



NEW HAMPSHIRE Civil Liberties News

ELECTION ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 2008

AN AFFILIATE OF THE ACLU

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF

The Nominees

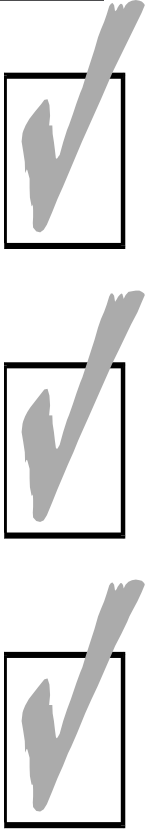
Editor's note: The order of names was determined by random selection.

Theodore H. Parent, Keene. Attorney. New Hampshire native, graduated Dartmouth College in 1972 and University of Michigan Law School in 1975. Currently practices law as a sole practitioner in Keene. Member Keene School Board for 12 years, member NH School Boards Association, and have served on various local boards including the local arts council, and Aids Services for the Monadnock Region. Served on the New Hampshire Bar Association Board of Governors and have received numerous awards for pro bono cases, through the Bar program and programs for victims of domestic violence. I have taken up various civil liberties cases on an ad hoc and individualized basis. For example, I was instrumental in eliminating invocations at graduations in the Keene School System as well as modifying scholarship funds administered by the school system by changing the eligible applicants from "protestant male" or "male" to "student." I was instrumental in assuring that our local United Way ceased

funding the Boy Scouts because of their discriminatory practices. I have taken action when I could and where I saw the opportunity. I am interested in looking at some of these issues more globally, by working with others instead of, as I have habitually done, as a "lone wolf."

Burt Cohen, Newcastle. Entrepreneur. State senator from 1990-2004, host of "Portside" political/cultural talk show on Portsmouth Community Radio, the Progressive Radio Network, and Public Radio Exchange since 2004. Guests on national issues have included topics such as Spychips, the Patriot Act, Bill of Rights Defense Committee, etc. I make sure to include many sides of various issues and am familiar with concerns about stifling of free media. I also write a monthly column for New Hampshire Business Review. I was a member of the NHCLU board back in the early nineties. My commitment to civil liberties has been strengthened since then because of the stepped up attacks on civil liberties by the policies of the current administration. I also serve on the Board of Governors of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives.

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ACLU President to Speak

Strossen's Visit Honors NHCLU Exec Claire Ebel on her 25th Anniversary

On October 3, the Board of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union will recognize Executive Director Claire Ebel for her 25 years of amazing service to the organization. The event will be at the Franklin Pierce Law Center, from 6-8pm, and will welcome Nadine Strossen, the famous, and soon-to-be former, President of the ACLU, as our featured speaker. Please join us for this historic event. (A response coupon is printed on page three.)

Strossen became the ACLU's first woman president in 1991. Over this time, the organization has led many civil liberties struggles, including, in the early 1990's, the defense of free speech and privacy in the then-new Internet world, and, after September 11, 2001, the fight against government secrecy, abuses of power, and human rights violations. One of Strossen's primary goals as president was to increase youth involvement in the

organization, and the ACLU has made great strides. More resources and staff have been dedicated to focus on youth, which has resulted in an increased ACLU presence on high school and college campuses.

Strossen says that her passion for individual freedom and social justice has its origins in the stories she heard as a child about family members who had the courage to speak out against civil liberties violations, including ones that they had endured. Her maternal grandfather, an immigrant from the former Yugoslavia, was a conscientious objector to World War I. His sentence for expressing his anti-war views was to stand against the courthouse in Hudson County, New Jersey so that "passers-by could spit on him." Strossen's father, who was born in Germany, spoke out against Nazism even before he was defined by Hitler's racial laws as a "half Jew." Strossen's mother was a women's rights advocate whose own career options had been thwarted by gender discrimination. A charter member of NOW and a Planned Parenthood supporter, she would

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Board Election - please vote for not more than eight candidates*

	<u>Individual Membership</u>	<u>Joint Membership</u>	
Theodore H. Parent Keene	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burt Cohen Newcastle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Margaretta (Sally) Paduch West Lebanon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Egbert Gilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Howard Morse Amherst	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Almy Lebanon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Chapman Concord	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Finkelstein Hollis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*The order of names on the ballot was determined by random selection.

