EVENT MEMO

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

**DCCC DINNER**

 DATE: Thursday, June 26, 2014

 LOCATION: Home of Sylvia and Amb. Sam Kaplan

 510 River Street

 Minneapolis, MN 55401

 TIME: 5:00 – 8:30 PM

 FROM: Missy Kurek, DCCC Deputy Executive Director

1. **PURPOSE**

YOU will be attending a dinner in Minneapolis, MN to benefit the DCCC. This event will consist of a VIP clutch, general photo line, and then YOU will make remarks during dinner. Upon arrival, YOU will participate in a 13 person VIP Clutch and a 41 person photo line. Following dinner, YOU will give remarks to a 50 person dinner. Members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and our hosts, Ambassador Sam and Sylvia Kaplan were instrumental in raising contributions for the DCCC for this event.

1. **PARTICIPANTS**
* Ambassador Sam & Sylvia Kaplan, *hosts*
* Jeffrey and Robin Faust, *daughter and son-in-law of the hosts*
* Beverly Fitzgerald*, sister of Sylvia Kaplan*
* Kerri, Mark, Robert, and Charlotte Lehmann, *daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren of the hosts*
* Leader Nancy Pelosi
* Chairman Steve Israel
* Congressman Keith Ellison
* Congresswoman Betty McCollum
* Congressman Rick Nolan *with his wife Mary Nolan*
* Congressman Tim Walz
* Governor Mark Dayton
* Franni Franken, *wife of Senator Al Franken*
* 13 VIP Clutch; see attached
* 41 photo line and dinner participants; see attached

**III. PRESS PLAN**

1. **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**
* YOU arrive and greet hosts, Amb. Sam & Sylvia Kaplan
* YOU proceed to VIP clutch and photo opportunity with hosts
* VIP clutch concludes and the general photo line guests filter in for their photo opportunity with YOU
* YOU proceed to your private dinner break
* Following your private dinner break, YOU will proceed to seated dinner for remarks and Q&A
* Amb. Sam Kaplan introduces YOU
* YOU make remarks and do Q&A
* YOU depart

**V. REMARKS / TALKING POINTS**

Remarks under separate cover.

**VI. ATTACHMENTS**

1. Notable Participant Bios
2. List of VIP Clutch Participants *(13, including Leader Pelosi, Chairman Israel and hosts)*
3. List of Photo line and Dinner Participants *(approximately 41, including Members of Congress and Elected Officials)*

N**OTABLE PARTICIPANT BIOS**

****

**Biography for Amb. Sam and Sylvia Kaplan:** Samuel L. Kaplan was the U.S. Ambassador to The Kingdom of Morocco, serving from September 2009 until January 2014. As the personal representative of President Obama, Ambassador Kaplan traveled widely throughout Morocco, meeting with Moroccans from all walks of life to help fulfill President Obama's vision of a new beginning for U.S. relations with the Muslim world based on mutual respect and defined by partnerships in areas of mutual interest.

A successful businessman, lawyer, and political and community activist, Ambassador Kaplan has been guided in his career by a consistent philosophy, that mediation is the best tool for resolving conflicts between individuals and organizations.

Ambassador Kaplan is a founding member of Kaplan, Strangis and Kaplan, P.A. established in 1978. He serves as president of the firm, which is a general practice engaged in non-litigation matters. He has served on the boards of directors of several publicly-held companies. He presently serves on the board of directors of Piper Jaffray Companies.

Ambassador Kaplan and his partner, Ralph Strangis, own numerous nursing homes and senior housing facilities in the Upper Midwest. They are also owners of apartment facilities in the St. Cloud, Minnesota area.

Mr. Kaplan has been engaged in numerous community and charitable activities and was formerly a long-time member of the board of The Harry Kay Charitable Foundation. He is a past president of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and currently a member of the Board of Directors of The Minneapolis Club.

Ambassador Kaplan received his B.B.A. degree (with a major in accounting) with distinction from the University of Minnesota (1957) and his J.D. degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Minnesota.

Sylvia Kaplan is the owner of The Last Cowboy Restaurant in Minneapolis. She has served as a Board Member at Hennepin Theatre Trust and worked as Minnesota Co-Chair for YOUR campaign, Obama for America. She holds a degree from the University of Minnesota. During Ambassador Kaplan’s service in Morocco, Sylvia was a strong proponent of women’s rights in the country.

The Kaplans have had a mutual commitment to social justice causes for more than 35 years, which ultimately led to their significant involvement in the political process, working to find and encourage political candidates in Minnesota for the Democratic Party.

