded. The water is good. Our parks and schools could easily hold 40,000 people, and they're not using any of it.

This is criminal. These people are dying for no other reason than the lack of organization.

Everything is needed, but we're still too disorganized. I'm asking people to go ahead and gather donations and relief supplies but to hold on to them for a few days until we have a way to put them to good use.

I'm challenging my party, the Green Party, to come down here and help us just as soon as things are a little more organized. The Republicans and Democrats didn't do anything to prevent this or plan for it and don't seem to care if everyone dies. — Malik Rahim.

*Malik is a veteran of the Black Panther Party, for decades an organizer of public housing tenants both there and in San Francisco and a recent Green Party candidate for New Orleans City Council. □*

# Sunflower: a home for the 21st century

By Maynard Kaufman

**Bangor, Michigan, Van Buren County Greens**

The decision to build a passive solar house which was to be off the grid was informed by my work as an Environmental Studies professor at Western Michigan University, and reinforced by our values as members and organizers of Green Politics groups since 1987. We believe in living in harmony with nature, and this involved a commitment to renewable sources of energy where possible. As members of an anti-nuclear group, "Palisades Watch," we had protested against nuclear power and did not want a house dependent on electricity generated with nuclear power or fossil fuels. We named our house Sunflower.

Beyond this, I have been a pacifist all my life and Barbara has been active in peace work in San Francisco and here in Michigan for many years. We understand the symbiotic connection between the development of nuclear power for electrical energy and for weapons. Moreover, our nation's addiction to oil has led us to war in Iraq.

The ethical issues implied in building a house also involve us in promoting passive solar design and the techniques of renewable energy.

We welcome visitors and show them how the house works and are willing to be included in the annual tour of solar houses in southwest Michigan. We believe that the development of renewable energy is generally better for our society.

## Sunflower is designed

In December of 2000 we contacted Thom Phillips of Cascade Building and Design in Portage. He had been a student in my Appropriate Technology course at Western and went on to a successful career as a builder of conventional houses. We trusted his ability and were glad to see that he was enthusiastic about the prospect of building a passive solar house. This was a first for him and he did the research needed to build an energy-conserving house. The battery room on the east end of the house was constructed first and the photovoltaic panels were set up just east of that in April. We then had solar power to build the house and the project was under way.

We decided to build a saltbox style of house which is two stories high in the front, or south, side and one story on its north side. The basic dimensions are 32 by 40 feet, with the battery room and woodshed attached on the east end and a screened-in porch attached on the west end. The 16 by 40 foot "great room" along the south side includes kitchen, dining and living areas. The north side has space for bedroom, bathroom and closet, utility room



and a cold pantry. A feature that opens up space in the house is a two-story open area in the center of the house. On the second floor it is separated with a railing from rooms on the west and east end which serve as a study, extra sitting room or extra bedrooms. There is also another bathroom upstairs for a total of nearly 1800 square feet. Cabinets and shelves were built by Conrad Kaufman.

## Electricity from Sun and Wind

The ten 100-watt Siemens photovoltaic panels are mounted on a Zomeworks tracker that follows the sun from east to west during the day and provides most of our electricity in spring, summer and fall. A Solar Boost 50 MPPT (Maximum Power Point Tracker) functions as the photovoltaic charge controller and shows both voltage in the batteries and the rate of charging. Since winters in Michigan are very cloudy but more windy, the Southwest Windpower Whisper H-80 wind generator, also rated at 1000 watts and mounted on 4-inch pipe 66 feet high, produces most of our electricity in winter. This so-called hybrid system, using both sun and wind, is an extremely necessary part of the total system. The electricity is generated as direct current and the four 6-volt Surrette batteries that store it, rated at 683 amp hours each, are connected for a 24 volt DC system.

The Sunfrost refrigerator, Sundanzer freezer, well pumps and all other pumps and fans that start and stop anytime automatically are all connected directly to the 24 volt DC system. A 2500 watt Trace inverter changes the DC current to 120 volt AC current for compact fluorescent lights and other appliances "needed" for a middle class lifestyle, such as television, CD player, and a word processor.

