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

Or write to:  
Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Chair, Tenth Dems  
P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015

Visit the website: [www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org)

Newsletter: [newsletter@tenthdems.org](mailto:newsletter@tenthdems.org)

Editor: Barbara Altman

**Editorial Staff:** Joan Attenberg, Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins, Carmen Corbett, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Daniel Goldberg, John Hmurovic, Paul Kelly, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Ross Nickow, Sam Piro, George Rosenblit, Sharon Sanders, Steve Sheffey, Laurie Kaplan Singh, Marla Sundh, Neesa Sweet, Rachel Waddick

**Design:** Terry Jones

**Distribution:** Glenn Stier, Dave Du Bordieu, Cosette Winter

*The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

# Tenth for Obama is Fired Up and Ready to Go

by Sam Piro

Tenth for Obama is a large grassroots group from the 10th District that has come together to support Barack Obama in the 2008 election. We are from all walks of life, include all age groups, and have many varied interests. However, we all have one common goal: to help Barack Obama succeed in his race for the presidency of the United States.

We were very active throughout the primary. We sent people to the Chicago volunteer headquarters, helped provide food, and organized housing for interns and out-of-state volunteers. We organized multiple trips for canvassers to several states, including Iowa, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Indiana. Some of these were long day-trips and some of them lasted a few days.

We set up regular local phone banks and helped teach people to make calls from their homes using the [my.barackobama.com](http://my.barackobama.com) call system. We made thousands of calls into dozens of states before their primaries. We spoke with people about why, especially as Illinoisans who know him, we support Senator Obama. We helped other states collect and organize volunteers well in advance of their primaries.

Speaking for myself, I find the personal contact I made with fellow citizens across the country extremely interesting, educational, and rewarding in its own right. I feel strongly that voting is the

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# Tenth News

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JULY 2008

Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter

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## A Clintonite for Obama

by Rachel Waddick

I was an ardent Hillary Clinton supporter.

Correction: I am an ardent Hillary Clinton supporter.

And that is why this November I am voting for Barack Obama.

Trust me, fellow Clintonites, I understand your pain. As a 22-year-old woman, I was uplifted and intensely motivated by her intelligence and drive, her ability to laugh at herself on Saturday Night Live, her dedication to her supporters, and her unflinching way of absorbing media negativity and moving on.

As a journalism and political science double-major, I quickly noted that the media's obsession with Barack Obama's charismatic appeal, his undeniable talent for inspiring a crowd, and his handsome, genuine smile translated into a general disdain for Hillary. The media criticized her clothes, her husband, her "old" and "status-quo" ways, and even her lack of emotion — except for the one time when she got teary-eyed, and then she was TOO emotional.

Yet she took the criticisms like a champion, acknowledging them and moving forward. She never faltered in her composure or her resolve.

Hillary Clinton replaced all of my political disenchantments with absolute pride.

And I can't thank her enough for that.

But now it's time to acknowledge she will not be this year's presidential candidate. And as one of my friends told me a week or so ago: "Rachel, let go of the bitterness bear!"



So I wiped my eyes and blew my nose and decided to finally relinquish my grasp on that oh-so-comforting stuffed animal. I have decided to move maturely onward to fling all of the passion and love I have for Hillary towards electing Barack Obama.

She has pleaded with her followers to support him with the same fervor as we have supported her. She openly praised his campaign and recognized his phenomenal leadership capabilities. Sprawling across her personal website are the words: "Support Senator Barack Obama Today," with a place to sign up and donate time or money — or both — to his campaign.

Her support of him has encouraged me to delve into Barack Obama literature. I have read his website, looked at his voting record, and read his speeches, his interviews, and editorials written by his diehard supporters. And the realization I have reached is an astounding one: I like him.

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# What Do Women Want...from Barack Obama?

by Neesa Sweet

Between January and June I went to four states — Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Indiana — to work for Hillary Clinton. As the months wore on, I regretfully admitted that Obama had a better fundraising strategy and a better organizing strategy. I also noted an odd phenomenon.

When I read his words, I agreed with him. I work in organization development, helping people in companies to get along better, so I'm particularly sensitive to language patterns and how they affect people. Obama was doing all the things I wished Hillary would — painting a positive picture, using generalities at the right moments, using broad strokes that multiple audiences could relate to in different ways. He didn't keep referring to "problems" like Hillary did, which tends to evoke in people all the negative feelings associated with the problems; instead he asked people to focus on a better future. I knew that "change" wasn't a very specific picture of a future — but Hillary wasn't offering one either.

