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For information or to volunteer call:
847.266.VOTE (8683)

Or write to:
Lauren Beth Gash, Chair, Tenth Dems
PO Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015
Visit the website: www.tenthdems.org
Newsletter: comments@tenthdems.org

Editorial Staff

Lauren Beth Gash	Ellen Gill
Jane Goldenberg	John Hmurovic
Leslie Lipschultz	Greg Mysko
Ross Nickow	Allison Rieff
James Rosen	George Rosenblit
Ben Struhl	

Design Carol Jones

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Election 2005 Winds Down

by John Hmurovic



There are over 800 candidates running for office across the 10th Congressional District in the April 5 election. This is a local election year, which means the offices up for grabs include mayoral and other city and town posts, township offices, schools boards, library boards and park boards. In most cases the candidates are running as non-partisans, not openly affiliated with a political party. In some places, such as the cities of Waukegan and North Chicago, Democrats are running unopposed...with the exception of Waukegan Mayor Richard Hyde, who is facing a Republican opponent in his re-election bid; and North Chicago alderman Valerie DeVost, who is facing an Independent opponent. In only three sets of races is there a Democratic slate running in competitive races: Moraine, Palatine and West Deerfield townships. In this newsletter we have brief profiles of those Democratic candidates.

To find out which candidates are on the ballot in your precinct go to the website of your county clerk. In Lake County, that's www.co.lake.il.us/cntyck. There you will see a box on the right side near the top of

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Tenth News

www.tenthdems.org

APRIL 2005 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 2, Edition 4

Palatine Township Candidates Target Wasteful Spending

by Greg Mysko

A slate of energetic Democrats in Palatine Township is challenging the records of Republican incumbents who are accused of wasting taxpayer money. Citing such issues as \$1,000 individual monthly cell phone bills and a bloated highway budget, the Democrats are promising controlled spending of township taxpayer dollars. The Democratic team wants to stop what they call reckless spending and mismanaged tax money that is used on lucrative contracts that benefit very few people, such as a \$3 million sewer project that served only a few houses.

The Township Community Voice

The Palatine Democratic slate also pledges to create a "united community voice" that draws upon ideas for local government without partisanship. The Democrats support initiatives for stronger public support of education.

Sue Walton (Supervisor): Sue has been recognized for her volunteer work and advocacy for child welfare issues. She is a Rolling Meadows alderman, retired teacher and an active supporter of open land initiatives.

Thakar S. Basati (Township Clerk): Thakar is a realtor in Palatine who serves as president of Heatherstone Neighborhood Watch and is

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Democrats Run a Strong Race for West Deerfield Township Trustee

by Jane Goldenberg

Until this year a Democrat had never run for West Deerfield Township Trustee, as far as anyone can remember. In a region of Lake County that had long been a Republican stronghold, Republicans maintained a firm grip on township government. As a result, the township became a bastion of entrenched incumbents.

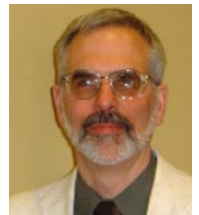
But times they have a-changed, and Democrats have put together a full slate of candidates for trustee, hoping to capitalize on the increasing strength of the Democratic Party in the township. In the last election, for example, 20 of the 28 precincts voted Democratic, according to Adrienne Schwarzbach Johnson, one of the four Democrats running for the four trustee positions.

Johnson, of Deerfield, who has a background in the field of higher education finance and has

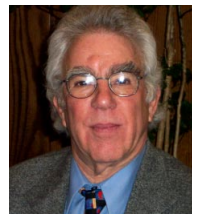
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Schwarzbach Johnson



Levitsky



Rosenbacher



Schwartz

Where Is Mark Kirk?

by Ellen Gill

As Mark Kirk throws money at the hunt for Osama Bin Laden, residents of the 10th District wonder what it will take to find Mark Kirk to discuss Social Security. Social Security is particularly important to 10th District residents, many of whom are retired or about to retire, or have retired parents while raising their own families. As of yet, our Congressman has held no public forums to discuss the issue, has made no response to calls for clarification of his position in *Pioneer Press* letters to the editor and writes nothing of it on his new blog, which he proudly announced last month.

Kirk has issued only one statement on Social Security since his recent re-election. Vague and general, he has repeated that same statement on his congressional website and in responses to constituent letters.

