

# JEAN HAY BRIGHT

Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senate

Jean Hay Bright was born in 1947 in Youngstown, Ohio, where she grew up the daughter of a steelworker and a seamstress. She and her first husband, a Vietnam veteran, moved to Maine in 1972 to go "back to the land," homesteading on 25 acres they bought from Helen and Scott Nearing, authors of *Living the Good Life*. They had two children, and were divorced in 1979.

In 1975, Jean became a reporter and later Hancock County bureau chief for the *Bangor Daily News*. She left that position in 1985 to open Hay's Farmstand on her 10-acre organic farm across from the Blue Hill Fairgrounds .

In the late 1980s she served on the board of MOFGA. An environmental activist, Jean helped in the fight in the early 1990s to keep AES from building a coal-burning power plant in Bucksport.

With political activism a growing focus, Jean closed the farmstand in 1992 and went to work as a Legislative Assistant to Maine's Democratic First District Congressman Tom Andrews.

Jean ran for Congress in Maine's Second Congressional District in 1994 and for U.S. Senate in 1996, both times as the progressive candidate in the Maine Democratic primaries. Her first book, *Proud to Be a Card-Carrying, Flag-Waving, Patriotic American Liberal* (1996) is a collection of her writings on many political topics, including choice, civil rights and worker rights.

Jean's second book, *A Tale of Dirty Tricks So Bizarre -- Susan Collins v Public Record* (2002) is an inside look at Maine's 1996 U.S. Senate race.

Her third book, *Meanwhile, Next Door to the Good Life* (2003) details Jean's homesteading days on Cape Rosier in Maine, and tells how Helen and Scott Nearing impacted her life.

Jean's writings and columns have appeared in the *Aroostook Democrat*, the *Maine Progressive*, *Feminist Times*, *Yankee Magazine*, *Providence Journal*, *Maine Times*, *Penobscot Bay Press*, *The Progressive Populist*, and *Farmstead Magazine*.

Returning to college in 1997, she graduated from the University of Maine with honors in May 1998. Jean served for a time as managing editor of *The Enterprise*, Bucksport, Maine; became marketing manager for Common Courage Press in Monroe, Maine, followed by a stint (2001-2002) in commercial sales at Johnny's Selected Seeds in Albion and Winslow, Maine.

Jean is married to David Bright, a former reporter, editor, and agriculture columnist for the *Bangor Daily News* who is now a computer installation specialist. They live on BrightBerry Farm, a 30-acre MOFGA-certified organic farm in Dixmont, where they are developing a pick-your-own-raspberry operation.

## Background

### Political

1993 Legislative Assistant, Congressman Tom Andrews  
1994 Candidate, 2nd CD Democratic Primary (won by John Baldacci)  
1996 Candidate, Democratic Primary, U.S. Senate (won by Joe Brennan)  
2000 Candidate, State Senate District 10 (clean election)  
2002-04 Dixmont Democratic Party Town Chair  
2004 Dixmont Caucus Convener  
2004 Kucinich Alternate, Maine Democratic Convention  
2004-2005 Founding Board Member, Maine Progressive Caucus  
2004-Now Member, Progressive Democrats of America  
1996-Now Member, Penobscot County Democratic Committee  
1994-2000 Political Columnist, *Aroostook Democrat* (Roger Roy, editor)  
2002-2003 Political Columnist, *Bangor Broadside* (David Walsh, editor)

## Publications (all currently available on Amazon.com)

1996 "Proud to Be a Card-Carrying, Flag-Waving, Patriotic American Liberal"  
ISBN 0965775909  
2002 "A Tale of Dirty Tricks So Bizarre: Susan Collins v. Public Record"  
ISBN 0972092404  
2003 "Meanwhile Next Door to the Good Life" ISBN 0972092412

## Job History

1966-67 Front Office, Belinda Hospital, Ventura, California  
1968-69 Admissions, Gulfport Memorial Hospital, Gulfport, Mississippi  
1970-71 Editorial Assistant, Providence Journal, South County office  
1972-79 Homesteader, Harborside, Maine  
1975-85 Reporter, Bureau Chief, Columnist, Bangor Daily News  
1984-92 Organic Farmer, Hay's Farm Stand, Blue Hill, Maine  
1993 Legislative Assistant, Congressman Tom Andrews  
1997-98 Student, University of Maine, Orono (graduated 1998)  
1998-99 Managing Editor, The Enterprise weekly newspaper, Bucksport  
1999 Marketing Manger, Common Courage Press, Monroe, Maine  
2001-02 Commercial Sales, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Albion, Maine  
1999-Now Organic Farmer, BrightBerry Farm, Dixmont, Maine

## Memberships

Maine Progressive Caucus (Board member 2004-2005)  
MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association)  
(Board Member 1988-89)  
(Certified Organic Grower since 1987)  
National Organization for Women (NOW)  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU since 1988)  
Peace & Justice Center, Bangor  
Unitarian Universalist Church, Ellsworth  
Maine Media Women  
Good Life Center Board of Stewards, Harborside Maine, 1995-2003

## Other

Born: October, 1947 in Youngstown, Ohio, daughter of a steelworker  
Moved to Maine: 1972  
Attended: Youngstown University, Youngstown, Ohio 1965-1966  
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, 1968-1969  
Graduated: University of Maine, Orono 1998  
Bachelor of University Studies (with a focus on Journalism)  
Husband: David Bright (2nd marriage)  
Two grown children, two grown step-children

## FIND OUT MORE

Join the Campaign and Contribute by visiting our web site

<http://www.jeanhaybright.us>

email: [campaignmanager@jeanhaybright.us](mailto:campaignmanager@jeanhaybright.us)

or call any of these campaign numbers:

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Portland 207-321-2776    Biddeford 207-571-0826    Washington DC 202-747-0426

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