Why, then, didn't I feel excited when I saw or heard him? Why didn't I love Obama? So many of my friends did, so many people got excited at the chance to see or meet him, and I had none of the sense of emotion and kinship I felt around Hillary.

Since there is no doubt I'll vote for and work hard for Obama, I wanted to love him and feel happy at the prospect of seeing his face on TV for eight years. I wanted to figure out why I didn't and offer the solution as a basis for advice for reaching out to others like me. And I wanted to



know if other former Hillary people had the same or different reactions or could point out other "missing" pieces. So, in addition to looking at my own reactions, I asked a few other 10th District, former Hillary-supporting, likely Obama-voting women what they were looking for as well.

I realized the gap for me was about empathy. People made fun of Bill Clinton's ability to "feel your pain," but it worked. When I saw Bill on TV, I felt that he was MY president taking care of me. I had the same sense with Hillary. And the fact that she also had to struggle with things that men didn't

only made her seem stronger, more empathetic, and more relatable. Hillary had to worry about people making fun of her pantsuits; Obama could run off and play basketball and no one made any jokes.

I had no sense that Obama could feel my pain. I experienced him as cool, logical, and imperious, even though he had all the right answers. He had written about his vulnerabilities in his books—but, for me, they didn't come through when I saw him speak.

So for me, what I would want Obama to do is to be a little vulnerable at the same time he was being strong. I would also want him to be ever more specific in his positive pictures. What is America going to be like a year into his presidency? When I wake up in the morning how is my life going to be different? What will be changed?

That's what I want. Following are the answers others gave when I asked the question:

## *"What would it take for you to really feel enthusiastic about Barack Obama?"*

### **Maureen Hammond, Producer**

What I want from Barack Obama is what I value most in Hillary — a good grasp of the big picture based on in-depth knowledge of its smaller components. She seems able to see and analyze how zillions of variables contribute to any situation, and she is able to sort through this and develop a sensible way of working through to a solution. While Obama is certainly inspirational and motivating, I feel our leader also must have this deep well of knowledge... something the White House has been missing these past 7+ years!!

### **Barbara Vahlkamp, Gallery Owner**

I want him to be more definitive and specific. Hillary put her policy on the table and he couches his policy in slogans and generalities. I don't feel I can get to the heart of what he stands for. I'll vote for him because I'm a Democrat and I stand for Democratic policies, but I'm fearful. I don't know exactly what he stands for.

### **Tamy Jacobs, Pre-School Director**

I wanted to vote for Hillary because she's a woman and has a woman's sensibility. She knows about the struggle to live in a really sexist world. I worry when I meet high school and

college age people who don't seem to have or understand feminist views, who don't get that it was a big thing that Hillary was a woman and running for president. So I am a little concerned. I have sons and I want them and other sons and daughters to know that there is nothing that women can't do. Women understand men's struggles. I'm not sure men understand women's. I meet people who love Obama — my husband does. I'm going to have to get to know him. McCain scares me. I don't want more war or an anti-abortion situation.

### **Jane Talesnick, Early Childhood Specialist**

I want to feel his passion and way to implement change more clearly. I want to hear him clarify his points with action steps, that he's fervent about these issues, and that this is the way he's going to approach them.

### **Susan Olken, Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant**

I need to feel that he has a greater sense of international and global issues than I think he does. I want him to demonstrate that and how he would have a greater standing globally. How could he do that? It could be through the debates and detailing more specific things he plans to do.

# Lest We Forget: Bush's Privatization Bandwagon

## He tried to panic us so he could kill Social Security

*This is the fifth in an ongoing series about the abuses of the Bush administration.*

by George Rosenblit

Early in 2005, Bush started on a road show touring 60 cities in 60 days to promote Social Security reform via privatization. The president's "conversations" on the issue were carefully orchestrated and rehearsed. The audiences were packed with like-minded Republicans and individuals invited to comment who were told what to say. Anyone in the audience who tried to voice an unscripted question was escorted out of the meeting hall. Howard Dean, the new Democratic chairman at the time, called the forums "rigged spectacles" rather than town hall meetings.

I was troubled by the repeated statement made by President Bush that the Social Security program was "flat broke" and "in crisis." He tried to panic us. The basic facts indicate that Social Security was and is not broke. There is no crisis! Social Security is still creating a surplus! The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that Social Security benefits paid out in 2020 will exceed the payroll tax income, while the Social Security Board of Trustees (SSBT) pegs this date at 2018. But it is important to note that the Social Security Trust Fund is projected to have more than \$6 trillion in government bonds at that time. This surplus is projected by the SSBT to provide full benefits until 2042; the CBO's projection is for a decade longer, to 2052. After that, Social Security payments could be continued at a reduced rate of about 78 percent of scheduled benefits, funded with annual revenues. With a little tweaking, such as increasing the income cap for paying the payroll tax without increasing the tax rate, as Barack Obama now proposes, full benefits can be extended well beyond 2052.