George Bush, the leader of Kirk's party, believes the issue so critical to his final term that he has, as the Dallas News reports, "been barnstorming the country, campaign-style" to push his plan. In a speech in Raleigh, Bush said, "I believe candidates are rewarded, not punished, for taking on tough issues." So, where is Representative Kirk on this tough issue?

Other members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, have been very clear on their positions and have met with their constituents to discuss them. Florida Republican Clay Shaw not only met with constituents to discuss the issue, but came up with his own plan as an alternative to Bush's which would not divert funds from the current system. Democrats James P. Moran of Virginia and Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut held a town hall meeting to discuss their opposition to Bush's plan. In Illinois, Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama, and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, met at Loyola's Water Tower Campus to discuss the idea of the social contract that has been so successfully implemented in the Social Security system and the problems with the Bush privatization plan. At the heavily attended meeting, Senator Obama described the system in terms of our values as a nation: "Our vision has been that we all have a stake in each other. [Social Security] is a simple yet profound program [and] without it there will be a few winners and a whole lot of losers."

So, what is Mark Kirk's vision for our future? What are his values related to this issue? When will we find out? Will we have any input in his future vote? I tried to find answers on his website one last time and found a link to a page called "In the District." I thought it would be a page chronicling district issues or his visits and events within the district. With hope of finding a future district event on Social Security, I clicked on the link and went to the page. I saw nothing but a description of the district's boundaries. The good news is that at least he knows where we live when he finally chooses to speak to us.

The Depression & the Safety Net

by George Rosenblit

I was 5-years-old when the stock market crashed disastrously in 1929. Then, I lived through the Great Depression. I'll never forget it.

From 1921 to 1929, the stock market steadily increased in value. People got stock market fever. They invested life savings and bought on margin. Then, in a matter of a few days in October 1929 the market crashed.

Many were wiped out. Mortgages couldn't be paid. Homes were lost. Companies shut down. The 24 percent of workers who were unemployed could find no jobs. The rest mostly had part-time work. Some rode box cars to distant cities hoping to find work where there were thousands of applicants for a few jobs. Along the way they would beg for food or steal it to stay alive.

In the third grade, in 1932, the school nurse sent me home with a note saying I had malnutrition. My resourceful mother beat a raw egg into my Ovaltine. She also had a pot of soup on the stove all day made from marrow of bones obtained free from the butcher, including carrots, parsnips, tomatoes and/or other vegetables given to my father in payment for his work. He was a house painter. He bartered with the dentist to pay a small sum and fix my teeth in return for painting a room in his house.

Some unemployed showed up at our back door to beg for a few pennies or food. My mother shared her watery soup with many who knocked on our screen door. She would fill a bowl and hand it to them as they sat on the outside stairs. They marked symbols on houses to indicate whether money, food or nothing might be available.

Then, in 1935, President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act to provide a Safety Net for workers and their families in case of job loss, and in retirement; a great humanitarian event to be cherished and protected. Now, I want my children and grandchildren to be protected by that Safety Net, and they are also saving separately for retirement.



MORE SECURITY FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY



SOCIAL SECURITY

We Wont Get Fooled Again!

Friday, April 1, 2005
7 pm - 8:30 pm

Fremd High School Cafeteria, 1000 S. Quentin Road, Palatine

Join us for a free forum on the future of Social Security

For more information call 847-266-VOTE or visit www.tenthdems.org

10 Co-sponsored by the Tenth Congressional District Democrats, Palatine Township Democratic Organization, and Eighth District Democrats & Independents
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The Tenth Dems Intern Experience

by Ben Strubl

The Tenth Dems are looking for eight to ten interns for an opportunity that any high school or college-age political enthusiast should seriously consider. Interns get a chance to participate in every step of the local political process, meet candidates and political operatives, attend parties, dinners, rallies, and fairs and travel all over the Illinois 10th Congressional District. It's a job with no downside if you like political work, because that's what you'll be doing. At the same time you'll be learning a lot about politics, making great friends and having a fun time in general. As an intern myself, I can attest that I've done all of the things mentioned above.

Learning about the political process is one of the main benefits of being a Tenth Dems Intern. There's a tremendous amount of work and planning that goes into a campaign at the local level. As an intern you'll get to sit in on strategy sessions, learn about how a volunteer organization runs, plan events and help coordinate parties. All of these skills are important to politics but can be used in any job you have.

