

ON THE EDGE

Impasse hearing postponed due to changes in School Board leadership

The impasse hearing for our contract has been rescheduled for Monday, November 3, and Tuesday, November 4, at the School Board auditorium. M-DCPS officials asked for a continuance of the Special Magistrate hearing previously scheduled for Monday, September 15, due to the changes within the School Board and the appointment of a new Superintendent.

All UTD members will be provided with red stickers reading "Keep Your Promise, Honor Our Contract" to be worn in a show of support during the impasse hearing on both days. The stickers will be distributed by your steward.

Any member who wishes to attend the impasse hearing must request a personal day following the proper procedures as per contract.

Continue to visit www.UTD.org to learn of more upcoming membership activities and how to get involved.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2008

- 14 UTD Contract Action Team mtg.
- 16 Council of Stewards mtg.
- 21 Economic Serv. Comm. mtg.
Retired Teachers membership luncheon
- 22 Education Summit Comm. mtg.
- 25 Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- 28 Educational Support Professionals Comm. mtg.
- 29 Legislative Relations Comm. mtg.
Fine Arts Comm. mtg.

NOVEMBER

- 3, 4 Impasse Hearing
- 4 ELECTION DAY

UTD demonstrates the power of a unified vote

This year could be dubbed - The Year for Change.

The United Teachers of Dade and its members have been out in full force, working hard to make change possible at both the local and state levels.

At the local level, the outcome of the August School Board elections proved our members, teachers, ESPs, and parents wanted change and made it happen. This shed new light on UTD and what a well-organized, highly motivated group of people could do when challenged. A victory for public education.

At the state level, UTD, together with FEA, NEA, and AFT, defeated amendments 5, 7, and 9. The Florida Supreme Court reversed a lower court's decision and ordered the amendments be removed from the

November ballot citing they were misleading to voters. This marked another great victory for public education.

Now, we turn our focus to the national stage to what is one of the most important elections in recent history and one that will grace the pages of history books.

UTD has been working hard and helped the Obama campaign launch the Educators for Obama campaign in South Florida with a press conference at the United Way Kick-off breakfast.

The campaign is now kicking into high gear with only weeks left before Election Day. Go to www.UTD.org for all election information including voter registration, early voting, absentee ballots, and sign up as a volunteer.

Change is on the horizon and UTD will be there.



UTD President Karen Aronowitz and Secretary-Treasurer Fedrick Ingram surrounded by cheering Obama supporters at the Educators for Obama press conference.

Cut out this section and take it with you to the polls.



**2008 Miami-Dade County
ELECTION
ENDORSEMENTS**

VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 4, 2008

District/Group Office/Candidate Punch #

State Senate

35 Dan Gelber 37

State House

106 Richard L. Steinberg 41
107 Luis Garcia 44
111 Erik Fresen 49
113 Carlos Lopez-Cantera 55
117 Julio Robaina 57
119 Juan C. Zapata 59
120 Ron Saunders 63

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Harvey Ruvín 65

Circuit Court Judge

19 Yvonne Colodny 88
 Stephen T. Millan 89

Property Appraiser

Gwen Margolis 93

Constitutional Amendments

1 Declaration of Rights Yes-125
2 Florida Marriage
 Protection Amendment No-129
3 Changes and Improvements
 Not Affecting the Assessed
 Value of Residential Real
 Property No-132
4 Property Tax Exemption
 of Perpetually Conserved
 Land No-135
6 Assessment of Working
 Waterfront Property No-138
8 Local Option Community
 College Funding Yes-140

Cut out this section and take it with you to the polls.

**Your vote is
vital for change**

- Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4
- Early voting is Oct. 20 - Nov. 2
- Absentee ballot request deadline is Oct. 29.

STATE SENATE



State Senate Dist. 35
Dan Gelber

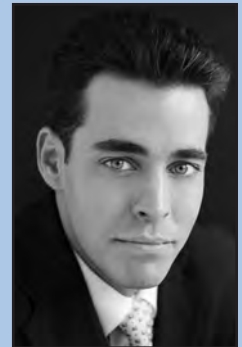
STATE HOUSE



State House Dist. 106
Richard L. Steinberg



State House Dist. 107
Luis Garcia



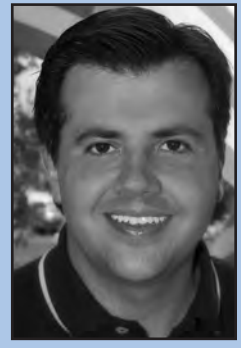
State House Dist. 111
Erik Fresen



State House Dist. 113
Carlos Lopez-Cantera



State House Dist. 117
Julio Robaina



State House Dist. 119
Juan C. Zapata



State House Dist. 120
Ron Saunders

**PROPERTY
APPRAISER**



GWEN MARGOLIS

**CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT**



HARVEY RUVIN

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**Elections 2008 -
 Making history** ★

There is no better time to engage your students in politics than during this year's historic elections. There is an array of activities in which students of all ages can take part and, in the process, learn how it all comes together. Some ideas include holding mock elections at your school; comparing the differences between the two nominees; as well as holding discussions as to what makes these elections historic. This is also a great opportunity to teach students how presidents are elected without a majority of votes, and you can ask them to put together crossword puzzles using election vocabulary or even more fun, a bingo game.

