

NAME

Rosi Efthim (908-892-6860 cell)

Municipality and County; what Meetup/Group are you connected with, if any?

Flemington (Hunterdon DFA leader) & DFA-NJ (co-Chair)

How long have you been associated with DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

Since our start.

What roles have you held within DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

- Executive Board (06-09)
- State Steering Committee (04-05)
- Hunterdon DFA Leader (03-09)
- Lead organizer, all DFA Trainings & Camp Wellstone NJ (05)
- Among the leaders of DFA County Committee Project.
- Oversaw DFA-led Hunterdon campaign for Linda Stender '06, delivering her greatest momentum shift (up 9%) with fewest resources. That she did not turn to DFA in '08 signalled her disastrous loss.
- Organizer with Jeff Gardner, of NJ Presidential Caucus
- Liaison to DFA HQ

What should we know about your professional, educational and political background?

My history includes a political science education, Deputy Finance Director for Rep. Rush Holt, and the management of several municipal campaigns. But the greatest lessons came from grass/netroots organizing.

I am the new Editorial Director at Blue Jersey (www.bluejersey.com), and part of my mission is to strengthen bonds between grassroots and netroots activism, here in the most progressive state in the country.

DFA creates a vibrant alternative political culture that is local, rooted and permanent. I'm about extending the life and power of what our people and groups do.

Where do you see DFA-NJ going and how can you help move it there?

Our longstanding commitment to broadening progressive impact on the Democratic Party - and helping county committee members realize their power - will emerge this year as The Transparency Project (working title), a DFA joint effort with Blue Jersey (www.bluejersey.com). It's an interactive community project, to find and publish every county committee in the state, so vacancies/inactive committeemen are plainly seen. We will also publish every county party bylaws, inviting activists to review and compare them to see if parties are living up to the standards we should expect, and moving a strong 21-County Strategy.

Our aggressive 2009 training schedule will draw the wonderful surge of people who powered Barack Obama's win, who now should be offered a future in making change locally, with the skills, resources and encouragement DFA-NJ can provide. And DFA HQ is revamping the national Training, based largely on NJ's work using conference calls to follow and support fresh local candidates. DFA is encouraging us to produce a Handbook for First-time Candidates, which we aim to do.

If elected, it would be a privilege to help move these and other things forward. I've learned so much from all of you. Thank you.

Name

Karen Gaffney

Municipality and County; what Meetup/Group are you connected with, if any?

Hillsborough, Somerset County; DFA-Somerset

How long have you been associated with DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

I attended meetings and events related to DFA-NJ from very early on in its development, and then I began to co-organize DFA-Somerset at the end of 2006.

What roles have you held within DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

I have been co-organizer of DFA-Somerset since the end of 2006, and I've been on the Executive Board of DFA-NJ for the past year.

What should we know about your professional, educational and political background?

I'm an Assistant Professor of English at Raritan Valley Community College, which serves both Somerset and Hunterdon. I advise the Social Justice Club there, which has a long history of co-sponsoring film screenings and other events with DFA. I have a PhD and MA in English from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor's from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. I ran for Hillsborough Township Committee in 2006. Though I didn't win, I gained valuable experience about grassroots political campaigning. In the months before that election, I helped organize (and attend) the DFA weekend training, which we held at RVCC. In 2008, I volunteered as the Field Director for the Somerset County Freeholder campaign, and we came very close in a traditionally Republican county. Throughout all of this campaign work, I have consistently focused on the need for transparent government (with particular attention to reforming pay to play).

Where do you see DFA-NJ going and how can you help move it there?

I think there are two main areas that DFA-NJ can work on. One is to cultivate the burgeoning relationship we have with Obama supporters in NJ. We need to help provide grassroots political activist training to any Obama supporters that are interested, and we need to work with the post-election Obama groups to make sure we're not reinventing the wheel and to help each other accomplish overlapping goals. Second is to work on the Transparency Project, which will help make government

more transparent to the public. I created a document that we sent out last year that explains the County Committee structure for the Democratic Party. We need to help educate citizens about political activism. Many people have no idea how to get involved and raise their voice, and we can help teach them how to do that. Our own weekend trainings can certainly assist with that, along with trainings co-sponsored with the Citizens Campaign (that Obama groups are also working with). The more people understand how the political process works, the more they can not only become educated observers of local politics but also become participants.

NAME

Jeff Gardner

Municipality and County; what Meetup/Group are you connected with, if any?

