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Volume 1, Issue 12 -- December 13, 2013



## The Write Stuff



Dear Friend,

Living as I do in the shadow of The University of Denver, it's not often good politics to talk about my time at **Colorado College**, but over the last several months I've had a lot of memories sparked from my years at CC. I was able to get back down on campus in August and September to help rally students in support of then-Senate President **John Morse** and the efforts to recall those who worked to make Colorado safer. More recently, however, the passing of **Nelson Mandela** caused me to come unstuck in time and revisit my days as a student in the '80s.

I didn't realize it at the time, but I've learned over the past week that so many like-minded members of my generation shared a common experience on our college campuses in the '80s, wakening our political activism by answering a call to action regarding the apartheid in South African. Though I had cared about and involved myself with candidates and issues long before heading off to college, I can't recall an overtly political protest on my part that came any earlier than my actions against apartheid, calling on Colorado College to divest from South Africa until the practice of apartheid was ended and Nelson Mandela was freed.

To be born when I was meant coming of age in the



Pick up a sold-out collector's edition of the KBCO Studio C 25th Anniversary CD, featuring live, in-studio acoustic performances from **Dave Matthews Band**, **Michael Franti and Spearhead**, **Jack Johnson**, **Mumford and Sons**, and 14 other artists as a gesture of appreciation for [contributions of \\$50 or more to People for Perkins](#). Limited supplies -- [please click here to act quickly with a secure contribution!](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS



★ **Sandy Hook Remembrance, Cheesman Park Pavillion, 1599 e. 8th Ave. in Denver, Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m.**

★ **Denver Dems Annual Holiday Potluck at the Skylark Lounge, 140 S. Broadway, Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m.**

★ **House District 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 2280 S. Columbine Saturday, January**

immediate aftermath of the Civil Rights era. We were raised by parents and teachers who had fought for equal rights in every conceivable arena, and we were pulled along and inspired by peers who seized the opportunity to step off the sidelines of history and take action to change their community and their world.

To see the change brought about in the years to follow was an empowering experience for a young activist. In my years as I teacher I watched with my own students as apartheid fell and Mandela brought his country soaring to new heights. We watched with awe as his new government shattered expectation and convention through the "Truth and Reconciliation" hearings that healed a nation in a previously hard to imagine manner, giving us an optimism about the potential for change and a faith in Mandela's observation that, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

*If you'd like to find out more about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, I'd recommend a rivetting film I discovered in my days as an Arts Editor, **Long Night's Journey Into Day**. It may not be easy to find, but the film is well worth watching to get an intensive look at the work of bringing out the truth and encouraging forgiveness as Mandela helped rebuild his nation.*

From global changes like overcoming apartheid and dismantling the Berlin wall, to national landmarks like electing our first African American president here at home and -- in our own Colorado communities -- taking groundbreaking steps toward immigration reform, toward marriage equity, toward environmental justice and a renewable energy future, and to a safer community through gun safety legislation that protects both our citizens and their rights while defying the special interest groups so invested in maintaining the status quo, the scope of the changes brought about in my own short lifetime have been staggering.

It was hard in the '80s to accept that a school I believed in so strongly could be so far off course in its policies regarding economic investment in a corrupt and racist society, but it would have been harder to remain on the sidelines and wait for "them" to change course. The example of our time, and the precedent of those who came before us, inspired us to acknowledge **our**

**18th at 9:00 a.m. (No meeting in December!)**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

★ *Democratic Party of Denver Central Committee Meeting, Saturday, February 1st*

★ *Neighborhood Caucuses, Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m. This is the first step in getting me on the Primary Ballot -- please plan to attend and get yourself elected to the Country Assembly!*

★ *Denver County Democratic Party Assembly, Saturday, March 29th. This is when delegates will vote to determine what candidate(s) for House District 2 Representative will be on the Primary Ballot. Please get yourself elected a delegate from your Neighborhood Caucus and plan to attend!*

**VIDEO OF PAST EVENTS**

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★ [House District 2's October Meeting with Doug Linkhart, Michael Carrigan, Mark Ferrandino, and Irene Aguilar, October 19, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's School Board Forum with DPS At-Large Candidates Michael Kiley, Joan Poston, and Barbara O'Brien, October 19, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's School Board Forum with DPS District 3 Candidates Meg Schomp and Mike Johnson, September 21, 2013](#)

ownership in **our** community and to accept responsibility for speaking up and acting for change.