Please return ballots by Friday, October 3 to:
New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union
18 Low Avenue
Concord, NH 03301

Margaretta (Sally) Paduch, West Lebanon. Retired. Former owner of Pulitzer Prize winning daily newspaper in Pennsylvania. Professional volunteer. Prior to move to New Hampshire 3+ years ago, board member of several non-profits. Currently working with Grafton Co. Guardianship Monitoring Program and the American Cancer Society's /Road to Recover Program. One of the reasons I moved to New Hampshire was the state motto: Live Free or Die. And one of the reasons I was attracted to the NHCLU was its emphasis on New Hampshire issues and the evidence that it was not always necessary to go to court in order to resolve an issue.

Robert Egbert, Gilford. Associate Professor of Political Science, Plymouth State College. Member of the Board, 1984-90; Board Chair, 1986-90. Rejoined Board in Spring, 2001; current Board Secretary. Teach political science, including civil liberties and Constitutional Law. "Public education is a key role for the NHCLU. My courses give me the opportunity to provide accurate information about civil liberties issues. Rarely do well informed people campaign against freedom. As a Board member, I hope to find opportunities to educate even more New Hampshire citizens."

Howard Morse, Amherst. Consultant. My children remember my early involvement in the Inter-Racial Council for Business Opportunity, and also women's rights, and today remember me as "the first feminist on the block." I was recently defended by the NHCLU on a charge connected to a peaceful demonstration and protest during a presidential visit to Nashua. Until then, civil liberties were theoretical philosophy. Now reality compels me to do more than talk and consider. I must now walk a path that includes an active prevention of abuse of assault on the sacred right of all people to enjoy liberty in every sense of the word and concept.

Susan W. Almy, Lebanon. Legislator. I lived for years under other nations' constitutional systems while working abroad. Because of this, I value our own system highly, and fear for its fragility in current times. I joined the New Hampshire Legislature in 1996, and the NHCLU Board in 1997. I became Board Chair in 2003 because of my experience with herding cats, and since then we have expanded our fund-raising and operations, while insisting on adherence to the core values of the ACLU. I became convinced decades ago that the ACLU was a key to the maintenance of our balance of powers and our democracy. New Hampshire's issues are usually smaller in scope but no less important to the preservation of our social fabric. I want to support our executive director and staff attorney in their work, encourage the education committee in its greater role, and consolidate our finances.

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Nominees (continued)

William L. Chapman, Attorney. Concord. Since law school, I have had an abiding interest in the First Amendment, particularly its guarantee of freedom of the press and freedom of speech. The latter, when embraced, implicitly expresses a commitment to egalitarianism, a core value, if not the core value, of the Declaration of Independence. In my practice, I have been able to advance First Amendment rights through the representation of numerous news organizations, advising them on the full range of their activities. If we are to have a workable democracy today, more than ever we need a vigorous press to probe behind the official press releases and political spin to find, and protect, those reliable sources who can tell us “what our government is up to.” I see the role of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union as complementing, yet going well beyond, that of the press. The NHCLU protects and furthers all of our rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. I hope to be able to contribute to the NHCLU’s important work.

Lawrence S. Finkelstein, Hollis. Retired. BA, MA, and PhD (International Law and Relations) Columbia University. Intern and junior professional in the Department of State and in the UN Secretariat. Served 12 years in the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, becoming director of

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studies and vice-president. Became Deputy-Assistant Secretary of Defense for NATO and European political/military affairs during the Johnson administration. Thereafter, turned to academic administration and scholarship. To me, the rule of law should be the armor of the weak at home and in the world. Because I see the 1st amendment as so fundamental, I joined the ACLU when it defended the Nazis’ right to parade. I see civil rights and civil liberties as interdependent. My dedication to these purposes has, if anything, strengthened over the years. In New Hampshire, I became politically active. Urged by Chub Peabody, I ran for the legislature from Hollis. I chaired the Democratic committee there and organized partly successful efforts to strengthen the platforms of the NH Democratic Party. I do my best to bring about good government in New Hampshire and in the nation. I see the NHCLU Board as a means to continue pursuing those ends.

