



New Jersey Libertarian

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Mark Edgerton Speaks Out

Mark Edgerton has been vigorously issuing press releases as his campaign hits full swing. The most notable of late has been Mark's stand on the power shift in Trenton.

TO: NEWS DESK
FROM: WILLIAM E. SCHETLICK, ESQ., PRESS SECRETARY
MARK EDGERTON
INDEPENDENT LIBERTARIAN FOR GOVERNOR 2001
RE: PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDGERTON URGES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mark Edgerton, Independent Libertarian candidate for Governor 2001 issued the following statement respecting the New Jersey constitutional provision governing the filling of a vacancy in the Office of Governor:

"I am very troubled by the current situation created here in New Jersey by our current Governor's instant appointment to a position in the Bush Administration. Currently, under Article V of our New Jersey State Constitution, the powers and responsibilities of the Office of the Governor devolve upon the President of the Senate under circumstances where the Office of the Governor is vacated for any reason. In this circumstance, the Senate President, as a member of the Senate, continues to wield legislative power during his or her stewardship as Interim Governor. Thus, for the interim period of time and until the next general election, both legislative and executive power are vested in the Senate President.

The crucially-important and time-honored separation of powers doctrine as evidenced in our Constitution is clearly endangered and implicated in this questionable constitutional scheme; furthermore, the dual executive/legislative roles of the Senate President under these circumstances is fraught with the potential for a conflict of interest, an eventuality which should be avoided at all costs.

In the past, the State Legislature attempted to create the Office of Lieutenant-Governor, whose role would be to serve as Interim Governor in case of a vacancy in the Office of Governor, but the attempt failed to achieve the necessary support for passage in the State Senate. I believe it is incumbent upon our State Legislature to immediately re-introduce such a measure creating the Office of Lieutenant-Governor in order to avoid the inevitable constitutional and ethical problems presented by a vacancy in the Office of the Governor, particularly where, as here, the current Senate President has declared himself as a candidate for Governor in 2001. "



Freedom Riders in High Bridge!

Linda Richardson gives Hal Shute a hand as Emerson Ellet looks on.

Ezine Subscribers Top 50!

By opting for electronic delivery of the *New Jersey Libertarian*, 50 NJLP members have already saved us over **\$300** a year in production and mailing costs. That \$300 is now available for outreach efforts and campaign support. To find out how you can steer your dues away from newsletter costs and towards aggressive efforts in the cause of Liberty, email the editor at DebSackett@aol.com

Defining a Truly Wasted Vote

By Pat Bontempo

Every election we're hit with the objection that a vote for the Libertarian Party is a wasted vote. Arguably such thinking depressed our vote total in 2000. And in future elections we can anticipate hearing that votes "wasted" on Ralph Nader cost Al Gore the presidency.

Yet in a very real sense the recent results can be used to strengthen the argument in support of voting for a third party.

We must emphasize to voters that it's when they abandon their principles and vote for what they naively consider the lesser of two evils that they truly waste their vote. The voter's ballot becomes one of millions cast for a "centrist" candidate. Not so for the Nader vote.

Liberals can now use the 2000 results to pressure the Democratic Party to move to the Left in order to regain a winning edge. A dubious tactic for the Democrats? Perhaps so. Still the Green vote sent a message and there are Democrats who will listen.

If the LP had achieved 2% or 3% of the vote we could use the same argument. Elements within the dominant parties (most likely the GOP) would reconsider their positions in hopes of winning over our votes.

But when we abandon principles to vote for, say, Bush, we lose our voice. There's no way of telling what percentage of the millions of votes he received came from libertarians. And so the big government types in his party can say without fear of contradiction:

"See, this is the way to win. Aim for the center. Ignore the fringe elements like those libertarian types. They'll make noise, sure, but in the end they'll have no choice but to vote Republican."

There are many reasons to vote for the Libertarian Party. The lesser of two evils is still evil. There truly is no significant difference between most Democratic and Republican candidates. The programs of both are wrong on their own merits.