Hawthorne (Passaic)

How long have you been associated with DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

I've been actively involved with DFA in New Jersey since its inception.

What roles have you held within DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

- Executive Board 2006-08 (co-Chair, 2007); State Steering Committee 2004-05 (Chair, 2005); Passaic DFA Chair 2005-08.
- Assisted in the planning of DFA's statewide events, coalition building with other progressive leaders and groups in NJ, and growing DFA-NJ into one of the top DFA groups in the nation.

What should we know about your professional, educational and political background?

I am an attorney, born and raised in NJ, and a proud liberal Rutgers grad. Outside of DFA, I am presently a Passaic County committeeman, a front-page blogger on BlueJersey.com, co-host of Blue Jersey Radio, and Vice Chair of Garden State Equality.

Where do you see DFA-NJ going and how can you help move it there?

DFA is a leading voice within the progressive community in NJ. Over the last few years, we have built strong relationships with other progressive organizations throughout the state, and with the NJ Democratic Party. DFA continues to enjoy its reputation as the people who bring passion, energy and hard work to political campaigns around the state.

We have now taken the next step: identifying and supporting quality candidates – including from within our own ranks – to fulfill our mission of rebuilding the Democratic Party from the ground up. We follow a 21-County Strategy in New Jersey to match the DNC's 50-State Strategy, which helped elect Barack Obama president.

We have brought together the divergent views and personalities that exist within our own organization, and among our progressive allies, to flex our collective muscle statewide, resulting in a truly bluer NJ.

New Jersey is perhaps the most progressive state in the nation – that is in no small part a product of the vibrant and powerful progressive community we have helped build in our state. If elected, I believe I can help continue that amazing progress.

NAME

Robin Kinlin

Municipality and County; what Meetup/Group are you connected with, if any?

Berkeley Township, Ocean County, Ocean County DFA/PDA

How long have you been associated with DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

Since Oct. 2004

What roles have you held within DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

- Group Organizer Ocean County DFA/PDA since Oct. 2004
- NJ For Democracy Executive Board Member 2006 and 2007

What should we know about your professional, educational and political background?

I consider myself in a small way to be a direct example of the success of Howard Dean's 50 State Strategy. 5 years ago I was just a housewife in a very red county in Southern New Jersey. Through the skills I learned with DFA I am now the Democratic Municipal Chair of my town of 42,000 voters, kept our Mayoral & Council seats in Democratic control and worked on Congressman John Adler's campaign staff to flip our congressional seat from red to blue for the first time since 1885.

Where do you see DFA-NJ going and how can you help move it there?

I missed being on the DFA-NJ Executive Board last year as I knew working full time on a congressional campaign staff would be my top priority. I think the insight and experience I have to share is my greatest asset and I know I can make the most difference in the progressive movement by helping other DFA members to maneuver the democratic process wherever they are in the state and I look forward to doing so. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

NAME

Deborah Magin

Municipality and County; what Meetup/Group are you connected with, if any?

West Keansburg, Monmouth County; Monmouth DFA/PDA

How long have you been associated with DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

2 + years

What roles have you held within DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

Monmouth DFA Steering Committee, Co-Chaired DFA Iraq War Forum, Co-Chaired DFA Health Care Forum, Voter Registration and Red Bank Council races 07 & 08 (Lee, Horgan & Zipprich; Lewis & Zipprich)

What should we know about your professional, educational and political background?

Joined DFA after working with MoveOn.org; AAS from Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park NY; Worked as sous chef in various NYC restaurants. Canvassed for NYPIRG. Hold two Associate Degrees from Brookdale Community College in Human Services and Liberal Arts; President of Human Services Club of Brookdale Community College. Enrolled in Monmouth Univ., Social Work program then became primary care giver for my elderly mother and took to the keyboard to voice my concerns. Learned about DFA through a post on MoveOn.org and have been active with Monmouth DFA/PDA since. Phone banked with Frank Pallone's office for Obama 08; Monmouth for Change – Bright New Beginnings

Where do you see DFA-NJ going and how can you help move it there?

DFA is our nation's largest progressive political action community. I am proud to have been a part of its growth. We need to continue to build coalitions and continue to promote our common interests as Progressives in NJ. I am enthusiastic about reaching out to groups with similar interests and bringing those progressive groups together to help add to the ranks of DFA membership which will heighten our profile in the Democratic Party in NJ.