SUCCESS STORIES

Setting the record straight

A UTD member was hired as a 3100 by a Principal in one of the district's middle schools. She worked in that position for six months, during which time she was paid as a temporary instructor (substitute teacher). The member informed her steward and both called UTD to report the ongoing problem. The situation was then brought before the district. Following months of negotiations, UTD was able to get the member the difference between her temporary instructor's salary and her 3100 salary, coming to a grand total of some \$14,000.

**"Character is much easier kept than recovered."
 -Thomas Paine**



The Times Ahead

by Karen Aronowitz
UTD President

Now that Wall Street and Main Street have unraveled, I have uncovered the secret McCain-Palin plan to bail out our economy – pay teachers less! If greedy teachers who mistakenly thought that teaching was a profession would just leave, according to Michelle Rhee, chancellor of Washington D.C. public schools and the darling of big business and the right, schools would improve, money to pay teachers would be at the low end of the schedule, and those who dared to stay for longer than a year or two could be fired at will should they spend too long at the fair. No pesky pensions to fund, no increasing health care costs for aging teachers, and no due process rights! Everyone wins! No matter that Michelle herself admits to being a terrible teacher her first year, vowing not to be run out of town by a bunch of eight-year-olds. Experience definitely does not count with this team who think Palin is ready to serve as Commander in Chief.

Of course, McCain-Palin have an even better plan for emptying our public schools. Home schooling! All these unemployed moms and dads could just stay home, turn on the educational programming channel, whip up a few lessons on intelligent design and bring junior and juniorette into the 21st century global economy while waiting for their own government bail out. (Question: Is it still home schooling if home is a homeless shelter?)

So now that business has made such a mess of business, now that the people who have nothing but disdain for individuals losing their homes, who have fought to privatize Social Security, now that these very same geniuses who tell public schools about accountability and standards and merit pay, *the*

people who tell the rest of us what we are doing wrong in education, now it's time to show these folks the door.

By the way, at a time when any job looks pretty darn good, let's not let these folks in as teachers on a two week teaching certificate. We don't want them to scare the children.

This is the perfect time to save our schools by listening to those voices within our schools, our teachers, and ESPs. It's time to listen to our teachers' unions who work with respected researchers to find appropriate solutions to engage our students in their learning. It's our time.

In these hard times, we have an incredible opportunity. We have a moment to gloat about those who professed to know better than we do about education, those who talk about Continuous Models of Improvement and Differentiated Accountability and Merit Award Programs. We have the chance to bring forth our plans about running schools for all children. We have the chance to be educators to our state and national legislatures.

As the government moves to reconstruct our economy, we must move to reconstruct our public school system. We'll do that beginning on the first Wednesday in November. Until then, we have another job to do. We can change the leadership of our nation. We can restore American idealism to the running of our country. Together, we can elect Barack Obama as President of the United States.

(USPS 012-879)(ISSN 1546-6310) is published monthly except June, and July and a combined issue for December/January, by United Teachers of Dade AFT/NEA, 2200 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33137. Periodicals postage paid at Miami, Florida. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to UTD Edge, 2200 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33137

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 Golden Apple Sponsor


Celebrating Our
Tropical Flare

Celebrando Nuestro Sabor Tropical
 You're invited to a night of fun, entertainment, and camaraderie celebrating Hispanic diversity. Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday, October 25, 2008
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Westland Hialeah High School
 4000 W. 18th Avenue, Hialeah, Florida

RSVP by October 16, 2008
 at 786-594-0234 or HispanicCelebration2008@UTOFD.com




Rookie Steward named 2009 Steward of the Year



L-R: UTD Secretary-Treasurer, Fedrick Ingram; winning Steward of the Year, Dr. Beatriz Jorva; UTD President, Karen Aronowitz; and UTD First Vice-President, Artie Leichner.

In her role as a first-year steward, Dr. Beatriz Jorva has been credited for re-energizing the steward position at Braddock Senior High and reversing a declining membership. Jorva was awarded UTD's highest honor at the Annual Steward Conference held at Doral Golf Resort & Spa on September 13, 2008.



UTD offers new courses

UTD's Educational Research and Dissemination (ER&D) program is in full swing for the 2008-2009 school year. The ER&D course, **Strategies for Student Success I**, is currently being offered at four locations around the district. Teachers are learning research-based instructional and behavior management strategies that can be immediately applied to the classroom setting. Additionally, Master Plan Points are being awarded. Join UTD this school year as it rolls out the following ER&D courses:

- Foundations of Effective Teaching-Organizing the Classroom Environment for Teaching and Learning
- Managing Antisocial Behavior
- Instructional Strategies That Work
- School-Home Connections: Partnerships Supporting Student Learning
- Making Data Work for You
- Strategies for Student Success I
- Strategies for Student Success II
- Reading Comprehension Instruction
- Thinking Math for Middle School
- English Language Learners
- Meeting the Standards for Paraprofessionals.

Check the UTD website at www.utofd.org for upcoming ER&D courses coming to a location near you.

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