Use all these arguments as appropriate. And keep in mind an additional one: In the last analysis voting Republican or Democratic is like not voting at all. It's equal to silence. Only a Libertarian Party votes sends a message you want a true change.



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**Contributors: Lou Elwell, Pat Bontempo,
John Paff**

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Commentary and advertising may be submitted to the editor by the 20th of every month. Contact us at:

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Nothing's cooler than a sharp truck - except a sharp *Libertarian* truck! Hal Shute made a real statement with his Ford "pace car" during the Ellett/Hunterdon County Campaign sign clean-up.

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

**Benjamin Franklin
(1706–1790)**

NJLP State Board Discusses Convention, Computer

Vice Chair Len Flynn led the NJLP State Board meeting on December 17th. Present at the meeting were Flynn, Emerson Ellett, Lou Stefanelli, Ned Kelley, Tom Wright (Bergen County), Robert Jacobs (Hunterdon County) and Mike Panella (Monmouth County). Absentees included Ed Wiessmann, Ken Bank, Lou Elwell, Darryl Gibson (Somerset), Barry Allen (Middlesex), Chris Weimann (Ocean) and Worth Winslow (Mercer). The Middlesex and Ocean County seats are vacant, their representatives having missed two State Board meetings.

As promised by campaign manager Pat Bontempo, the Ellett for Senate campaign presented a \$401.17 check for deposit into the Federal Fund.

State Board members discussed the March convention. The following individuals have been invited to speak: Doug Friedline, Jesse Ventura's campaign manager; Roy Innes, CORE chairman; and Dr. Shankman, co-author of the 1998 Cato Institute article on the Privileges and Immunities clause.

The State Board formed a Computer Committee to purchase a computer or computer equipment for the New Jersey Libertarian. Tom Wright, Bob Jacobs, Lou Stefanelli are on the committee, and Wright will begin by investigating current and projected hardware needs, sources and prices.

After setting dates for upcoming meetings, the State Board meeting was adjourned.

Did you know...?

...that the great guys at Wallnet offer a terrific bunch of online tools for Libertarians?

If you're interested in discussion, check out www.liberty-talk.org, where Chris Weimann posts items of interest, conducts polls, and lets you post your opinion and get the opinions of other NJLP members. Also, if you haven't already done so, **now is the time** to sign up for the *announce* mailing list. This list is for up-to-the-minute information on your party and candidates, and as the Gubernatorial campaign hits high gear, you can't afford to be out of the loop. You can subscribe either through the "interactive" menu button on the NJLP state web site (www.njlp.org) or by sending an email to announce-request@njlp.org with the word "subscribe" in the body of the email.

Libertarian Lou on the Loose

By Lou Elwell

As the year (and decade, century and millennium) draws to a close, it is a time for reflection as to where we have been, where we are and where we are going. While there certainly is much to complain about, let's count ourselves as some of the lucky ones compared to the rest of the world.

Let's start with where we are presently. Here is a list of statements compiled from various sources. Though I cannot confirm many of the statements, I tend to believe them since I cannot refute them.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead, and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top eight percent of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are luckier than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pains of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world today.

If you can attend a religious service of your choice without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world today.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you have made a phone call in your lifetime, you have done something that 2/3's of the world's population has not.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed, because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you and, furthermore, you are more educated than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

While Libertarians seem to rant and rave about all of the wrongs in society today, let's just acknowledge for a moment how fortunate we really are. As bad as it might seem, I cannot think of any other place or time in history that I would rather be.

With that said, there are many freedoms that have been lost by Americans and we should rightfully be fighting to get them back. As H. L. Mencken wrote, "The state remains, as it was in the beginning, the common enemy of all well-disposed, industrious and decent men."