The Kaplans were early supporters of the late Senator Paul Wellstone, vaulting him from obscurity to election as a U.S. Senator. Mr. Kaplan was a chair of John Kerry’s 2004 presidential campaign and a member of the National Finance Committee of YOUR presidential campaign.

**Members of the Kaplan Family attending:**

**Jeffrey and Robin Faust**: Jeffrey and Robin are married. Robin is the daughter of Sam and Sylvia Kaplan. Jeffrey is a video game developer, and Robin is the President of Faust Bookkeeping Services.

**Beverly Fitzgerald**: Beverly is the sister of Sylvia Kaplan. She is retired.

**Mark, Kerri, Charlotte, and Robert Lehmann**: Mark and Kerri are married. Kerri is the daughter of Sam and Sylvia Kaplan. Charlotte and Robert are their children and the grandchildren of Sam and Sylvia Kaplan. Kerri is the President of Rocks with Soul Jewelry. Mark is the President of JMP Securities. Robert is 20 years old and Charlotte is 14 years old.

**Biography for Leader Nancy Pelosi:** Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 113th Congress, is focused on strengthening America's middle class and creating jobs, reforming the political system to create clean campaigns and fair elections, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, and ensuring safety in America’s communities, neighborhoods and schools. From 2007 to 2011, Pelosi served as Speaker of the House, the first woman to do so in American history.

For 25 years, Leader Pelosi has represented San Francisco, California's 12th District, in Congress. She first made history when House Democrats elected her the first woman to lead a major political party. She has led House Democrats for a decade and previously served as House Democratic Whip.

Under the leadership of Pelosi, the 111th Congress was heralded as "one of the most productive Congresses in history" by Congressional scholar Norman Ornstein. President Barack Obama called Speaker Pelosi “an extraordinary leader for the American people," and the Christian Science Monitor wrote: “…make no mistake: Nancy Pelosi is the most powerful woman in American politics and the most powerful House Speaker since Sam Rayburn a half century ago.”

At a ceremony in Seneca Falls on October 12, 2013, the National Women’s Hall of Fame inducted nine outstanding women – including House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi comes from a strong family tradition of public service. Her late father, Thomas D'Alesandro Jr., served as Mayor of Baltimore for 12 years, after representing the city for five terms in Congress. Her brother, Thomas D'Alesandro III, also served as Mayor of Baltimore. She graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, Paul Pelosi, a native of San Francisco, have five grown children and nine grandchildren.

**Biography for Chairman Steve Israel:** Congressman Steve Israel represents New York's 3rd Congressional District, including the communities of Huntington, North Hempstead, Queens, Oyster Bay, and Smithtown. He was first sworn into Congress in 2001.

While speaking to the House Democratic Caucus, former President Bill Clinton called Congressman Israel “one of the most thoughtful people in the House of Representatives.”

Israel is a member of the House Leadership, serving as the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. In March of 2012, he was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, serving with seven other members of Congress. In March 2013, Israel was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) Board of Visitors, which provides the President independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the USMA.

While in the House Leadership, he has a temporary leave of absence from his powerful assignments on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations.

He is known as a relentless advocate for veterans and middle class families. The New York Times has called him "a Democrat who has long tried to focus attention on the plight of the middle class."

**Biography for Congresswoman Betty McCollum:** Betty McCollum is a Democrat serving her seventh term in the United States Congress, representing the families of Minnesota’s Fourth District. In 2000, Congresswoman McCollum made history as only the second Minnesota woman elected to serve in Congress since statehood in 1858. In the U.S. House of Representatives, she serves the residents of Minnesota's capital city, St. Paul, as well as Ramsey County and Washington County.

During the 113th Congress, Congresswoman McCollum remained on the House Appropriations Committee. She is a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. Congresswoman McCollum also serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Congresswoman McCollum holds the position of Senior Democratic Whip within the Democratic Caucus. She is also one of three House members appointed to serve on the National Council on the Arts. During the 113th Congress, she participated in several Congressional caucuses.

Prior to Congress, Congresswoman McCollum served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1993 to 2000 and was elected Assistant Leader three times by her Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party colleagues. From 1987 to 1992, she served her neighbors on the North St. Paul City Council.

In addition to elected office, Congresswoman McCollum's career has included teaching high school social science, as well as 25 years in retail sales and management. She is a graduate of the College of St. Catherine, and the mother of two adult children. Congresswoman McCollum is a Minnesota native who grew up in South St. Paul, raised her family in North St. Paul and now lives in St. Paul.

