



PHOTO/RICHARD FORMICOLA

District 5 Democratic Congressional candidate Dennis Shulman shakes Mark Niederman's hand at his Wyckoff office opening.

**5TH DISTRICT**

# Garrett challenger opens campaign office in Wyckoff

BY REBECCA KAUFMAN  
Of Suburban News

**WYCKOFF** —Dennis Shulman, a Democratic congressional candidate for the 5th District, celebrated the opening of his third campaign office last week — this one at 681 Lawlins Road in Suite 60 — at a ceremony with volunteers, staff members and other political operatives.

“Dennis is going to be the best congressional representative that we’ve ever had in the fifth district,” Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire, an Oakland resident and fellow Democrat, said.

Shulman will be challenging Republican incumbent Scott Garrett in Garrett’s bid for a fourth two-year term in the November elections.

The district includes Franklin Lakes, Oakland, Wyckoff, Mahwah, Waldwick, Ramsey and Midland Park.

In a speech at the office’s opening on Thursday night, McGuire said Shulman understands the needs of the district and fights every day for them.

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**Dennis Shulman**  
Democratic congressional candidate

“Dennis has faced adversity and difficulties and has overcome each,” he said. “I am proud of Dennis and will be there whenever he needs me.”

Shulman, who has been blind since childhood, has a bachelor’s degree from Brandeis University and a doctorate from Harvard University in clinical psychology and public practice. During his time at Harvard, he won a training fellowship from the National Institute for Mental Health.

After graduating, Shulman began his career as a clinical psychologist and taught at Fordham University for more than a decade.

In 1997, Shulman founded the National Training Program in Contemporary Psychoanalysis at The

National Institute for the Psychotherapies.

Shulman was ordained as a rabbi in 2003, the same year his book, “The Genius of Genesis: A Psychoanalyst and Rabbi Examines the First Book of the Bible,” was published. He is the associate rabbi of Chavurah Beth Shalom in Alpine.

Shulman has lived in Demarest for more than 25 years. He and his wife of 33 years, Pam, have two daughters, Holly and Julie.

Shulman spoke to the 30 people at his township campaign office’s opening of Garrett’s failings in office.

“The person who is our representative is not only misrepresenting us, but voted against aid for Katrina victims, stem cell research and choice for women,” he said. “He was ranked the most conservative member in the House of Representatives. There are over 400 members in the House and Northern New Jersey is not the most conservative district in the United States.”

# SHULMAN

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Shulman said his was to be "a viral campaign."

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Campaign staff members said the Wyckoff office will serve as the primary field office in Bergen County.

"We wanted a big office in the west part of the district because the headquarters are in Haworth and many people can't make it out there to volunteer," said Jocelyn Krieger of Franklin Lakes, the field coordinator for West Bergen and Passaic County.

"We're hoping the Wyckoff office will be a hub for everyone who wants to get involved," Krieger said. "If every volunteer wanted to come in at once, this is where we could have them."

The majority of Shulman's 10-person staff are individuals in their 20s, some straight out of college.

"Having a young staff is great because the energy and enthusiasm is up," Shulman said. "Even though they are young, they have an enormous amount of political experience. Many have worked on campaigns before. Besides, who else is going to eat cold pizza, work 20 hours a day and sleep on other people's floor? This is how we pass the torch to the next generation."

Krieger, 22, a May graduate of William and Mary in Virginia, said that this is the time for young people to be active in politics.

"Later in life, we might not have this chance," she said. "Whether or not we're in politics later in life, this is a great opportunity to put our whole heart and soul into something."

Campaign volunteer Jane Bidwell of Mahwah said she was excited about Shulman's campaign.

"This is the fourth campaign I've worked on against Garrett," she said. "Shulman is brilliant. He has a great heart and is moderate."

"I decided I wanted to get involved," said Clare Tilton of Ridgewood, "Shulman turned out to be a great candidate and has a better shot of winning than I expected. "There is a definite feeling about change and it feels very real."

"Every time we attend an event, we meet Republicans and undecided individuals interested in change, not just Democrats," Shulman said. "It's striking. The vast majority who know about Garrett's record are appalled. For our kids' and nation's sake, we have got to get out and win this thing."