The Republican administration emphasized retirement income when it spoke out about privatization in 2005. The fact is that only 63 percent of Social Security outlays are for retired workers. The balance, 37 percent, is used to pay monthly benefits to 18 million disabled workers, surviving spouses of deceased workers, spouses of retired or disabled

workers, and children of retired, disabled, or deceased workers.

Privatizing part of Social Security premiums, allowing workers to invest part of their Social Security funds in financial markets, would put all facets of the Social Security program at risk. Privatization would leave less money in the system to sustain the disability and survivor program as well as a safety net for those who opt out of privatization. Many of the disabled and survivors would fall below the poverty line. Some are making hard choices between buying food or prescription drugs now. The promise of great financial rewards in the stock market for retirement income can be misleading and possibly disastrous. We know that there are winners and losers every day in both securities and funds. It's risky. If the market is down at retirement, then retirement income will be down or non-existent.

Bush realized that "privatization" was a word that scared people, so he renamed it "private accounts;" the name was changed, but the facts were not.

The cost to manage Social Security in its present form is about one percent of assets. Under private accounts, the fees charged by financial institutions to give advice, manage, and/or process these accounts could take a big bite out of the money available to invest. Estimates are as high as 20 percent. The greedier the institution, the less money left for investment. And the greed factor is there as evidenced by other countries that have had experiences with privatization. For example, Britain's Pension Commission warned that "Those who think Mrs. Thatcher's privatization solved the pension problem are living in a fool's paradise. A lot of additional government money will be required to avoid the return of widespread poverty among the elderly!"

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## Kirk Unmasked:

# Mark Kirk Opposes Extension of Unemployment Benefits

*This is the fourteenth in an ongoing series.*

Republican Congressman Mark Kirk has once again allowed us to peek behind his 'moderate' mask, unveiling his true identity as an elected official primarily dedicated to the Bush administration and the special interests it represents — and not the interests of the American people.

This time, Kirk revealed his priorities by voting against H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act — a bill that extends unemployment benefits by an extra 13 weeks for all unemployed workers and by 26 weeks for workers in states such as Michigan, California, and Alaska, where the unemployment rate is greater than six percent.

Along with 136 other House Republicans, Kirk opposed the measure. President Bush, the head of Kirk's party, has threatened to veto the bill, contending that the U.S. unemployment rate currently is too low to warrant the extension of benefits.

But, as Democratic Congressman Sander Levin of Michigan, one of the bill's co-sponsors, remarked: the Republicans who oppose the measure are "obeying the position, if not the orders, of the White House," rather than looking out for the interests of the American people they have been elected to represent.

Kirk's decision to support the Republican White House at the expense of unemployed workers struggling to make ends meet in a weak economy (an outcome of the Bush administration's reckless fiscal policy, which Kirk has consistently supported) comes as little surprise to those of his constituents who follow his votes. We're all too familiar with Kirk's willingness to support the political aims of his Republican colleagues, even when it means denying sorely-needed assistance to vulnerable Americans. That's why we're committed to replacing Mark Kirk with Democratic challenger Dan Seals — a leader we know we can count on to put the needs of the people first.



# Daniel Biss – Netroots, Grassroots, and Shoe Leather

by Paul Kelly

As Democrats all across the country know, there is a new generation of leaders in 2008 who feel, as Senator Barack Obama said, quoting Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., “the fierce urgency of now.” Daniel Biss, who is running for Illinois House of Representative in the 17th District, is one of those leaders.

Biss has impressive credentials. He is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of Chicago, after getting his doctorate from MIT and his undergraduate degree from Harvard University. He volunteers as a math teacher at the North Lawndale College Preparatory High School, is on the steering committee of Our Climate Matters, serves on the Board of Directors of the Democratic Party of Evanston, and is a member of the Social Action Committee of Temple Beth Israel.

He also serves on the Voice and Action Committee of the Young Professionals of Evanston, and he is on the Advisory Board of the Chicago branch of Democratic Leadership for the 21st Century. In his spare time he saves kittens from trees.

An educator, Biss is deeply concerned about the state of education funding in Illinois. A mathematician, he has run the numbers, and he understands that on the current path, the United States and Illinois are headed toward major financial crises unless we fix the state of funding for our schools. He is an independent progressive who is also concerned about the environment, mass transit, quality health care, and campaign finance reform.