NAME

Mitchell Manzella

Municipality and County; what Meetup/Group are you connected with, if any?

Edison Township (Middlesex County)
Middlesex DFA Host

How long have you been associated with DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

- NJ for Dean (2003 –2004)
- NJ for Democracy (2004 – Present)

I have been actively involved in both NJ4D and DFA since their inception.

What roles have you held within DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

- DFA Meetup Host (2003 – 2007)
- NJ for Dean Central NJ Regional Director (2003 – 2004)
- NJ for Democracy Executive Director (2004 – 2005)
- NJ for Democracy State Steering Committee Member (2005 – 2006)
 - Political Affairs & Communications/Technology Chair
- NJ for Democracy State Executive Board (2006 – Present)

What should we know about your professional, educational and political background?

- Elected Offices
 - Democratic Committeeman – Middlesex County (2005 – 2007)
- Appointed Offices
 - Neighborhood Liaison to the Mayor of Edison (2006 – 2007)
- Political Experience
 - Founder & Executive Director, Music for Democracy PAC (2008)
 - Campaign Manager, Carol Gay for Congress (2006)
 - Field Director, Jun Choi for Mayor of Edison, NJ (2005)
 - Grassroots/Field Director, Frank Pallone for Congress (2004)
 - Regional Coordinator & Leadership Trainer for Headcount (2004 – Present)
 - Field Director, Morris County Democratic Party (2003)
 - B.A. in Political Science from Rutgers College

Where do you see DFA-NJ going and how can you help move it there?

I will work to:

- Identify, support, and elect progressive candidates at all levels of NJ government.
- Bring more successful DFA training weekends to New Jersey.
- Elect as many members as possible to municipal county committee seats, and teach many more how, and why they need to run for office.
- Establish a fundraising and spending plan to make a significant financial impact on targeted statewide races. Set limited but scalable goals:
 - 4 council level
 - 3 mayoral level
 - 2 county or state house district
 - 1 statewide (gubernatorial)
- Build membership, particularly by establishing DFA groups in all 21 counties.
- Partner with already active sites like BlueJersey to build an online presence. Ask our DFA groups to ask one member each month to write about county meetings, activities or political opinion to be published on the DFA-NJ site.
- Become a voice in the statewide political Democratic rhetoric. Look to expand to print, TV and radio media markets (NJ101.5, CN8, News12).

Last year, I raised and spent \$60,000 with Music for Democracy. I hope to bring those fundraising skills to DFA-NJ, in a year when there will be a lot of national attention on NJ. We must assure a Corzine victory in November, and DFA-NJ is poised to play a big role in organizing locally, and hopefully riding those Corzine coattails to some progressive pickups in mayoral and council races all over NJ. I am dedicated to making sure that 2009 is the year that DFA-NJ makes its name known.

NAME

Betty Wyka

Municipality and County; what Meetup/Group are you connected with, if any?

Parsippany, NJ; Morris County
Morris DFA

How long have you been associated with DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

I have supported DFA since 2006, though I haven't regularly attended meetings. My husband is a charter member.

What roles have you held within DFA-NJ (or DFA)?

I haven't held any official roles within DFA, I have attended the campaign training.

What should we know about your professional, educational and political background?

Professionally, I have a background in sales, customer service, and corporate training. I'm not afraid to speak in front of large groups of people and have planned meetings/training events.

Politically, I am a former Vice-Chair of the Parsippany Democratic Committee, and I am an elected Committeeperson for my district. I have attended Camp Wellstone, Wellstone's Advanced Campaign Management Program as well as the DFA training held in April 2008. I was Chair of the Kitchen Cabinet for the 2006 and 2008 Wyka for Congress campaigns (who placed 7th in the 2008 DFA All Stars Contest). I believe that the efforts we're making in Morris County are no better example of the 50 State Strategy – connecting with all voters on the key universal issues of good government.

Where do you see DFA-NJ going and how can you help move it there?

Going forward, I'd like to see DFA leverage and support good government efforts at the local level and use the DFA infrastructure to get people thinking locally. It's not just about the White House – it's also Capitol Hill, but even more importantly Trenton and MOST importantly: your own town hall. There IS a progressive vs. conservative way to fill a pothole, make sure our schools are supported and that the underprivileged have a "hand-up". I'd like to get the Transparency Project going and get people involved in the local parties to amplify the progressive voice in NJ.