

The **ACLU** News

ACLU Weekend—April 22nd/23rd

The Champaign County Chapter will hold our annual meeting brunch **Sunday April 23rd** at the Great Impasta in downtown Champaign. See the enclosed flyer for registration information and nominations for next year's officers and steering committee members.

Our featured speaker, University of Chicago law professor Geoffrey Stone, is one of the nation's foremost scholars on free speech and First Amendment issues, and on constitutional issues surrounding wartime measures that stifle dissent in the name of national security. Those of us who heard him speak briefly at the Roger Baldwin Foundation dinner last fall as he accepted the Freedom of Expression Award anticipate an equally thought-provoking and accessible talk in Champaign.

The chapter will also be honoring the memory of John Lee Johnson with our Victor Stone Award for lifetime achievement for supporting civil liberties. Johnson was the first recipient of our Chalmers Award in 1984, for extraordinary service to the community in the cause of civil liberties. A Champaign-Urbana native, Johnson worked tirelessly supporting his observations of racial and economic disparity with data to highlight subtle (and sometimes overt) discrimination in areas of housing (and access to financing), health care, and education. Ever vigilant, he often ended up working within an organization that he formerly opposed in court.

The Illinois Chapter membership summit will take place again in Champaign on **Saturday April 22nd**, following last year's successful meeting that drew several hundred ACLU participants from across the state. This year's summit will feature concurrent sessions on democracy and civic participation and a variety of short talks by media personalities and ACLU organizers. A late afternoon session will also provide the opportunity for members to meet in geographic caucuses. Whether you can come for a few hours or the whole day, the event provides an excellent opportunity to renew your

commitment to civil liberties and develop a personal action plan for greater participation.

ACLU OF ILLINOIS MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, April 22, 2006
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Hawthorn Suites and Conference Center
101 Trade Centre Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

Keynote Address

Civil Liberties in the New Media Environment

Professor Bruce Williams, Department of Communications, University of Illinois

How Law Defines Journalism

Lunchtime talk by Amy Gajda, Assistant Professor of Law and Journalism, University of Illinois

Open microphone! Questions & comments for the Illinois organization ♦ Concurrent small group discussions on voting rights issues ♦ Jill Metz, President of the Board of Directors, ACLU of Illinois ♦ Colleen K. Connell, Executive Director, ACLU of Illinois ♦ Beth Whisman and Steve Fast, hosts of *The Drive* on WJBC in Bloomington ♦ Jim Leach, WMAY-Radio Springfield, Author of *AbeLog on Politics and Public Policy Issues* ♦ Jeani Murray, National Field Director, ACLU ♦ Jennifer Kottler, Deputy Director, Protestants for the Common Good

Registration information:

www.aclu-il.org/conference or call 312-201-9740.

Members: \$10

Non-members: \$35 (includes 1 year membership)

Students: Free!

RACHAEL DIETKUS SERVES AS DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS' COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Rachael Dietkus, President of the Champaign County Chapter of the ACLU, is currently serving as a delegate to the United Nations' 62nd Commission on Human Rights. The Commission is meeting in Geneva, Switzerland during March and April. Ms. Dietkus is a representative of the World YWCA, joining women from Japan, Sweden, and Papua New Guinea in the World YWCA's delegation to the Commission's meeting. Ms. Dietkus serves in the capacity of advocacy intern and delegate with the World YWCA, having been nominated for that position by the local YWCA. She is one of only six women selected from YWCA organizations around the world to intern with the World YWCA in 2006.

When speaking about this opportunity, Ms. Dietkus said, "I am incredibly happy to have this opportunity to not only serve and represent an amazing organization such as the YWCA, but to receive excellent leadership training on advocacy issues that are so important to me and the movement nationally and internationally."