As we look to the future, let's work together to get our lost rights back. If you haven't already made your New Year's Resolutions (or if they don't include ways to help the LP or promote freedom), here are some simple New Year's resolutions you can make:

1. Come out of the closet. How many people do you know that aren't even aware that you are a Libertarian? Since we are "regular" Americans (however you want to define "regular" it's got to be better than Clinton defining the meaning of "is"), simply knowing a normal person who others can identify as a Libertarian defeats the labels, such as extremist or kooky, that others want to put on us. Define, or be defined.

2. Help promote the LP. Place a bumper sticker on your car. Only about one out of 50 cars have a bumper sticker so those that do are noticed. Since putting bumper stickers on my car, I have noticed people slowing down in the "blind spot" before passing me. I can only assume it's to read the bumper stickers.

3. Vote for Libertarians. I can't believe I actually have to put this on this list, but there are actually some of us that don't vote at all! We are a political party and votes are how we measure success. Moreover, for those of you who vote, please make sure you are voting for every available Libertarian.

4. Join the appropriate Libertarian Party email lists. To join the Announce list, for NJLP announcements, or the Liberty Talk list, to discuss issues affecting our liberty, go to:

<http://www.njlp.org/html/interactive.html> and sign up for the lists.

5. Sign up for the electronic version of the New Jersey Libertarian. I know, I know, enough already with this request. Nevertheless, have you actually done it yet? This will guarantee delivery to you in a more timely fashion and most importantly save the party over \$6 per year per member! For a party our size, every dollar counts.

Those are fairly simple and easy to resolutions to make and achieve, so for those who want to reach just a little, here are two more:

6. Get involved. There are many members that have never been to a single meeting or event. Consider this an open invitation to come to a County or State meeting, or participate in an outreach event. There are also several events being planned with guest speakers that would be an ideal "first" meeting. Believe me, there are others out there just like you. Who knows, you might even like it!

7. Become an activist. I will let you come up with your individual resolution on this one. Some things to consider – writing Letters to the Editor, running for office, volunteering to work on a political campaign, or donating money. Go with your strength and do what you do best.

"What a curious phenomenon it is that you can get men to die for the liberty of the world who will not make the little sacrifice that is needed to free themselves from their own individual bondage."-Bruce Barton (1886-1967)

Lou Elwell is the NJLP State Board's newest At Large Member, and is Secretary of Libertarians of Monmouth County. He is often published in area papers, including the Asbury Park Press. He and wife Janis author Shore Liberty, bi-monthly newsletter of Libertarians of Monmouth County. Comments can be sent to: LibertarianLou@aol.com

BEAT THE POINTS IN TRAFFIC COURT

By John Paff

Recently, I was sitting in on a municipal court session in Franklin Township, Somerset County. Every defendant who made the attempt successfully plea-bargained the charged traffic offense down to a violation of "operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe manner." Each such defendant was fined \$150--the maximum--plus court costs.

The import of this is that almost all moving violations cause points to be assessed against one's driving record. The "operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe manner" charge, enacted into law this year, provides that NO points may be assessed against those convicted of it.

Traffic defendants, keenly aware of what motor vehicle points do to their driver license status and insurance premiums, often fight traffic tickets and demand trials. Conducting costly and time-consuming trials irks the municipal court system. Something had to be done to convert these recalcitrant litigants into docile check writers.

To cut down on trials, courts would allow traffic defendants to plead guilty to no-point violations, such as a motor vehicle equipment violations, even though they were not really guilty of these offenses. For instance, a speeder would be allowed to plead guilty to having a broken taillight, and thus avoid motor vehicle points. This way the court got its money and the defendant didn't get any points.

That arrangement came to an end on April 24, 2000 when the Administrative Office of the Courts ordered all municipal courts to stop downgrading traffic offenses to no-point violations unless the defendant was actually guilty of the lesser offense. With uncharacteristic swiftness, the legislature introduced a bill on May 22nd that created the "operating in an unsafe manner" violation. The bill sailed through both houses with unanimous votes, and was signed into law on July 24th. The new statute--N.J.S.A. 39:4-97.2, may be viewed at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us>.