**Biography for Congressman Rick Nolan and Mary Nolan:** Returning to Congress in 2013 after more than 32 years in domestic and international business and community work, Rick Nolan represents Minnesota’s sprawling 8th District – 18 counties that run from the top of the state’s Duluth/Lake Superior Arrowhead region, through some of the nation’s richest mining, timber, lakes and tourist country, to the fast-growing northern suburbs of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Rick worked his way through the University of Minnesota as a proud Local 638 UPS Teamster, and later taught high school social studies in Royalton, Minnesota. He directed the North Central Minnesota 19-unit Head Start program and was curriculum coordinator for the Little Falls Adult Education program. He did post-graduate work at St. Cloud State University, Central Lakes College and the University of Maryland.

He began his public service in 1968, representing Morrison County in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 2 terms. At 24, he was one of the youngest people ever to serve in the Minnesota Legislature.

Rick was elected to Congress from Minnesota’s 6th District, which then encompassed 22 central and southwestern counties, in 1974, arriving in Washington as part of a record number of new Members at the onset of the post-Watergate era.

During his 3 terms from 1975-1981, he was recognized nationwide for his battles on behalf of working families, farmers, small businesses and rural communities. Rick was honored during those years to be named a “Most Respected Member of Congress” by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson in his widely read column, “Congress Watch.”

Rick decided to leave Congress in 1980 to spend more time with his young family and pursue private business. Establishing his own business, U.S. Export Corporation, he worked with then Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich to build and operate the Minnesota World Trade Center in downtown St. Paul. He later served as president of the Minnesota World Trade Center Corporation and chaired the International Association of World Trade Centers’ Trade and Policy Committee, the world’s largest private sector international trade group.

Rick is also the former owner of Emily Wood Products, a small sawmill and pallet factory in the northern Minnesota community of Emily. He successfully built the business and generated good jobs in the area. Rick’s daughter and son-in-law now own and operate the enterprise.

Continuing his public service, Rick became chairman of his local Mission Township Planning Committee, and chairman of the Central Lakes College Foundation, raising money for disadvantaged students of all ages.

Elected again to Congress in 2012, he retains his previous seniority as a 4th term Member. Mary and Rick have been married for 28 years.

**Biography for Congressman Tim Walz:** Tim Walz is currently serving his fourth term representing Minnesota’s First Congressional District. The First Congressional District spans the southern part of Minnesota – from the South Dakota border in the west to the Wisconsin border in the east.

Walz proudly serves the people of southern Minnesota on three committees: Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans' Affairs. He also is one of nine House Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. In the 113th Congress, Walz serves in leadership posts with the Sportsmen's Caucus, the National Guard and Reserve Caucus, and the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus.

In 1989, Walz earned a B.S. in social science education from Chadron State College in Nebraska. Walz spent 1989-1990 teaching high school in China as a part of the first government sanctioned groups of American educators to teach in China through a program at Harvard University.

Since coming to Congress, Walz has made improving the care of our nation’s veterans a top priority. The Rochester Post Bulletin has described him as having "relentless energy" and touted his strong work ethic, stating that "he brings a soldier's work ethic to the House." Walz is the highest ranking enlisted soldier ever to serve in Congress.

Rep. Walz has been recognized for his work in Congress with awards from AMVETS, the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, the American Cancer Society, the National Association of Development Organizations, and the Matthew Shepard Foundation

Tim and Gwen live in Mankato with their two young children, Hope and Gus.

**Biography for Governor Mark Dayton:** Mark Dayton is Minnesota's 40th Governor. He was born in Minneapolis and raised in a house in Long Lake, where his father still lives today. He has two grown sons, Eric and Andrew. Mark became a grandfather in 2013 when Eric and his wife, Cory had their first child, Hugo. Mark lives in St. Paul with his two German Shepherds, Mesabi and Wanamingo (Mingo).

Mark attended Long Lake Elementary School and Blake School in Hopkins. He loved hockey, and it was his childhood dream to be the starting goalie on the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team! He didn’t make it, but he was named an All-State goalie his senior year in high school. He graduated, cum laude, from Yale University, where he also played Division I hockey.

After college, Mark taught 9th Grade general science for two years in a New York City public school. He still tells how it was the toughest job he ever had! It was here where he realized the terrible injustice that his students had so little, while he had been given so much; and he decided that he would devote his life to improving social equality and economic opportunity for all Americans.

For most of the past 37 years, Mark has served Minnesotans, as Commissioner of the Minnesota Departments of Economic Development and of Energy and Economic Development, as State Auditor, and as United States Senator. He has worked throughout our state to help businesses locate or expand and create jobs, to improve local government services, to better fund our public schools, to support our servicemen and women, to help Minnesotans get the health care they need, and in many other ways to make a better Minnesota. Currently, Mark serves on the Executive Committee of the National Governor's Association.