There's also a lot to be gained from meeting the assortment of workers in the political organization. You'll meet many candidates, some of whom you may get to know well, from local to national. Last summer's interns got to meet Barack Obama at a Tenth Dems political fundraiser, and later in the summer were able to have lunch with State Senator Susan Garrett at a pizza place.

A perk of the job is the numerous fun parties, dinners, events, rallies and protests you'll get to attend. The parties, fundraisers and fairs are great places to meet interesting people, and many involve large quantities of free food. Some of the Kerry meet-ups I attended last summer had more confections than most bakeries. Rallies and protests can even be an enormous amount of fun.

The best thing about being an intern, however, is the freedom that the Tenth Dems give you to do what you want. You'll have to attend a weekly intern meeting but you have a large amount of freedom to do exactly what you want. There are numerous opportunities to do database work on computers, write articles, do phone-calling, join forums, research issues, meet with other groups and organize events.

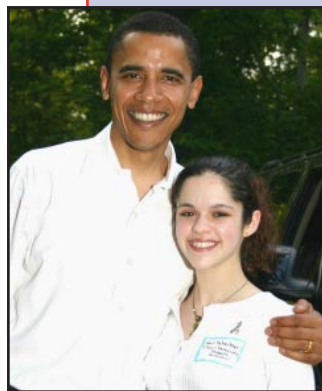
A lot of an intern's work can be done at any time of the day and e-mailed to the coordinator. There's no downside to this job—you learn a lot, have a lot of fun, go great places, get free food, meet great people, have flexible hours, help the Democratic Party and you can do whatever is your forte. If we could afford to pay you there'd be a million applicants.

Ben is a senior at New Trier High School who will be attending Brown University in the fall.

Become a Tenth Dems Intern

Tenth Dems is accepting applications for our summer intern program, which is ideal for any student considering a career in politics or government. Interns will learn the basics of grassroots politics by working with candidates and our volunteers, some of whom have spent many years working in the political arena.

To apply for an internship, send a resume (or something that lists your academic background and any other interests and qualifications that you have), along with a short (no more than one page) essay on why this internship is of interest to you, to Mary Oppenheim at mmoart@comcast.net and a copy to laurenbethgash@aol.com. Applicants should obviously have a desire to help us elect Democrats to offices throughout the 10th Congressional District.



Gail Schnitzer, Senior at Highland Park HS and 2004 Young Tenth Dems coordinator, was thrilled to meet Barack Obama last June.

The program is open to all college students, as well as to high school students who will be seniors or juniors in the 2005-06 school year. While not required, it works best if the intern has reliable and flexible transportation to and from the various assignments, which can be in any part of the 10th District.

America: Viewed From Abroad

By Allison Rieff

I have never been ashamed of being an American. I think this is one of the right's most dangerous myths about the left — that we are somehow disgusted by our country and that we would prefer to be citizens somewhere else.

Here in London, though, I am about as close to being ashamed as I have ever been. More embarrassed, really. People are much quieter here, for one thing, and I feel that we are stereotypically loud whenever we travel on the train. This is awkward, no matter what the subject being discussed. Talking about politics is the worst.

I travel mostly with a group of conservative Americans, to my amazement and sometimes horror. I usually try to abstain from loud discussions about politics. I have noticed, though, that whenever the people around us hear a positive discussion of the Bush administration in our American accents, there is a definite reaction.

Some people roll their eyes at one another; others look disgusted or even angry. Of course, some of this may be due to my own sensitivity

on the subject; many people don't react at all, and I'm sure that there are some who do support the American right. It seems to me, though, that there is a palpable change in atmosphere when these conversations start, and that the majority of the people are unhappy to hear the enthusiasm that some Americans have for the neo-conservative politics of the Bush administration.

Perhaps the best indicator of the way people feel about us is the frequent warnings given to Americans studying in other countries. By far the most common advice people gave me before I left was, "Don't EVER tell anyone you're from the U.S." I have never pretended to be a Canadian, as some Americans do, but I do feel nervous when admitting the truth. I find it sad that the perspective on Americans in other countries is so negative that people feel it is necessary to lie. We can only hope that in another four years or so this might begin to change.