Suppose you get a speeding ticket for, say, doing 42 mph in a 25 mph zone. You could send the clerk \$97 and not have to appear in court. But, if you do that, four motor vehicle points will be imposed on your license by the DMV. You might instead opt to plead not-guilty and offer the prosecutor your guilty plea to the "unsafe manner" charge. From what I saw in Franklin, your plea offer stands a very good chance of being accepted. While you may pay a bit more of a fine--fines range from \$50 to \$150 for a first offense, you can avoid the points.

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David Arndt, Owner of Orion Development, is an NJLP Member and an NJL Patron 2000

**Looking for Freedom at
the Jersey Shore?**

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www.MonmouthLP.org

Calendar of Upcoming NJLP Events

Sun, Jan 21st, 1 PM
**NJLP Steering Committee
Meeting**
Stefanelli Residence
Tinton Falls

Sun, Feb 18th, 1 PM
NJLP State Board Meeting
Tumulty's Pub, East Brunswick

Meeting Notice ~ Mercer Libertarians

Time: Sunday, February 4th, 2 pm.

Location: Mannino's Pizzeria & Restaurant, side dining area. Mannino's is on Hamilton Avenue a few storefronts west of the corner of Hamilton Ave and Chambers St across from the First Union Bank. Mannino's has no liquor licence, so it's BYOB. There is a liquor store right next door. I'm told there is a municipal parking lot within a block or so; since it will be Sunday, you can also park in the First Union Bank's lot.

Speaker: (tentative) Tom Passarella, former Mercer County Sherriff's Deputy, will speak on the topic of the legal status of sovereign property titles under the Uniform Commercial Code. Apparently, most American's wealth is not owned legally sovereign and unconditional by the titled owners but are held in de facto lien in debt to income taxation as well as to back whatever debts the governments and the Federal Reserve Bank incur in the name of US citizens.

Tom is also considering running for Mercer County Sherriff as a Libertarian.

All are welcome. Please come to the meeting and share your ideas for building a freer world and a Libertarian campaign slate in Mercer County for next November. We need to make plans in the February meeting prior to the nominating convention in March (24).

I am also considering running either for Lawrence School Board, Town Council or State Assemblyman. Please show your support by showing up. This is a chance to show you care, and to show the more active LP members why they should bother campaigning for you.

Chris Toto
609.883.0697.

Announcements

Edgerton for Governor Petitions can be acquired from Dan Karlan or directly from the Secretary of State's office in Trenton. If you'd like one from Dan, drop him a line at 97 Manhattan Ave., Waldwick, NJ 07463 or you can call him at 201-444-2846.

TV Worth Watching

If you subscribe to Cablevision of Monmouth you can enjoy a weekly half-hour of libertarian TV with host Shad Woolley and his guests on "Third Point of View", Wednesdays, 10 p.m., Ch. 71 in the following communities: Asbury Park, Avon, Belmar, Bradley Beach, Brielle, Farmingdale, Howell, Interlaken, Jackson, Lakewood, Manasquan, Millstone, Neptune City, Neptune Twp., Ocean Twp., Sea Girt, So. Belmar, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Hts., Upper Freehold Twp. and Wall Twp.

If you're not within Cablevision of Monmouth's area, you can visit the Third Point of View archive at www.monmouthlp.org.

NJLP Members In Public Office

Elected Officials:

William Krouse, Franklin Township (Warren County) Board of Education

Christian Joest, Blairstown Township (Warren County) Board of Education

Appointed Officials:

Paul Anderson, Vice Chairman, Chester Borough Zoning Board of Adjustment, Chester Borough Planning Board, and Historic Preservation Committee

Tony Federici, Community Dispute Resolution Committee, Vernon Township

Ken Hetrick, Administrator, Chatham Township

Joseph Higgins, Woodcliff Lake Borough Emergency Management Coordinator

Paul Horuzy, Commissioner, Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority

Ned Kelley, Hunterdon County Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Tracey Lockwood, Secretary, City of Clifton Advisory Committee for Individuals with Disabilities; Cable TV Committee, City of Clifton

John Paff, Member, Franklin Township (Somerset County) Attorney Ethics Committee

Hal Shute, West Amwell Township Open Space Committee and West Amwell Zoning Board of Adjustment

Bill Thawley, Cape May Mayor's Advisory Council and Transportation Committee

Ed Wiessmann, Chairman, Sparta Township Community Dispute Resolution Committee; Member, Vernon Township Community Dispute Resolution Committee

Ronald Wishart, Member, Manalapan Township Planning Board

Thanks, folks!