**Biography for Franni Franken:** Franni is an activist, mother, and the husband of Senator Al Franken. Franni grew up in Portland, Maine. Over the past 37 years, Franni has been Al’s life partner and political soul mate. Having served as his de facto running mate during the campaign – spending every day traveling Minnesota – Franni is excited to be working on fighting for the issues she cares about, including reproductive health, measures to combat domestic violence, and access to affordable education. Senator Franken is unable to attend this dinner.

**LIST OF VIP CLUTCH PARTICIPANTS**

****

**Andris Baltins, Lynne McGuire, and Nick Baltins**

Andris and Lynne are married. Andris is an attorney at Kaplan, Strangis, and Kaplan. He has been a member of the firm since 1979. Lynn is retired. Nick is attending this event with his parents. Nick is 21 years old and has Down syndrome.

****

**Jim and Pam Deal**

Jim is the Chairman of NAU Company, a leading crop insurance company. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Jim as Administrator for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Pam is retired. She and Jim have lived in Andover, Minnesota for over twenty years.

****

**Amir Eftekhari**

Amir is the President of HealthEZ, a company providing services designed to simplify health plan administration for employers and eliminate the complexities in health care billing and payment processing. He is the brother of Nazie Eftekhari, longtime friend and supporter of Leader Pelosi and the DCCC.

****

**Nazie Eftekhari**

Nazie is the Chair and Founder of HealthEZ. Nazie is credited with designing the nation’s first Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). She is a graduate of the London School of Economics, University of Southern California, and the University of Minnesota. Nazie is a friend of Leader Nancy Pelosi and is instrumental to the DCCC’s success in Minnesota.

****

**Mark and Margaret Yackel-Juleen**

Mark is the President of and Pastor at Shalom Hill Farm, a nonprofit education and retreat ministry specializing in hands-on learning experiences in small town and rural culture, ministry, and environment. Margaret is the Director of Shalom Hill Farm.

**LIST OF GENERAL PHOTOLINE AND DINNER PARTICIPANTS**

**Christine Almeida and Brian Gorecki**

Christine and Brian are married. Christine is an attorney in Minneapolis, and Brian is a real estate developer.

**Kevin, Lisa, Kelly, and Kevin, Jr. Armstrong**

Kevin isGeneral Counsel at EST Brokerage Solutions. He is married to Kelly. Together, they have two children: Kelly (4 years old), and Kevin, Jr. (8 years old).

**Melanie Benjamin**

Melanie is Chief Executive of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

**Kjell Bergh**

Kjell is Chairman of Borton Companies.

**Richard “Dick” Cohen,** State Senator of Minnesota

**Jay and Page Cowles**

Jay is CEO of Unity Avenue Associates. Page is an Executive Assistant at Unity Avenue Associates.

**Judy Dayton**

Judy is retired. She is the Aunt of Governor Mark Dayton.

**Kelly Doran**

Kelly is President of Doran Companies.

**Jeffrey and Robin Faust**

Jeffrey is a Video Game Developer and Robin is President of Faust Bookkeeping Services. Robin is the daughter of Sam and Sylvia Kaplan.

**Beverly Fitzgerald**

Beverly is retired. She is the sister of Sylvia Kaplan.

**Barbara Forster**

Barbara is retired.

**Lou and Carol Frillman**

Lou and Carol are married. Lou isPresident of Marquette Advisors and Carol works in real estate and planning with Marquette Advisors.

**Christopher Gahbow**

Christopher is a tribal member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. He is also a ceremonial drummer in the tribe’s band.

**Mark, Kerri, Robert, and Charlotte Lehmann**,

Mark and Kerri are married. Kerri is the daughter of Sam and Sylvia Kaplan. Mark is the President of JMP Securities, and Kerri is President of Rocks with Soul Jewelry. Together, they have two children: Robert (20 years old), and Charlotte (14 years old).

**Kent Martell**

Kent is a bartender and a family friend of the Kaplans.

**Carla Pardue**

Carla is retired and is a family friend of the Kaplans.

**Judi Poulson**

Judi is retired.

**Matt and Jennifer Patterson Samuel**

Matt is an attorney at Fish & Richardson. Jennifer is an essayist.

**Greg Stenmoe**

Greg is an attorney at Briggs and Morgan.

**Charles Vig**

Charles is the Chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

**Matthew and Julie Walter**

Matthew is Vice President of Heartland Realty Investors. Julie is a homemaker.

**Kevin Warren**

Kevin is General Counsel for the Minnesota Vikings.

**Lori Watso**

Lori is the Secretary and Treasurer of Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.