To celebrate and honor Nelson Mandela by following his lead is certainly a worthy aspiration in any time. He became that increasingly rare leader who could make us proud of our government. He helped inspire generations to activism, and in a time when it is all too easy to simply criticize and point fingers, Mandela's memory renews my commitment to act, to seek change, to pursue the potential to make a difference in our community, and to make us proud of our government again.

*For videos of **Maya Angelou's** and **Barack Obama's** tributes to Mandela, [please click here](#).*

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## Warming the Walk

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I'd like to thank all the folks I've met and caught up with on your doorsteps this fall as I've been out knocking doors, talking about the district, and sharing my hopes for representing House District 2 at the State Capitol. Even as I headed out on single-digit temperature days last week, I found warm welcomes on your front porches and in your living rooms, and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity to hear from you and talk with you.

I hope it doesn't surprise you to hear that the top issue on the minds of folks I've spoken to in HD2 has been **Education**. In the wake of the defeat of Amendment 66 last month, I think Denver residents recognizes the need to act on behalf of our students and give them better opportunities through education than we've been able to provide in recent years.

Education has been followed by concerns about **Health Care** and our **Environment**, with issues like **Gun Safety**, **Marriage Equity**, **Jobs and the Economy**, **Marijuana**, and **Campaign Finance** close behind.

It's been encouraging to speak with so many concerned residents, and I'm happy to hear that the issues most prominent on the minds of residents in our district are the ideas I built my campaign around as far back as February, when I first announced my candidacy: serving as a champion for environmental legislation and climate change action in Colorado, using my background in both K-12 and higher education to ensure we better serve the students of Colorado, and continuing the fight to provide quality, affordable,

★ [Helen Thorpe Discusses Bringing Just Like Us to the Stage at The Tattered Cover](#), September 17, 2013

★ [Todd's Last Stand, Helton's Final Days as a Rockie](#), September 16-25, 2013

★ [Senate President John Morse's Election Night Speech](#), September 10, 2013

★ [Colorado College Rally for Senate President John Morse with Congresswoman Diana DeGette](#), September 6, 2013

★ [Colorado Climate Change: Drought, Wildfire, and Environmental Health](#), August 28, 2013

★ [OFA Regional Climate Change Symposium in Golden](#), August 15, 2013

★ [HD2 Forum on Funding Public Schools](#), August 6, 2013

★ [House District 2 Monthly Meeting](#), July 20, 2013

★ [Senator Mike Johnston Discusses Funding Public Schools with Denver Young Dems](#), June 27, 2013

★ [Town Hall Conversation with Congresswoman Diana DeGette](#), May 30, 2013

accessible health care to all Coloradans.

These discussions in the district have fueled my resolve and sharpened my focus while helping open my eyes to important issues often marginalized until those voices at the front doors are heard.

I look forward to continuing the conversation, and if I haven't been to your door yet, keep an eye out for me. If you'd like to join me in your neighborhood or in another part of the district, I'd love to have you walk with me. Every time a volunteer joins me in my door-knocking, our reach and impact doubles, and I'm eager to engage folks in all of our neighborhoods as we focus on addressing the needs and concerns of our community while making the most of our greatest resources -- the people of HD2.

If you're new to my newsletters, welcome! You can [catch up on past campaign news through my archived newsletters by clicking here](#) or by exploring my website at [www.owenperkins.org](http://www.owenperkins.org).

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## Pitching In

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Last week's cold spell was a good time to think about other ways folks can help out in the district and on the campaign. I've always been someone who believes in action, and nothing pleases me more than seeing my neighbors involved and invested in our community.

My love of meeting you at your door was as easy to see as my breath rising up to the rhythm of my gait as I moved along block-by-block at a record-breaking clip. I know not everybody shares that love of winter walking, however, and **I welcome your involvement** in other ways, from **hosting gatherings at your house** to help introduce me to your neighbors, to **working on campaign materials** and **processing the data** we bring back from the field.