County Organizations

The NJLP has affiliated county organizations for advocacy, activism and discussion at the county level. Feel free to contact these organizations through any of the individuals listed. If you do not see your county listed, please contact Chair Ed Wiessmann for information on activism in your area.

Bergen	Contact Tom Wright timetrial@worldnet.att.net
Essex/Morris	Chair Fred Maywald, 973 761 1793
Gloucester	Contact Deb Sackett DebSackett@iconnectdirect.com
Hudson	Chair Erik Perasson Rep Dan Mikulsky
Hunterdon	Chair and Rep Ned Kelley, 908 534-5562 kelleyned@yahoo.com
Mercer	Chair Chris Toto, 609 883 0697 ChrisToto@aol.com Rep Worthington Winslow
Middlesex	Chair Barry Allen, 732 463 5405
Monmouth	Chair Pat Bontempo, 732 775 7263 PDB10752@aol.com Rep Mike Panella, 732 442 8711 102531.3477@compuserve.com
Ocean	Chair Ken Bank, 609 607 1881 Kennbank@aol.com Rep Chris Weimann, 732 240 6132 Cweimann@wallnet.com
Somerset/Middlesex	Chair John Paff, 732 873 1251 Paff@pobox.com Rep Darryl Gibson, 732 748 9546 N2diy@postoffice.worldnet.att.net
Sussex	Chair Tony Federici, 973 764 7289
Union	Contact Joe Saturnia, 908 771 9550

Calendar of County Meetings

The public is invited and guests are very welcome.

Burlington/Camden County (BCLP) meeting. Call 609 273 3253

Hunterdon County, first Monday of each month at Busher's Restaurant, Rt. 22W, Whitehouse Station. Call Ned Kelley at 908 534 5562 for info.

Mercer County: Call David Trend at 609 466 2469

Middlesex/Somerset Counties: fourth Monday of each month, 7:30 PM. For meeting location call Howard Schoen at 732 572 0207.

Monmouth County, second Sunday of each month, Liberty Brunch at 11:30 AM, meeting at Noon. Call Keith Quarles at 732 280 9615 for location and details.

Morris/Essex Counties, last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM, call Mike Lewin at 973 884 0005.

Ocean County, contact Ken Bank at 609 607 0881

Salem County, last Saturday of each month, 2 PM, call Robert Dyson at 609 678 8034

Sussex County, call Tony Federici at 973 764 7289.

Resignations Create Two Key Vacancies

Due to personal and financial circumstances, I regret that I must resign from the NJLP Steering Committee effective January 1, 2001. These circumstances also force me to resign as Ocean County Chair, and from any responsibility for organizing or contacting current or prospective members. As such I request my name and contact information be removed from any notices, newsletters, web sites, etc.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everybody for the honor and privilege of working together to advance the cause of personal liberty and economic freedom.

Ken Bank

"Light of Liberty" Ken Bank will be missed. - Deb

I have resigned from all my positions, capacities and responsibilities in the Edgerton for Governor campaign effective on December 23, 2000.

Mark and I had more disagreements than common ground about the campaign, and differences in management style and personality, rather than being a productive counterbalance, led to irritation and disagreements. In the end, there were just too many differences between us for any sort of productive relationship.

I wish Mark well, and I am sure that there are other volunteers out there that can work well with Mark and that can help him achieve his goals.