Ms. Dietkus is currently an advocacy consultant with the University YWCA and is the Director of Development at the University YMCA. She also serves on the Steering Committee for the Great Lakes Alliance of the YWCA. In addition to her work with the YWCA, YMCA, and ACLU, Ms. Dietkus serves on the City of Urbana's Human Relations Commission.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is a department of the United Nations Secretariat. It strives to "promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international human rights laws and treaties." The Commission's mandate includes preventing human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights,

and coordinating related activities throughout the United Nations.

At present, the Commission's work is focused in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia, Guatemala, Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Angola, Afghanistan, and Iraq. This work generally follows requests from UN member states and/or other UN agencies. Often this work entails documenting and reporting human rights violations to bring attention to human rights issues and put pressure on governmental authorities to conform with international human rights laws. However, the Commission uses a variety of methods to promote its goals.

For example, in Guatemala the Commission is working with academic organizations to develop training modules that will encourage and help government officials to mainstream human rights concepts and practices into governmental policies. In Cambodia the Commission promotes the human rights of rural populations by helping to complete and implement a legislative framework governing land use and natural resources that is favorable to indigenous communities.

In addition to work in the field, the Commission addresses thematic human rights issues. At present these include gender, disability, business and human rights, human rights and economic development, rule of law and democracy, and antidiscrimination (in follow-up to the World Conference Against Racism).

Selection to serve as delegate to the meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights is an honor for Ms. Dietkus, and the ACLU is honored to be associated with her.

— submitted by Richard Schnuer

2006 Annual Meeting & Brunch

ACLU - Champaign County Chapter

Sunday, April 23



11:00 AM – registration

11:30 AM – brunch

12:30 PM – business meeting & speaker

Great Impasta Banquet Room
114 West Church St., Downtown Champaign
Elevator entrance just west of main entry on Church St.

Featured speaker: **Geoffrey R. Stone** "Civil Liberties in Wartime"

Geoffrey Stone is the Harry Kalven, Jr. Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago. He served as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. during the Supreme Court's 1972 Term. He has been a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago since 1973, and served as Dean of the University of Chicago Law School from 1987 to 1994 and as Provost of the University of Chicago from 1994 to 2002. He has written extensively on constitutional law, and on freedom of speech in particular. His 2004 book, *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism*, won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for History and the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. He is currently chief editor of a fifteen-volume series, *Inalienable Rights*, which will be published by the Oxford University Press between 2006 and 2010. He is a member of the National Advisory Council of the American Civil Liberties Union and the national Board of Directors of the American Constitution Society.

If you prefer, you may reserve on-line at: <http://www.aclu-cu.org/>

Make checks payable to ACLU. Please respond by **April 17th**
\$20 per person / \$15 for students or limited income

Yes, of us will attend. Enclosed is a check for \$_____

Sorry. Can't make it, but here is a check for the Chapter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

RSVP to:

Champaign County ACLU
P.O. Box 2651, Station A
Champaign, IL. 61825-2651

Nominations for 2006-2007 Steering Committee

Elaine Gallagher Gehrmann is a former Unitarian Universalist minister, a graduate of the University of Illinois Law School and a practicing attorney. She has a particular interest in civil rights, racial inequities, criminal justice and educational issues and serves on the Mayor's Task Force for Citizen Police Review in Urbana.

502 W. Oregon St., Urbana IL 61801 344-2335 gehrmanns@aol.com

Ben Grosser, a 33-year resident of Champaign-Urbana is currently the director of the Imaging Technology Group at the Beckman Institute. He has a long personal interest in civil liberties and social justice issues. In 2004, he helped lead Vote No At-Large, a successful effort to reject the addition of at-large seats to Urbana's city council. He continues to be involved in progressive political campaigns, including recent efforts to oppose expansion of the local jail. Ben has been an ACLU member since 2001.