Biss has been running an impressive campaign befitting his resume. This includes using netroots tools such as social websites Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn, all in an effort to connect with the constituents, his supporters, and the community. He was featured in *The Wall Street Journal* (among other press stories) for his prowess on the fundraising website ActBlue – and he has raised more than \$80,000 on that site already. (You can go to [www.actblue.com/entity/fundraisers/17917](http://www.actblue.com/entity/fundraisers/17917) and see for yourself.)



Daniel Biss

While his use of social media to get the word out has been featured in the press, these new tools are not what drive his campaign.

Biss has a history as a driven grassroots organizer, including work as the co-chair of the Illinois Committee of 100 and the Illinois Kerry Travelers. While the clicks of mouses on social websites like ActBlue have gotten the media attention, it is the clicks of good old-fashioned shoe leather on pavement that mark his campaign.

Since last summer, Biss has been going door-to-door in all of the 17th District communities, talking to residents. He has studied, and continues to study and get to know, every corner of the district.

Biss's is the model of an inclusive grassroots campaign. He invites everyone to go to [www.danielbiss.com](http://www.danielbiss.com) to participate in changing Springfield.

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## The Barack Obama We Know

by Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins

We Illinois Democrats are all feeling a bit giddy! OUR Barack Obama, OUR Senator, OUR Democratic rock star from Illinois is going to be the party's nominee for President of the United States. We are living history. And we in Illinois have the front row seat to that moment. Because he is ours.

And here in Illinois it seems as if he really does transcend party lines. Because we know him, and we know that he is the real deal.

But in many of my conversations with friends in other parts of the country, even with those inclined to vote Democratic, many tell me that they do not think they know Barack Obama and are having a hard time catching the excitement that those of us who do know him are feeling.

To those people I tell the story of the man I had the privilege to see in the General Assembly, working on criminal justice reform. That simple eyewitness story has changed a lot of their votes. I know, because they told me so. And several of them encouraged me to try to find a way to tell that story to more people.

And since one of the best things about being a Democrat, I believe, is being the voice of the “people,” at the grassroots, I decided to use the grassroots “voice of the people” power of the Internet to do just that.

I bought and created my own simple website for all of us here in Illinois to use to tell the nation about the man we know. Not through the Obama website and campaign products. Just our own simple stories.

I bought a URL in early June at [www.thebarackobamaweknow.com](http://www.thebarackobamaweknow.com). I put up my story. And I would like to ask you to send me YOURS to put up there too.

### My story about Barack Obama is:

“I did not know Senator Barack Obama at all, but like many others here in Illinois became completely convinced about his leadership abilities

after I had the opportunity to watch him deftly help guide our state through a crisis in our criminal justice system. I can say from personal experience that Barack Obama definitely has what we need to lead this nation and is the man that can help us solve our most complex problems.

“It was the spring of 2003 when I made the long drive down to our capital city of Springfield, Illinois to give testimony regarding a complex series of criminal justice reform bills being considered in the Illinois General Assembly.

“Three members of my family had been brutally murdered, and I went representing a victim organization concerned with some of the legislation. The hearings were tedious and very contentious and went on before the state's Senate Judiciary Committee for over five hours that day.

“Illinois had been through a very traumatic couple of years. The *Chicago Tribune* and other major media outlets had done lengthy and high-profile exposés about the many problems in the state's criminal justice system, including the release of several wrongfully convicted men, some on death row, some within hours of execution, and millions of dollars of taxpayer money wasted through incompetence. A study commission had recommended a lengthy list of reforms. Victims' families and prosecutors had been through months of agonizing public hearings.

“After the state legislature refused to implement even a single one of the needed reforms, Illinois's previous Governor made national history by commuting the entire death row population to natural life sentences. The political climate in the state was highly charged and everyone knew the problems were systemic and a lot was at stake. When the new legislature and Governor came to office, all these pieces of reform legislation were brought forward again, and all had to pass through the Senate Judiciary Committee.

“The lead co-sponsors of the reform bills were State Senators John

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# Leave the Question of the Legality of Same-Sex Marriage to the States

by Daniel Goldberg

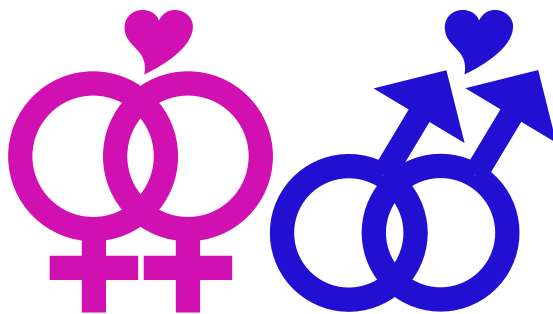
The recent California Supreme Court decision to overturn a same-sex marriage ban, along with the accompanying migration to California of gay couples, has reignited the same-sex marriage debate that seems so pressing in all even-numbered years.