Needless to say, on cloudy and quiet days we exercise discretion about how many such appliances are used. Since the inverter itself uses about 15 watts to change DC to AC, it is wise that those appliances that go on and off automatically are on DC. At night the inverter is in its "search" mode but does not use any power. This efficiency of a DC system raises the possibility of an electrical system that uses only DC appliances. And since the cost of our inverter was about \$2,500 it might have been possible to bypass this cost with an all-DC system. Our system also requires both DC and an AC breaker boxes with switches for the circuits.

Another option, which we rejected because our house is about a quarter mile from the road, is to get connected to the commercial electrical grid and use it as storage of excess electricity from renewable sources and thus bypass the cost of the batteries, which was over \$2000.

The total cost of our renewable energy system was nearly \$25,000. Even if the subsidy of \$3,000 from the state, which encouraged renewable energy, is subtracted, it would still take many years at current prices for electricity to amortize the cost of the system. The system has worked without trouble or repair for over two years, but eventually we expect to pay for repairs. As rates for conventional electricity rise, renewable energy might be competitive in price, but at present this kind of system is justified on the basis of ethical rather than economic considerations.

## Heating System

The heating system in "Sunflower" has three components: passive solar heating, the masonry stove, and the hydronic heating in the floor. The house is designed for passive solar input with many south-facing windows that have double panes of low-emissivity glass. The heat that enters through the windows is absorbed by the 5-inch thick concrete floor which is colored a dark brown with pigment fixed with acid, and by the brick masonry stove. Because the house is built very tight and extremely well insulated, it holds heat well for long periods. Keeping warm in winter is less of a problem than staying cool in summer. Curtains, especially on the east windows where the early sun shines in, help to curtail heat input. Trees shade the house from the low sun in the west. And, of course, windows and doors have screens so they can be opened. Summer temperatures in Michigan are usually moderate.

The "Heat Kit" masonry stove, built by Doug Fry of Sturgis, is situated near the center of the house facing the living room with the back of the stove in the bathroom and the chimney in the bedroom. The heat from the stove is radiated 24 hours or more into these rooms and the rest of the house. It's 17 inch by 17 inch by 17 inch firebox is designed to be fired once a day or every other day. Air for the stove is drawn in through an underground duct from the outside. When the stove is fired a damper in the chim-

ney is opened all the way so the fire burns hot and as efficiently as possible. In two or three hours, after the wood is burned and only embers remain, the damper is closed to retain the heat in the stove.

The fire in the stove heats walls of ceramic brick on each side of the firebox which then radiate their heat through the bricks for many hours. Because the heated air has to travel up about five feet and then down to the floor before it can go up the chimney it is necessary that the stove be warm before it is fired. When it is cold it needs to be pre-heated with propane torches placed in small openings on each side of the stove. Once it has been fired the stove stays warm enough to start the fire again for at least 48 hours or as long as 60 hours. Firewood is a renewable resource and our stove uses only one and a half to two cords a year which we harvest from trees already dead. As for carbon dioxide, it will be given off either as a dead tree rots or as it is burned.

The cost of the masonry stove was nearly \$7,500, and this includes the chimney. This may be slightly more than the cost of a conventional forced air furnace with ducts and fans might have been, but the masonry stove will probably last longer and the radiated heat from the stove is much more gentle and comfortable than forced air. We consider the masonry stove the best investment in the house. Glass panels in the door of the stove allow us to enjoy the fire.

The third component of the heating system is the hydronic heat in the floor which is radiated by circulating hot water in "pex" tubing buried about an inch or two deep in the concrete floor. The hot water is circulated by "El Sid" pumps activated by two thermostats in different rooms of the house. This system is especially useful in late fall or early spring on cloudy days with limited solar input from the windows and when it is not yet, or no longer, cold enough to use the masonry stove. Because the heat is not immediate (it takes about twelve hours for the floor to warm up) it is necessary to plan in advance based on weather forecasts. Sometimes, but rarely, it is so bitterly cold that hydronic heat is used as a supplement to the masonry stove. Two sources for heating the water in this system will be discussed in the next section, but the third source, the heat source of last resort, is the propane-fueled water heater in the utility room. With this hydronic system the house could be left unattended for an entire winter without danger of freezing.