Bob Heitner

Libertarians are smart enough to know that not every personnel match is a success, and to cut losses and move on. Calling Bob's position an "interim appointment" and regretting his resignation, the Edgerton Campaign has expressed the expectation that the position will be filled soon.
- Deb

Oops!

The front page of the December NJL featured a picture of Mark Edgerton and Vic Kaplan, not at Rutgers in Piscataway (Rock the Vote concert) as we stated, but at the Metuchen Country Fair. The Rock the Vote concert did take place at Rutgers on November 4th, whereas the Metuchen Country Fair took place on October 7th.

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Steering Committee

Chair Ed Wiessmann chair@njlp.org
973 579 7941

Vice Chair Len Flynn vicechair@njlp.org
732 591 1328

Secretary Emerson Ellett
secretary@njlp.org
732 774 3684

Treasurer Lou Stefanelli treasurer@njlp.org
732 450 0270

At Large Member Lou Elwell
atlarge1@njlp.org

At Large Member Ned Kelley
atlarge3@njlp.org

Mark Edgerton

The Winning Edge in 2001

Libertarian Party Candidate For Governor of New Jersey

Yes, we will win!



A great person once said that evil can triumph over good only if enough good people do nothing. Our duty is to bring the Libertarian message to the population at large, and give them a logical and effective alternative to “doing nothing”. The people are thirsty for freedom and leadership. They proved it in Minnesota. If a wrestler can win in Minnesota – a Realtor certainly can win in New Jersey! I need your help! I am working diligently on our campaign **every day**. Now I ask you as a dedicated Libertarian to do something. We have a commitment from Radio 101.5 for great ads - all we need is the money to run them. Whether you commit \$10 or \$3, all I ask is a very **small monthly** contribution to the gubernatorial campaign. That ten dollars doesn't sound like much, but multiply it by all our members and the campaign would have thousands of dollars more than it does now, and we will be closer to our goal of reaching matched funding. If each of you could find a friend to do the same, we would gain a vote as well as contributions. We may need one to three million dollars to run a visible campaign, but we only need 800,000 registered voters to contribute \$10 and their vote to win the election. The campaign trail is a long and lonely road, and it costs money to attend meetings in Minnesota and New York. When I go to the mailbox and get a letter from you, it lets me know you value my time and effort. If you would like to volunteer your time instead, please call me at 973-398-2277. If we all do “something” **every month**, together we will win!

Contributions should be made payable to “Edgerton for Governor” and may be mailed to Edgerton
for Governor, 133 Maxim Drive, Hopatcong, NJ 07843.

Also, for campaign contributions, we are required by law to ask for the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's Address: _____

Visit our Web Site at
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membership secretary, and will
guard your address fiercely.



Libertarian Links

- www.njlp.org. The homepage of the NJLP
- www.monmouthlp.org. Homepage of Libertarians of Monmouth County.
- www.cjnj.org. Citizens for Justice in NJ's homepage, including John Paff's Bartender List.
- www.politicsnj.com. The New Jersey Political scene. Great site, and they even ran columns by Lou Elwell and Deb Sackett!
- www.freemarket.net. The starting point for libertarianism on the web.
- www.cato.org. The premier libertarian think tank.
- www.reason.com. Homepage of the Reason Foundation and Reason magazine.
- www.lp.org. Homepage of the National Libertarian Party.
- www.self-gov.org. Homepage of Advocates for Self Government.

- www.laissezfaire.org. Homepage of Laissez-Faire books.
- www.ij.org. Libertarian organization committed to achieving justice through action in the courts.
- www.drcnet.org. The central homepage dedicated to the reform of American drug laws.
- www.guntruths.com. Defending second amendment rights through common sense and truth.
- www.friedmanfoundation.org. Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman's foundation to free children from the government monopoly on schools.
- www.atr.org. The homepage of Americans for tax reform.
- www.atr.org. The homepage of the Future of Freedom Foundation.

Sign up! Many of the sites above provide free email updates. Also, Wallnet offers superb services like *Announce* and *LibertyTalk* mailing lists. Sign up at www.njlp.org.