Calls for a constitutional amendment to thwart “activist judges” have redoubled. Nothing could be worse for America.

The debate we are now witnessing is no longer over gay rights. Neither of the presumptive presidential nominees supports same-sex marriage. Hillary Clinton didn’t either; nor did John Kerry or George Bush in 2004. The real debate is not a new one; it is over states’ rights.

Today, only Massachusetts and now California permit same-sex marriages. New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, and Connecticut allow civil unions, while more than a dozen other states give same-sex couples some legal rights. Many others have taken definitive steps in the opposite direction.

That is a great deal of diversity within a single country. It is one of the many characteristics of America that make it great—we are, after all, made up of states. The thirteen original colonies were founded with their own unique histories — some as religious sanctuaries, some as secular havens, some as royal charters, others as military strongholds — and drew correspondingly diverse constituents. They evolved different sets of laws and traditions and maintained them even after the birth of the United States. Our Constitution was devised to embrace the differences among the states and to welcome even greater diversity as our country grew.



The proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage would have the opposite effect. Rather than uniting our country by accepting its unique frame, it would tear the country apart by imposing regulations that are both unjust and divisive — unjust for the same reasons that the California court cited: sexual orientation, like race or gender, “does not constitute a legitimate basis upon which to deny or withhold legal rights.”

Such injustice is divisive. What our country doesn’t need right now, in a time more politically polarized than any in recent history, is another *Roe v. Wade*, an issue which, 20, 30, and even 40 years past its decision will continue to divide Americans along political lines and decide the outcomes of political races with much greater issues at stake.

By allowing Americans to decide the issue on a state-by-state basis, we allow same-sex couples to live in communities that accept the legitimacy of their families — where children can grow up without constant taunting and where parents can live without the constant fear of hate crimes. Although a child’s development may not be dependent on the sex of his or her parents as much as the love between them, children can be seriously damaged by the abusive behavior of others, and it is the unfortunate truth that this behavior may be related to a parent’s sexual orientation.

And so, in a most Jeffersonian tradition, same-sex marriage is an issue that is best left up to the states. In time, the relentless march of progress will sweep across our nation. It will take protests and marches and real action as it did for women’s suffrage and for black civil rights, but it will never come about by violating the most fundamental tenets of these united states.

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## Will the Dems Achieve Unity?

by Carmen A. Corbett

In the interest of full disclosure, I was and am an ardent supporter of Barack Obama for President. Nonetheless, I totally empathize with the supporters of Hillary Clinton who feel that their dream has been denied. Prior to Super Tuesday, I was preparing myself to vote for her as the Democratic nominee despite the fact I truly believed that Obama was uniquely qualified to be commander-in-chief at this time in our country’s history. My vote for Senator Obama was by no means a vote against Hillary Clinton, but it was my clear preference.

I was open to the possibility of Clinton as the inevitable nominee given her national name recognition and huge war chest. After all, isn’t that how politics works? It was my fundamental optimism that led me downtown to the Obama phone bank to call voters in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, etc.

I first met Barack Obama in March 2003, prior to his campaign for the U.S. Senate. I came to believe during his senate race that he had a unique set of skills that would make him a very effective legislator. It is that same skill set that will make him a great president.

The Democratic Party had a very accomplished field of candidates, but there would be only one nominee. To the surprise of many, Barack Obama was still standing on Super Tuesday, and as of June 3, he is the presumptive nominee of the party.

Now what?

There is no doubt that there was blatant sexism as well as racism

evident during the primary season. While unfortunate, it should not be surprising. As an African American woman I can assure you that both sexism and racism are alive and well. For many, this has apparently been an “aha moment.” It would have been helpful and appropriate had Senator Clinton spoke to the issue of sexism during the campaign, as Senator Obama addressed racism. However, their candidacies are tangible evidence that significant progress has been made on both fronts, despite the fact that there is still work to be done. Like many others I will forever be grateful to Senator Clinton for blazing the trail for my daughter and all of the women who will come after her.

It is my hope that the supporters of Hillary Clinton, as well as independents and Republicans, will come to realize just how uniquely qualified Barack Obama is to be president at a critical time in our country’s history, and that John McCain is not a viable alternative. McCain is on the wrong side of many issues. But most important, his Supreme Court appointments would determine the future direction of this country for generations to come. The fact that our rule of law has been violated by the current administration should make us realize just how much is at stake in this election.