Allison is a student at Lake Forest College studying in London this semester. This summer she will be a Tenth Dems intern.

Moraine Democrats Hope to Make a Difference

by Ross Nickow

The Moraine Township Democratic Organization (MTDO) wants to make a difference in local grassroots government and has jumped full force into the fray. Its slate of Democratic candidates will be on the ballot on April 5. These candidates are competing for all seven Moraine Township government offices—Supervisor, Clerk, Assessor and four trustees. Township officials oversee property assessment, election functions and the General Assistance Program for older adults and needy residents. The hopefuls have been running a campaign to bring their “shared values and shared vision” to the community.



From left to right: Zaluda; Gamson; Gussin; Barnes; Lenzini; Plouché; Moreno

The candidates, led by Highland Park City Council member Mari Barnes, together have extensive experience in business, government and volunteer service. Their backgrounds are detailed on the MTDO website, www.morainetownshipdems.org. Information is also available at the campaign office at 1729 Green Bay Road in Highland Park (847-433-8344). A strong Democratic turnout Tuesday would bolster the chances of electing these candidates who share a common concern for the Moraine community; they promise accessibility, advocacy and accountability.

Mari Barnes (Supervisor): Mari currently serves on the Highland Park City Council and has an extensive background in public service, including leadership positions in the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, United Way and the Community Land Trust. Her goal as supervisor is to see that township officers act as professional stewards of the public money and distribute funds in a compassionate and responsible manner. She promises fair, open and visible government.

Ellen Gussin (Clerk): Ellen brings more than 30 years of business, leadership and volunteer experience to her candidacy for Township Clerk. Her skills and background will ensure that election functions are carried out efficiently, records are properly safeguarded and effective decisions are made concerning township matters. Her experience has prepared her for attention to detail and follow-through.

Patricia “Trish” Lenzini (Assessor): Trish serves as a member of the Assessor’s office. She earned her Certified Illinois Assessing

Official designation in 2003 and was subsequently promoted to Deputy Assessor. She has field appraiser experience and is knowledgeable about township properties. If elected, she hopes to implement changes to improve the fairness and efficiency of the office. She also plans to institute regular town meetings and develop a website to keep taxpayers informed.

Bryna Gamson (Trustee): With 30 years of volunteer service behind her, Bryna’s goal is to effect changes beneficial to the public while allocating funds with compassion and efficiency. She hopes to change the administrative culture in Moraine Township to a proactive, inclusive, transparent

government. She also pledges to help initiate a website, create citizen advisory groups and publish a low-cost newsletter to keep the public up to date on issues.

Margoth Moreno (Trustee): Since her days as a student at Highland Park High School in the 1970s, Margoth has been a bilingual/ bicultural community activist. She vows to fight to eliminate the “us vs. them mentality” in local institutions and create a more inclusive and effective government, providing a welcoming atmosphere for Moraine’s residents.

Cynthia Plouché (Trustee): Cynthia says her educational, financial and business background, along with her extensive community service, makes her uniquely qualified to serve as Trustee. She wants to make township government more community-involved and do a better job of reaching out and providing a wider range of assistance to those in need.

Jeffrey Zaluda (Trustee): Jeffrey feels his professional experiences as a lawyer and his involvement in community service work, including serving on the Highland Park Housing Commission and the Highland Park Community Land Trust, strongly qualify him to be an effective trustee. He says he believes that “what makes a community rich has much more to do with character, fairness, caring and diversity than with money.”

Election 2005

Continued from page 1

the homepage. The seventh item down on the list inside that box says, “What’s On My Ballot?” Click on it, and follow the directions on the next couple of pages. At the end of this short process you will have a specimen ballot to print out listing every candidate’s name you will see when you show up to vote.

The Cook County Clerk’s website has a similar feature. Go to www.voterinfonet.com if you live in Cook County. On the homepage is a box on the upper right hand side where you can

type in your street address, city and zip code. Once you fill that out and click on the appropriate places you will have a complete list of candidates on your precinct’s ballot.

Why should you vote? First of all, it’s *your* government. City and village governments, library boards, park boards, etc. don’t receive much attention, but no one can deny how important a school board’s decisions are in a community, or how much impact a township assessor can have on your property tax bill. Secondly, your vote carries tremendous clout in these races. Over 120-million people voted

for President in 2004. Unfortunately, one more vote wouldn’t have made a difference. But in some of these local races, the winners could be determined by just one or two votes. You can, literally, be the one who puts your candidate over the top.

