Good Evening,
My name is Amy Rohrer and I have had the amazing opportunity of being the Executive Director for the Democratic Party of DuPage County over the last decade. 6 years before that I had become radically activated—as many of you are now—by another serious existential crisis in our Democracy—the installment of George W Bush and our murderous 4.3 Trillion (and counting) destruction of Iraq. My country had joined forces with the Dark Side and my choice was clear. Either I believed in and participated in the FORCE, the raw power of love and kindness or the Darkness would consume me. It was both a deeply personal and a Universal imperative to choose the Force.

Through the 24 hour news cycle would like to, desperately, convince you otherwise, the FACT IS, an abundance of our daily interactions are civil, often kind, and, occasionally, down-right inspiring. Take a few moments to reflect on this past week. Weren’t most of your experiences in one of these 3 categories? That is your first empirical data point… the FORCE IS STRONG everywhere. Our quest is possible.

SO LET’S INITIATE OUR

3 Point Process to Defeat the Dark Side and Save Democracy

Let’s employ, in our process, a common method for clearing away clutter and bed energy and creating space for something new to happen: Let’s divide our task into three “piles”: THROW AWAY, GIVE AWAY, KEEP

First, there are two things we must jettison to create the greatest amount of energy for our task:

STEP ONE: THROW AWAY:

1) Throw Away the need to engage with ANYONE, on ANY platform, who still supports Trump. That person has chosen to double down on inarguable repugnance. The 37-8% of folks who still support this president represent 8-10% fewer people than those who chose NOT TO VOTE.

2) Throw Away the need to disparage, again, on ANY platform, those who could be our potential allies in defeating the Dark Side. This only provides future talking points of the winners’ opponents after the primary. Moreover, most of our cross-
talk is largely of a personal and not a policy-driven variety. Ask yourself, every time you find yourself saying something negative about another Democrat, Progressive, Independent, Socialist, or liberal-leaning activist of any stripe: DO YOU KNOW it’s true? Is it KIND? Is it even necessary in any way? If not, stop talking or stop typing and move onto step 2.

**STEP TWO: GIVE AWAY**

Right now, take a survey of how many hours a week you think you are spending doing one of the following things:

- Thumbing through your Facebook Feed on your phone
- Chomping on Click-Bait
- Reconfirming your existed biases with other choir members
- Engaging in written or verbal conversation threads with no achievable objective
- Sitting through hours of regurgitated nightly news

Be HONEST, really HONEST, with yourself. Could 1-2 hours of that time be used for something more productive and creative which could change your portion of the planet?

GIVE THAT TIME AWAY TO THAT. We’re going to help you!

**STEP THREE: KEEP**

Using the next few ideas you will be able to help KEEP our Democracy and KEEP our country from being consumed by the Dark Side. In order to do, it is important to KEEP focused and KEEP your promise to use your new time wisely.

SO, you’ve cleared your mind of unnecessary and unproductive engagement, you’ve given up your need for redundant cyber-reassurance, and you have committed to making things better right where you live.

HERE’S WHAT YOU DO NOW:

1) Create a set DEMOCRACY BLOCK with those 2 hours you’ve saved. Make it the same bat time and the same bat channel every week. Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30, Saturday afternoon from 1-3, for example. Treat it like a class or
other rock-solid commitment. Tell other folks who want you at that time that you need to reschedule with them.

2) Commit to being responsible to 10-20 of your non-Republican neighbors on the few blocks surrounding your house.

3) Order a walk list from the VoteBuilder team (votebuilder@dupagedemocrats.com). They will send a PDF of the whole precinct but you can carve out a few streets you are willing to reach out to.

4) During your DEMOCRACY BLOCK, reach out to those 10-20 people by phone, by informative letter or postcard, or by knocking on their doors. Slowly build a relationship with them.

5) Make it your personal responsibility to move ALL OF THOSE FOLKS by either helping them with early voting information, helping them get and return a mail-in ballot or making sure they make it to the polls by 7 pm on March 20th.

WANT TO DEFEAT THE DARK SIDE?
This is how.
Want your precinct list? 
write to votebuilder@dupagedemocrats.com

Want more info? 
write to me, Amy Rohrer, ED@dupagedemocrats.com

Need a coaching session? 
contact info@dupagedemocrats.com and we'll get you set up for our next training event

Let me close with a few short paragraphs by Howard Zinn from his Book A Power Governments Cannot Suppress

"Revolutionary change does not come as one cataclysmic moment (beware of such moments!) but as an endless succession of surprises, moving zigzag toward a more decent society. We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can quietly become a power no government can suppress, a power that can transform the world."
Even when we don’t “win”, there is fun and fulfillment in the fact that we have been involved, with other good people, in something worthwhile. We need hope. An optimist isn’t necessarily a blithe, slightly sappy whistler the dark of our time. To be hopeful in bad times is not being foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of competition and cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places — and there are so many — where people have behaved magnificently, it energizes us to act, and raises, at least, the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don’t have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.