Party unity is needed – not for the sake of the party, but for your sake and the sake of your children and their children.

To all the passionate supporters of Hillary Clinton I say, “Jump in. The water is fine.”



*Tenth Dems volunteers and interns came out for Libertyville Days to support Dan Seals and other Democratic candidates. This small part of the large Democratic contingent includes (from left to right): Bev Hmurovic, Lexi Zarecky, Rachel Waddick, Daniel Murphy, Barbara Craig, Dan Seals, Cheryl Greenman, Vlad Voskoboynikov, and John McDonald.*

## ***Kirk's Values Are Not Ours***

*by Steve Sheffey*

If all I knew about Mark Kirk was what the Kirk campaign tells us, I might support him, too. But I suspect that many people who previously voted for him don't know the full story. It is our job to get the message out to our friends and neighbors that there is another side to Mark Kirk.

The week after Kirk was re-elected in 2006, he voted to elect Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) to the post of Republican Policy Committee Chairman. Issa had previously referred to Israel as an "apartheid state" and called for the U.N. to re-draw Israel's borders. Does Kirk agree with Issa on Israel? Doubtful. But he voted for him anyway (apparently Kirk himself is not a single-issue voter when it comes to Israel). Fortunately, Kirk's fellow Republicans rejected Issa by a 2-1 margin. Anyone who calls Israel an "apartheid state" does not deserve to be in Congress, let alone Republican leadership, yet Kirk voted for him — another example of Kirk supporting politicians whose agenda is not ours.

Kirk voted for the Terry Schiavo Restoration Act, which required the federal government to forcibly insert a feeding tube into a woman who had been in a vegetative state for 15 years, against the wishes of her husband. If this is Kirk's idea of quality healthcare, he committed legislative malpractice. Nancy Pelosi said at the time that "Michael Schiavo is faced with a devastating decision, but having been through the proper legal process, the decision for his wife's care belongs to him and to God." Kirk thought the decision belonged to the federal government and followed Bush and the Republican majority. If Kirk were running against a Democrat who supported the Schiavo Act, this would not be an issue. But he's not. He's running against Dan Seals, and Seals would have voted no.

In 2006, Kirk voted in favor of the federal government acquiring a 29-foot tall cross on Mt. Soledad, near San Diego, after a federal judge ruled that the cross could not stand in the municipal park because it violated a state constitutional prohibition on the governmental endorsement of any one religion. In December 2007, Kirk voted in favor of a House resolution acknowledging and supporting the "role played by Christianity in the founding of the United States." Neither vote made me proud of my congressman.

Kirk's campaign literature omits these votes because they show a different Mark Kirk from the person many of his supporters think

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# **Political Stunts**

*by Sharon Sanders*

Mark Kirk is once again offering to put bandages on major problems in this country. If you study his voting record back to 2001, you see a pattern in which there is no pattern. He's still voting with his Republican buddies almost 90 percent of the time and he's moderate when it's politically expedient. He continually votes for the conservative agenda of tax cuts for the wealthy, protection for corporations over individuals, liability caps on lawsuits, privatizing Social Security, and underfunding public education, and he has faithfully stood by the president for a war based on lies in which more than 4,000 American soldiers have died needlessly.

Mr. Kirk is now accusing Dan Seals of doing a publicity stunt in relation to the oil crisis. And yet that is exactly what Mark Kirk has done time and time again. He's the master of the media circus. Now he's proposed some solutions to stem the rise of our skyrocketing energy costs, none of which would diminish the influence of the oil and gas industries and lobbyists. A summer moratorium on gas taxes? Tax credits for employers subsidizing mass transit for their employees? Bandages on the problems, but no real cures offered here.

Mark Kirk claims he is for renewable energy sources and research on energy alternatives. However, I have never heard him address the fact that we only have two flex fuel stations, or E85 tanks, in all of the 10th District even though there are now approximately 200 in the rest of the state. I have never heard Mr. Kirk speak to the issue of importing sugar ethanol from Brazil, a country heading for 100 percent energy self-sufficiency in just a few years, a country more than willing to export ethanol to us. He's for free markets, but not a word about importing sugar ethanol. Corn ethanol may not be a panacea, but sugar ethanol just may be. Lip service is easy, but a real push for renewables, plug-ins, solar, and wind is not. After all, Mr. Kirk is vehemently against the Kyoto Treaty. If signing it would help make our planet safer and our air healthier to breathe, why would he only be concerned whether or not China and Russia sign the treaty? Yes, it would be wonderful if they did agree to reducing greenhouse gases, but since we are the biggest consumer of non-renewable, carbon-emitting fuels, shouldn't we just sign on to Kyoto because it's the right thing to do and because we care about the health of our children?