Equally important, of course, are those folks who find the best way they can pitch in is with a **financial contribution**. People often describe their contributions as "modest," but on a **PAC-free campaign** like mine, dependent on individual contributions that are capped at \$400 per individual during the two-year election cycle, there are no modest contributions.

★ [Campaign Kickoff and Birthday Bash at the Bonnet, May 22, 2013](#)

★ [Speaker Mark Ferrandino's Legislative Summary with the Denver Young Dems and DU Dems, May 21, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's Monthly Meeting, May 18, 2013](#)

★ [Veterans and Military Family's Caucus, Democratic National Convention, September 3, 2012](#)

★ [Colorado's First Civil Union Ceremony, May 1, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's Day at the Capitol, April 26, 2013](#)

★ [Colorado Social Legislation Committee's Forum on Homelessness, April 22, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2 Monthly Meeting, April 20, 2013](#)

★ [Colorado Social Legislation Committee's Forum on Fracking, April 8, 2013](#)

★ [President Obama's Remarks on Gun Safety at the Denver Policy Academy, April 3, 2013](#)

**Thanks to My  
Just Like Us Hosts**

*Tom Bost*

We get tremendous bang for our buck in People for Perkins, **coupling \$25 contributions with volunteer people power** and turning them into **intensive outreach efforts with entire precincts**, for example. Higher levels in the \$100 range can fund a **targeted mail campaign**, for example, or **sponsor a neighborhood happy hour** to bring residents together to engage in the district and learn about the campaign.

And while people are often reluctant to take me seriously when I speak of the value of single-digit donations, maybe I can use our "modest" temperatures of late to bring home the point. **Why not contribute at a level that matches the lowest temperature you think we (and not necessarily you) should wait for to walk the neighborhoods talking to residents?** You can cast your vote for freezing with a \$32 contribution, or hold out for balmy with a \$50 offering. But given that I've headed out when the mercury reads 9 and knowing my inclination toward a guilty conscience on days I don't get out, **I hope a good number of you will show your support for knocking doors on \$5 days.**



I do want to share one other opportunity with you. Last weekend I fulfilled an annual tradition I know many of you share with me in supporting the **Boulder County Aids Project** and the **Foodbank of the Rockies**. We headed out on a cold Saturday morning to pick up the 25th Anniversary edition of the **KBCO Studio C CD**.

This rare collector's item is a collection of unique, acoustic performances recorded live in the local KBCO studio from the likes of **The Dave Matthews Band, Mumford and Sons, Michael Franti and Spearhead, Jack Johnson**, and 14 other artists.

The limited-edition CD sold out in two days, but I

Sarah Bradley  
 Mary Cullen  
 Kenneth deBacker & Janet Hartmann  
 Sara Marsden  
 Connie Oehring  
 Helen Perin  
 T.R. Reid

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Thanks to My Birthday Bash at The Bonnet Hosts**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Lori Anderson and Lew Gaiter, Jr.  
 Sarah Bradley  
 Ray Ehrenstein and Jim Sample  
 Frosty and Sam Frostman  
 Lisa Hartman  
 Janet Hartmann  
 Arnold Krupat  
 Nancy Larson  
 Larry Latta  
 Karen Lucas and Bob Barrett  
 Denis Moynihan  
 Tim Naylor  
 Wells Obrecht  
 Tom Parson  
 Anne Perkins  
 Pat Perkins  
 Mary and Peter Peterson  
 Carolyn Pickton  
 T.R. Reid  
 Pete Smith  
 Rex Stephenson  
 Frank Sullivan  
 Dianne Thiel  
 Debra Turner-Kelly  
 Tom Waxter  
 Mike Worford

**Thanks to My Baseball Fundraiser Hosts**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Rich Barrett  
 Kevin Brauer  
 Susan Sanders

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Thanks to My "Book of Mormon" Heavenly Hosts**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Kevin Brauer  
 Judith Burke  
 Peggy Burnette  
 Anne and John Farrell  
 Jason and Becky Gallardo

picked up some extra copies to support the two great local charities, to provide some unique gifts for some of my favorite music lovers, and to share with friends as a token of my appreciation for supporting People for Perkins. My supply is dwindling quickly, but I'd love to make a CD available to the first 15 folks contributing \$50 or more to my campaign in the coming days.