2106 S. Race St., Urbana IL 61801 384-5289 grosser@bengrosser.com

Andrea Rundell came here from Michigan & Wisconsin for graduate study in Philosophy at the University of Illinois. She currently works at the Eastern Illinois Foodbank and serves on the board of GCAP. She is a past Chair of the Human Services Council of Champaign County and has served on the boards of Prairieland Community Supported Agriculture and Fruited Plain Cooperative Society.

804 E Michigan, Urbana, IL 61801 217-721-3052 arundell@eifoodbank.org

Mary Cory is beginning her 6th year as Publisher and General Manager of Illini Media, which includes *The Daily Illini*, *Illio*, and *Technograph*. She was selected as the national 2004 College Media Adviser's "Distinguished Multi-Media Adviser of the Year". Mary has been involved with the local ACLU chapter for more than 10 years.

309 S New St, Champaign, IL 61820 217-352-9095

OFFICERS:	CONTINUING STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	EMERITUS:
President: Rachael Dietkus	Bill Brown Roger Clark Allan Levy	Victor Stone Harry Hilton Stuart Laird
Vice-President: Susan Cohen	Stan Levy Esther Patt Gary Peters	
Co-Secretaries: Shirley Stillinger Marsha Woodbury	Stephen Portnoy Jay Rosenstein Richard Schnuer	
Treasurer: C. Ward Henson	Carol Spindel Harvey Welch Paul Wisovaty	

FREEDOM FILES DVDs MAKE GREAT GIFTS

Looking for that year-end gift for a favorite Civics teacher? The new 10-part series of 30 minute episodes produced by the national ACLU are ideal for promoting classroom discussion of civil liberties. Each episode focuses on a few real-life examples, concisely framing constitutional issues and social consequences. The first six parts have aired locally on UPTV and Court TV. DVDs may be purchased directly from www.aclu.tv for \$10 each, and a limited number will be available for purchase at our annual meeting.

“Who will next defend the community? Who will do that next? Who will take on all of the multiple challenges? The challenges facing you will be far greater than the challenges facing me. So who's gonna do that? Who's gonna wake up one day and fall in love with their community that I fell in love with and who will not wait to hear a set of drums from someone else, but who will get out and do what they have to do?”

—John Lee Johnson, 2004 interview with Franklin Middle School student Markisha Motton
<http://www.will.uiuc.edu/community/ourjourney/johnsoncontext.htm>

ACLU Officers & Steering Committee

The local ACLU Steering Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm, in the conference room at Campbell Hall (WILL studios) in Urbana. Meetings are open to members—if you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact Rachael Dietkus or any other committee member ahead of time.

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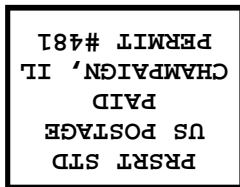
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We're on the Web!
WWW.ACLU-CU.ORG



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Champaign County Chapter
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URBANA SCHOOL BOARD CONSIDERS SEX EDUCATION

On February 15, parents, concerned community members and representatives of the Campaign for Comprehensive Sex Education (CCSE), of which ACLU is a member, presented testimony at a special session of the Urbana Board of Education urging inclusion of comprehensive sex education in the public school health curriculum.

Currently, some 7th and 10th grade classes include presentations about birth control and safer sex practices and others do not. Some teachers invite guest speakers from the Public Health District or Planned Parenthood to present, other teachers present information themselves, and some teachers just deliver the abstinence message. CCSE and health professionals encouraged the Board to ensure that sex education be comprehensive and consistently provided to all students.

The Board has not yet acted on final approval of the curriculum. In general, Board members appeared to be supportive, although some confusion persisted about whether the State of Illinois mandates abstinence only. State law in Illinois requires that abstinence until marriage be stressed, that heterosexual marriage be promoted as the best choice, and that any discussion about sexual relations include emphasis on abstinence until marriage; however, Illinois is not an abstinence-only state. School districts can provide comprehensive sex education and ACLU is working with many other organizations to ensure that they do.

2006 Champaign County ACLU Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 23rd
See details inside.