After April 5, there are no more elections until the primaries in March 2006. You have eleven months to take a breather from voting. So, exert a little extra effort this time and go to the polls, and if you live in Moraine, Palatine, or West Deerfield Townships...Vote Democratic!

Palatine Township

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From left to right: Montanez, Prochaska, Walton, Senator Obama, Flamm, and Menck.

coordinator of the Asian-American Senior Association. He received with the Asian-American Community Award for his volunteer work in the Punjabi and Sikh communities.

Matthew Flamm (Highway Commissioner): A longtime Palatine resident, Matthew is an attorney who served as chairman of the Real Estate Tax Committee of the Chicago Bar Association. He also is on the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

Patricia Montanez (Collector): As president of her own mortgage company, Patricia has been active with the Hispanic Business Association and also received the Minority of the Year Award from Coors Brewing. She served for five years on the Palatine Zoning Board of Appeals.

Vickie Menck (Trustee): Vickie is an appraiser living in Rolling Meadows and an active member of her church council.

Al Prochaska (Trustee): A three-time recipient of the University of Chicago High School Teacher of the Year Award, Al is now retired from teaching. His interest in education continues with his positions with the Illinois Education Advisor Committee and the

Northwest Suburban Teachers Union. He currently owns an Eastern European consulting business and lives in Palatine.

James Sheehan

(Trustee): An engineer living in Palatine, James is a member of the Chief Engineers Association and the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Margareth Smid

(Trustee): An attorney active in community affairs, Margareth has served as president of the Northwest Suburban Sierra Club and Palatine Business and Professional Women. She was a founding member of the Chicago-Kent Tax Society and co-chair of Women's Bar Association of Illinois Tax Committee.

West Deerfield Township

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studied for a master's degree in public administration, is running along with Ron Levitsky, an award-winning teacher from Lake Forest; Bob Rosenbacher, of Del Mar Woods, an unincorporated area of Deerfield; and Ron Schwartz, an attorney from Deerfield.

Rosenbacher, with 45 years of experience as a computer network administrator, salesman and treasurer in the printing industry, wants the township to do a better job maintaining the roads in the unincorporated areas of the township, a task which constitutes one-third of the township's responsibilities.

"We need a long-term strategy," Rosenbacher said. For the 29 years he's lived in Del Mar Woods, he said the condition of the roads has grown progressively worse, but the current trustees have turned a deaf ear to residents' complaints.

"I think that when you have any board of directors with between 11 and 28 years of service, its attention to detail and responsiveness to taxpayers tends to diminish over time," he said.

The township government is also responsible for providing general services to residents in need and the assessment of real property for tax purposes.

Johnson says that too few residents who face hard times, such as job loss, are aware that the township offers programs that might help them. Plus, with additional funds, the township could offer more programs.

With a background in grant writing and fundraising, Johnson notes "there are funds available from a variety of different places both for programming and services that (trustees) aren't taking advantage of."

The slate agrees the township must do a far better job communicating with residents, and not just at election time. For example, the township website still advertises the "upcoming" 2002 election. Two months prior to this year's election, the trustees spent \$7,000 of taxpayer money to send out a full-color newsletter with large spreads about their candidacies, according to the Democrats' campaign manager, Clint Raulsten. He noted that there was no mention made in the newsletter of their opponents in that newsletter, and that it was the first newsletter the township sent out in about two years.

After spending countless hours knocking on doors and passing out literature at train stations to spread the word, the candidates are optimistic. But every vote counts. So while there's still time, help spread the word that Democrats have a slate running for trustee in West Deerfield Township.



**Our teachers
deserve better...
and so do our children!**

The Township
Community Voice!



Endorsed by:
Illinois Federation of Teachers
Northwest Suburban Teachers
Union Local 1211
SEIU Illinois State Council
SEIU Local 73
Teamsters Joint Council 25
Carpenters Local 1185
Illinois Council for
Honest Government



Strong schools build strong communities. The children of Palatine Township deserve strong schools to prepare them for a bright future. We actively support public education and believe that excellent, well-paid teachers are the key to strong schools.