[Please click here to contribute at any level on my secure Act Blue page](#), or send checks to People for Perkins, 2171 S. Franklin St., Denver, Colorado 80210. *If you're sending a check, please drop me an e-mail so I know to set a copy aside for you.*

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### Upcoming Events

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I hope you can join me at some of the upcoming events that may be of interest to you.

- Saturday, December 14th, **Sandy Hook Remembrance**, from 10:00-10:30 a.m. at The Cheesman Park Pavilion, 1599 E. 8th Ave. in Denver. Join us on the one-year anniversary of the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut to honor the 26 lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School and the thousands of Americans lost to gun violence every year.
- Tuesday, December 17th, **Denver Dems Holiday Potluck** at the Skylark Lounge, **with Congresswoman Diana DeGette**.
- Saturday, January 18th - **House District 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting** from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 2280 S. Columbine (two blocks east of Univeristy and two blocks south of Evans). Come early at 8:30 a.m. for social time, coffee, and light breakfast treats.

#### SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, February 1st -- **Democratic Party of Denver Central Committee Meeting**, time and location to be announced.

Tuesday, March 4th -- **Neighborhood Caucuses** at 7

Larry and Cynthia Gallegos  
 Elizabeth Harris  
 Jeff and Roxy Hart  
 Brendon Hayden & Rachel Scott  
 Jesse Hertzog  
 Sarah Hafner and Lauren Hollis  
 Steven and Donna Hollis  
 Debbie Jensen  
 Ana and Russell Kemp  
 Ariana Kemp  
 Bill and Carolyn Kemp  
 Isabella Kemp  
 Brian and Jan Kief  
 Beth, Michael, & Jack McClellan  
 Mohsen and Donnie Pazirandeh  
 Adam Roberts & Allisa Schultz  
 Kaye Siemers  
 Salye and Ellen Stein  
 Brian Stockmar  
 Elba Wedgeworth  
 Steve and Laurie Weiner  
 Taurus Wise

p.m. Locations to be announced (*mostly the same as your 2012 neighborhood caucus*).

Saturday, March 29th -- **Denver County Democratic Assembly**, time and location to be announced.

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## The Home Team

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It was great to see so many folks at our House District 2 Holiday Party Thursday night -- especially given the scheduling snafu that put us up against the Broncos. A few people asked me if -- as a sportswriter -- I wasn't missing out on my bread and butter by forsaking football for festivity. I guess it's fair to say I'm skipping the butter these days, as my responsibilities in the district and my passion for serving our community remain my top priorities. The biggest part of what has driven me to seek the opportunity to represent House District 2 at the State Capitol is my increasingly strong instinct to answer the call of service, to engage myself and my neighbors in the work of making a difference in our community, and to honor the trust we've built over so many years working together in the district by bringing your voice and your values to Colorado's State House.

I continue to be humbled by the support so many of you have offered, and I'm increasingly energized by our interactions on your doorsteps, at events, and through our correspondences and conversations. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the vote of confidence from those who know me well and those who are just being introduced to me through the eleven months I've been on the trail so far.

The bottom line goal of the coming months is to get more folks on board supporting the campaign and to get as many folks as possible willing to attend their March 4th Neighborhood Caucus, where they can get elected as a delegate to the March 29th Denver County Democratic Assembly and vote me onto the ballot. *If you're in the district, I hope you'll save those dates and consider attending Caucus and Assembly to play a vital role in the election process.*

Please let me know if you'd like to walk with me in our

neighborhoods, to host gatherings to further the message of the campaign, to help design campaign materials or process campaign data, to coordinate fundraising events, to share your good ideas, or to allow me to share your good name as a supporter of People for Perkins. One of the most meaningful ways you can contribute is by letting me know I can add your name to my list of supporters, or letting me know I can share your thoughts about my character, experience, or leadership as a testimonial on my candidacy.

Thanks again for standing with me, for keeping in touch, and for reading the news from my campaign in House District 2. Please don't hesitate to call or write if you've got news to share, concerns to raise, or ideas to bounce around. See you around the district!

Sincerely,

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House District 2  
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