I have never heard Mr. Kirk talk about the responsibilities of our automobile industry to produce more energy-efficient cars. Instead the onus is on the consumer to use "good common sense" when making purchases. I have heard him speak to the need for new refineries in this country, but that and the hypothetical need for offshore drilling is just a ruse to support oil industry interests. The oil companies certainly don't need financial incentives to improve the ones they have. New refineries would just add to our already devastating carbon-emission levels. Kirk favors raising the CAFE standards for automobiles that achieve 33 miles per gallon by 2015, yet Ford, Volkswagen, and other auto makers for years have had hybrids and flex-fuel cars that can presently get 34 miles per gallon. Why aren't those numbers mandated right now, not in the future? These cars are being sold en masse in South America and parts of Europe.

I also haven't heard one word from Mr. Kirk about regulating the commodities and hedge funds that are manipulating the price of oil by placing bets on the direction of oil prices. What about the falling dollar, which ultimately means massive profits for our global corporations but which negatively affects the price of oil and gas here at home? And finally, what about the massive sale of our debt to China in order to fund this insane war which further adds to the devaluation of the dollar and increases in the price of oil? Not a thing from Mr. Kirk on these issues.

So, Mr. Kirk, before you criticize Dan Seals, how about looking in the mirror?

# Introducing Carol Javens

by Marla Sundb

Carol Javens is running for State Representative from Illinois' 53rd Legislative District and she wants you to know that she brings a unique set of qualifications to the contest.

An R.N., a mother, an educator, and an activist, Carol believes that the skills needed for success in those endeavors are supremely transferable to public service.

Possessing a life-long interest in the political process, Carol discovered that she could roll up her sleeves and help impact change at the state and local levels. When a board officer in High School District 214 wanted to ban certain books from the curriculum because of their purported "immorality," Carol led the campaign that successfully prevented the addition of more board members who held the same views. Under Carol's leadership, the board remained dedicated to maintaining quality education directed by teachers, not by narrow special interest groups.

Currently, Carol serves as Director of Nursing at the Plum Grove of Palatine, a long-term care facility. This position provides Carol a unique viewpoint to see what happens when the system fails us.

Tired of the career politicians in this district who have not been

accountable to the public, Carol wants to bring her common sense and practical ideas to bear so as to become part of the solution.

One of Carol's top priorities is healthcare for our seniors and low level income earners, who often are shut out of the limited amount of community-based services needed to help them lead more productive, healthy lives. She believes we need to increase these community services. She has the vision to see that those services can save tax dollars in the long run.

Access to quality education is another priority of hers. The State of Illinois pays for special education at 100 percent of levels from the late 1970s, which has little impact on the costs of providing education for these students in 2008. With the number of identified special education students on the rise; the burden is on property tax payers.

Being available to her constituents is another priority of Carol's. She plans to be a full-time representative, to hold regular public forums, and to be available when residents need an ear or a problem resolved.

Become acquainted with Carol Javens. Visit her website at [www.caroljavens.com](http://www.caroljavens.com). You'll find her energy and enthusiasm contagious.

*NOTE: District 53 includes Buffalo Grove (100% in Cook County, and a portion of Lake County), part of Arlington Heights north of the Metra line and Kensington Road, north Mount Prospect, Wheeling, and Prospect Heights.*

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## Obama We Know *continued from page 4*

Cullerton and Barack Obama. I had heard of the very prominent attorney Senator Cullerton, but did not have a clue who the other guy was. The bills were highly complex, legally often very technical, and feelings were running very deep. Law enforcement, state's attorneys, victims families, civil rights groups, science experts, human rights organizations, defense attorneys, media and religious figures, politicians and public officials from all over the state were very concerned with the details of the various bills. There was little agreement, it was all incredibly complex, and yet the need was clear that we had to make some big changes.

"While waiting for my turn to speak, I listened to the other witnesses give the most complicated and technical testimony imaginable. I watched more than a dozen state senators for hours and they were, understandably, all over the place: in and out of the room, often on the phone, or eating, or reading, or talking to someone else, while the testimony droned on and on. But not Barack Obama.

"He was really, really listening. And fully engaged. And incredibly insightful. And helpful. I remember several hours into the hearing leaning over to the woman from the League of Women Voters seated next to me and saying, 'Who is this Barack Obama guy? He is really good...'