On April 5, vote for our children's future.
Vote for the only endorsed, unified slate:

- Sue Walton, Supervisor
- Jim Sheehan, Trustee
- Vicki Menck, Trustee
- Al Prochaska, Trustee
- Margareth Smid, Trustee
- Matt Flamm, Highway Commissioner
- Thakar Basati, Clerk
- Patricia Montanez, Collector

The Township
Community Voice!



Social Security Forum Set For April Fool's Day

by John Hmurovic

Since Congressman Mark Kirk hasn't bothered to come to his district to find out what you think about Social Security, the Tenth Dems are hosting a public forum to give everyone a chance to talk about the radical changes being suggested by the Bush administration.

Tenth Dems is sponsoring the forum with the Palatine Township Democratic Organization and the Eighth Congressional District Democrats and Independents. It will be held on Friday, April 1, at 7pm, at the Fremd High School Cafeteria, 1000 S. Quentin Road, Palatine. You are invited to attend.

It's no coincidence that the event is being held on April Fool's Day. President Bush fooled the American public when he ran as a compassionate conservative in 2000, only to cut programs for the poor and middle class. He fooled many by claiming to be a fiscal conservative, only to run up the biggest debt in American history so he could give tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. We won't even mention how he fooled many into believing he was a friend of the environment, the "education president," and that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq that posed an imminent threat to Americans.

Now he says Social Security faces disaster, and that the only way to save it is to kill it, and to turn the safety net that Social Security has provided into a risky retirement program run by large financial institutions. This time, We Won't Get Fooled Again!

Join us on April 1.



Book Group Reads Up On Globalization

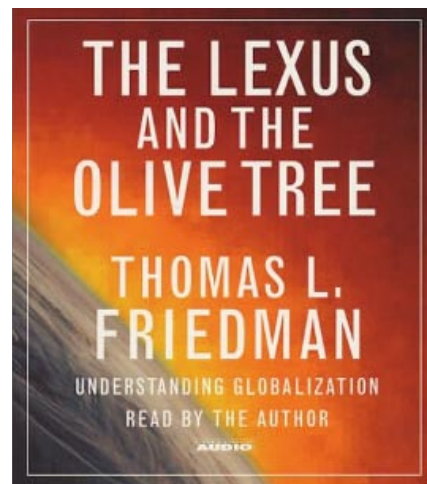
by James Rosen

What is "globalization" and is it a good thing? And by "good thing" does that mean good for the United States, multi-national corporations or economically stagnant countries trying to catch up in the fast moving world of the Internet? Does it mean a "good thing" for all of them? Are there many winners or just winner takes all? These and a number of other intellectually intriguing questions were discussed at the most recent Tenth Dems Book Club when it sat down to debate Thomas Friedman's "The Lexus and the Olive Tree."

Although written five years ago, I believe Friedman's thesis is very much relevant today. Globalization is the political system in control of things big and small around the world. No longer in a "red team" and "blue team" world of the Cold War, the post-Cold War world of globalization is shaped more by bonds than by bombs. A bad government will most likely be ousted not by armed rebellion but rather by angry shareholders who have lost all their savings due to financial mismanagement condoned by that government.

Is outsourcing bad? Maybe for some employees in the U.S. but not for the rising middle class in India or Jordan, according to Friedman. And an employed India or Egypt means stability for the region. Why? You'll need to read the book to get a lengthy answer but Friedman's "McDonald's" theory, that no two countries that each have a McDonald's restaurant in them have ever gone to war against each other, should intrigue you enough to read it. Friedman seems to have visited every country, airport and hotel there is and strings together a solid theory on how the world is becoming a global village with the old, the olive tree, coming into conflict with the new, the Lexus. It's a great read and his pre-9/11 insight on Islamic terrorism and Osama Bin Laden was ahead of its time.

While there was a wide range of opinions about the book there was agreement that the Tenth Dems Book Club was a great way to have fun discussing political books. All who attended looked forward to the next meeting. The next book club discussion will be April 20 at Border's book store in downtown Highland Park. The next book selection will be announced soon on the Tenth Dems website: www.tenthdems.org.



Write To the 10th Dems Newsletter

If you have a comment or thought you'd like to have included in the Tenth Dems Newsletter, email us at comments@tenthdems.org.

We will gladly consider letters, articles or columns from our readers. Please include your name and phone number for verification, as well as your city of residence.