25th Anniversary

describe Strossen and her brother as “my two planned children.”

In addition to presiding over an 83-member Board of lively civil libertarians while maintaining a full-time career as a professor at New York Law School, the indefatigable Strossen has crisscrossed the country day and night to

appear at thousands of speaking engagements, making special efforts to engage diverse audiences, and she welcomes opportunities to discuss civil liberties issues with people with whom she has strong disagreements. She has debated many prominent conservatives, including Pat Buchanan, William F. Buckley, Ann Coulter, Lou Dobbs, Sean Hannity, Ed Meese, Ted Olson, Ralph Reed, Pat Robertson, Justice Antonin Scalia, Phyllis Schlafly, Ken Starr and John Yoo.

“I’ve always taken enormous pride in the fact that the ACLU neutrally defends all fundamental freedoms for all people, regardless of their ideology - even if they oppose civil liberties themselves,” said Strossen. “Moreover, given the breadth and non-partisan nature of our agenda, I have never met anyone who doesn’t strongly agree with us on at least some important civil liberties issues.”

Strossen will continue in her role as President of the ACLU until October of this year. She will remain active in ACLU campaigns and continue to teach full time at New York Law School.

This is, most likely, your last opportunity to meet Nadine, and your best opportunity to thank Claire. We hope to see you there. Won’t you please make as large a gift to the NHCLU as you possibly can – in multiples of \$25.00 - to honor Claire’s 25 years of remarkable achievements? After all, how often do we celebrate a quarter of a century of dedication?

Yes, I want to honor Claire Ebel

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ e-mail _____

Enclosed is my **tax-deductible** check, made payable to the NHCLUF.

\$1250 \$525 \$250 \$ _____

yes, I will attend

no, I am unable to attend

Please return to:
NHCLU, 18 Low Avenue
Concord, NH 03301

Annual Meeting - October 19th

Annual Membership Meeting features Forum on Student Privacy Rights

The 2008 Annual Membership Meeting of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union will feature a panel discussion on Sunday, October 19th, at 2pm in the Kennett High School Library.

Increasing violations of the privacy rights of public school students in classrooms throughout the United States have generated ACLU challenges in several state and federal courts, including here in New Hampshire. Though supporters of the policies justify surveillance cameras and canine drug searches as legitimate means to contain incidents, ferret out crime and monitor public school students, the NHCLU is concerned about the right of students to be free from warrantless searches in their New Hampshire public schools.

The NHCLU Foundation is currently litigating a case against ConVal High School in Peterborough for conducting a random, suspicionless search. Other examples include Portsmouth students who were ordered to leave their backpacks and possessions in the hallway so that dogs could search them for drugs and Winnacunnet High School, where students were subjected to searches of lockers and parking lots by drug-sniffing dogs, conducted

at the request of administrators who suspected drug activity at the school.

Video surveillance cameras have been installed in the new Kennett High School in North Conway. The school has also conducted canine drug sweeps and locker searches. The policies have generated extensive discussions in the Conway Daily Sun, with students and their parents expressing both opposition to and support for the school's actions.

The panel will discuss school policies such as canine searches and the use of surveillance cameras. These policies may be intended to protect students, but they represent a significant invasion of student privacy and create a surveillance atmosphere that is accepted as the norm. "The balance between privacy and security is critical – and difficult," according to NHCLU Staff Attorney Barbara Keshen.

Panelists will discuss both the civil liberties implications of these policies and the controversy surrounding them. Attendees will be encouraged to participate in the exchange of ideas and opinions that may help to shape the evolving concept of student privacy rights in New Hampshire.



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