## The Hot Water System

Hot water is pre-heated by two renewable sources. One is a loop that thermosyphons through the masonry stove and an 80 gallon storage tank on the second floor above and beside the masonry stove. This loop preheats water whenever the masonry stove is used. The second source of hot water is a set of two 20 inch by 144 inch solar panels that are mounted above the large south windows on the first



floor. These panels serve to keep sunshine out of the house when the sun is high in summer, and, of course, they preheat water whenever the sun shines. In order to prevent freezing, the water circulating through the panels is a glycol mixture, and it is circulated with an "El Sid" pump powered by a small photovoltaic panel. The tubes from the panels give off their heat to the potable water in the storage tank through a heat exchanger as tubes circle around the outside of the 80 gallon tank. The hot water is pumped with another "El Sid" pump from this tank to the 40 gallon water heater on the first floor as demanded by the temperature differential between the two tanks.



The cost of the hot water system was \$2000 for the solar panels, \$1000 for the 80 gallon tank, and a little more than \$2000 for the pex tubing, pumps, plumbing, hot water heater and controls. Part of this cost can be charged to heating the house and part of it to providing hot water for domestic use. At times the propane water heater switches on but propane use is modest: about 160 to 170 gallons per year and this includes propane used in the cook stove in the kitchen. The initial investment in this hot water system will be recovered in a few years, far sooner than the investment in the electrical system.

### Other Energy-Conserving Features

In order to conserve heat in winter and stabilize temperature in the house at all times, the north side of the house is earth-bermed up to four feet from the roof. Rainwater from the long (29-foot) north roof is collected in a 300 gallon tank set on the berm so it can be used for irrigation.

A cold pantry in the northwest corner of the house is insulated from the rest of the house and used to store canned goods and the freezer. A space under the floor of the woodshed, between the battery room and the main part of the house, has been made accessible with a trapdoor and serves as a root cellar. It is only four feet deep but works well to keep potatoes until spring. A clothesline for the solar drying of clothes is a similar kind of easily overlooked renewable energy application. □

(Continued from page 10)

jobs. George Bush certainly isn't doing his job. So you know what, we have to do our jobs as Americans. We will do our jobs by being the checks and balances for this out of control criminal government. This government which condones torture. We don't torture, we're human beings. We don't torture other human beings. We have to reclaim our humanity. Americans don't invade countries and occupy countries preemptively that are no threat to our country. It is not ok for other countries to do that either. We are here in massive amounts of people to show our government, to show our media, to show America that we mean business and that we are not going home until the last one of our troops are home."

Sheehan said that she could not believe that so many people were walking up to her and saying "thank you for being here."

"Thank you for being here," Sheehan said. "If there were not thousands of people who came to join us in Camp Casey and the millions who supported us, I would still be sitting in that ditch. You guys got us out of that ditch and you got us to our nation's capital and we mean business George Bush. And we are going to Congress and we are going to ask them: how many more of other people's children that you are willing to sacrifice for the lies? And we are going to say shame on you."

"Congress, you should be ashamed for allowing him to do this. Not one person should have died. Not one more should die. She then led the vast crowd in a chant: 'Not one more, not one more!' Thank you, I love you," Sheehan concluded.

For more on the demonstration and future antiwar activities, contact your Green Party local, the antiwar or peace organization in your city. Many are listed at <http://www.unitedforpeace.org>.

*Report from the Pan-African Newswire, Abayomi Azikiwe, editor. Edited for space. □*



# Other Organizations Supporting Green Goals

## **ACLU – Michigan**

60 W. Hancock  
Detroit, MI 48201, (313) 578-6800  
<http://www.aclumich.org>

## **Adamah/Detroit Summer**

The Boggs Center  
3061 Field St., Detroit, MI 48214  
(313) 923-0797, (313) 282-6983  
[www.adamah.org](http://www.adamah.org)

## **Americans United for Separation of Church and State**

(734) 789-8790  
[www.au.org](http://www.au.org)

## **American Friends Service Committee**

1420 Mill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

## **Amnesty International - Detroit**

(313) 531-7647

## **ADAPTT (animal rights)**

P. O. Box 725, Royal Oak, MI 48068  
(810) 763-2715  
[www.adaptt.org](http://www.adaptt.org)

## **BlueJean ThinkTank**

Mike Madias (313) 657-6998  
[www.madias.org](http://www.madias.org)

## **Clean Water Action of Michigan**

1200 Michigan Ave.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 203-0754  
[www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/)

## **Coalition Against Police Brutality**

(313) 610-0418 or (313) 628-4932

## **Committee for the Political Resurrection of Detroit**

(313) 655-9160  
[www.cpr-detroit.org](http://www.cpr-detroit.org)

## **Earth Works Garden/Greening of Detroit**

1820 Mt. Eliot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207  
(313) 579-2100  
[rsamyn@capuchinministries.org](mailto:rsamyn@capuchinministries.org)

## **Earthwatch**

Claudia Seldon, Michigan Field Rep.  
1965 Pembroke Ct., Detroit, MI 48207 (313) 393-9329

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

215 Exchange St., Marshall, MI 49068  
(800) 630-1330 (Washington, DC)

## **Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit**

P. O. Box 37033, Oak Park, MI 48327  
(248) 549-5170, or (248) 669-6343  
[www.graypanthers.homestead.com/](http://www.graypanthers.homestead.com/)

## **Green House**

c/o Innate Healing Center  
18700 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI. 48203-1965  
(248)545-4215

## **Jobs with Justice**

600 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 961-0800 [semichjwj1@aol.com](mailto:semichjwj1@aol.com)

## **Labor Notes**

7435 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48210 (313) 842-6262  
[www.labornotes.org](http://www.labornotes.org)

## **Massasauga Earth First!**

PO Box 44173, Detroit, MI 48244  
[massasaugaef@yahoo.com](mailto:massasaugaef@yahoo.com)

## **Michigan Campaign Finance Network**

1310 Turner St., Suite B  
Lansing, MI 48906 (517) 482-7198  
[www.mcfn.org](http://www.mcfn.org) [mcfn@mcfn.org](mailto:mcfn@mcfn.org)

## **Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC)**

Terry Swier, President  
Box 1, Mecosta, MI 49332  
[www.savemewater.org](http://www.savemewater.org)

## **Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR)**

71 E. Edsel Ford, Detroit, MI 48202  
(313) 869-8835

## **Michigan Peace Team**

1516 Jerome St.  
Lansing, MI 48912-2220  
(517) 484-4219  
[www.michiganpeaceteam.org](http://www.michiganpeaceteam.org)

## **Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO)**

(313) 832-0618, (fax 1409)  
[www.mwro.org](http://www.mwro.org)

## **MichUHCAN (universal health care)**

8846 Robindale, Detroit, MI 48239  
(248) 477-7911 or (248) 548-3019  
<http://michuhcan.tripod.com>

## **Motor City Blight Busters**

17405 Lahser Rd., Detroit, MI 48219

(313) 255-4355

## **National Lawyers Guild**

(313) 963-0843  
<http://www.michigannlg.org>

## **NORML/PRA–YES 2001**

Schmidt Law Office  
255 N. Center Ave. Saginaw, MI 48603 (517) 799-4641  
[www.mi4norml.org](http://www.mi4norml.org)

## **Peace Action**

195 W. Nine Mi. Rd., #208  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 548-3920  
[www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)

## **Riverfront East Alliance (REAL)**

(313) 438-4143  
[www.members.aol.com/realriver2](http://www.members.aol.com/realriver2)

## **Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter**

[michigan.sierraclub.org/index.html](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/index.html)  
[mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
109 East Grand River  
Lansing, MI 48906  
(517) 484-2372

## **Solidarity**

7012 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 841-0160  
<http://www.igc.org/solidarity>  
[solidarity@igc.org](mailto:solidarity@igc.org)

## **Sweetwater Alliance**

2020S. Mission, #128  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 773-6874 [www.waterissweet.org](http://www.waterissweet.org)  
<http://www.waterissweet.org>

## **Transportation Riders United**

(313) 885-7588

## **Triangle Foundation**

19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 537-3323  
[www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org)

## **US/Cuba Labor Exchange**

P. O. Box 39188, Redford, MI 48239  
(313) 836-3752

## **Veggies In Motion**

PO Box 71311,  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
[www.VeggiesInMotion.org](http://www.VeggiesInMotion.org)  
(248) 616-9676

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