"Because what I had been seeing that day, and what I saw several other times I had to return to Springfield for similarly lengthy hearings

and debates, was a man so competent, so intelligent, so articulate, so patient, so 'on-task,' so able to cut to the very heart of the issue and craft so well the solution to such complex problems, that he stood out unmistakably. He never broke focus, hour after hour, from the important testimony being given. He listened intently without distraction. He asked incisive and important questions. And when he would finally speak after difficult debate, the discussion would be over. Because invariably what he would say was so clearly the commonsense solution that it was evident to everyone in the room. He spoke with such charismatic authority, he showed such leadership, conscience, and clarity of thought and word, that opposition simply melted away. His presence just filled the room. His solutions received strong bipartisan support and dozens of complex reforms were passed into law. In the final package of bills that passed there were many 'winners' and no 'losers.' Everyone was engaged, heard, and reasonable; acceptable solutions were found for all concerned. I am fortunate to now serve on a committee for the Illinois General Assembly that is monitoring the progress of those reforms.

"What I can say without equivocation is that knowing now the state of our nation, this is exactly the kind of man we need running everything from Cabinet meetings in the White House, to international negotiations on the global stage."

E-mail me at [Bishop4CookCty@aol.com](mailto:Bishop4CookCty@aol.com) and let's tell the nation about the man we know, and enjoy our front row seat to history.

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## Clintonite for Obama *continued from page 1*

I really, really do.

Not because he's a Democrat, but because he's a man who shares my ideals and who wants to bring hope and change to the people of a tired, disillusioned, aching nation.

Fellow Clintonites, if you want at least four more years of the same lies, ignorance, and disregard, John McCain is the candidate for you.

Instead, I ask you to help me send a message. A message to your fellow Democrats, your fellow Americans, the Bush administration, and even to the world: never again.

Never again will we allow the past eight years to repeat themselves.

Never again will America disrespect fellow sovereign nations. Never again will we allow the youth of this country to think that politics is a self-serving entity. Never again will we be so disrespected by the very people we elect.

Put aside your grudges and bitterness and open yourself up to the possibility of "President Obama." Read his website. Learn of his accomplishments. Research him.

I guarantee you will begin to understand Hillary's support of him.

But don't throw away those "Hillary Clinton" banners, don't forget the saying "Yes, she can," and don't ignore the remarkable precedent she has set. Because, fellow Clintonites, there's always next time.

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P.O. Box 523  
Deerfield, IL 60015

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## **Lest We Forget** *continued from page 3*

Social Security was never intended to be the sole source of retirement income. Pensions and personal savings are the other two important sources. Our government would do well to ensure the stability and safety of pension plans. Younger workers should be allowed and encouraged to save in tax deferred 401(k) accounts or IRAs with other sources of money, not with Social Security funds.

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. Social Security is a 73-year-old promise from one generation to the next that's never been broken. It's never missed a payment. Here in Illinois, nearly two million people receive Social Security benefits, and more than 200,000 of these are disabled workers, so it is important that we protect our Social Security system not only for retirees, widows, and surviving children, but for disabled workers as well.

You may ask why doesn't Congress act now to legislate a long-term solution for Social Security? The answer is that we need to have the right environment in Washington — a Democratic president, enough Democrats in both houses of Congress to pass the legislation, and enough Democrats in the Senate to prevent a filibuster. So get out and help Dan Seals, Dick Durbin, and Barack Obama win their races.

To join the Tenth Dems team as a volunteer now, call 847-266-8683.

## **Kirk's Values** *continued from page 6*

they're voting for. That's a testament to the political savvy of the Kirk campaign—he's won in a Democratic-leaning district by projecting one image to Republicans and another to Democrats and independents. It's no accident that his yard signs and bumper stickers don't mention that he's a Republican.

Kirk is generally good on Israel (notwithstanding his vote for Issa, which was inexcusable), but he's wrong on too many other issues. Since Dan Seals also is good on Israel, we should focus on where the candidates differ. Congress will remain strongly pro-Israel no matter who wins. This election is not a referendum on Mark Kirk, but an opportunity for us to choose who will better represent our views for the next two years, Dan Seals or Mark Kirk.

If you're pro-Israel and you agree with Kirk on all of the votes reported above, then vote for him. But if you are an independent or a Democrat, you don't have to compromise your other values. Dan Seals is good on Israel AND the other issues we care about.

For more information about Dan Seals and his views on Israel and the Middle East, visit [www.dansealsforcongress.com/issues/israel.php](http://www.dansealsforcongress.com/issues/israel.php)

## **Tenth for Obama** *continued from page 1*

minimum requirement of an involved citizen. If you have had enough of the last eight years, here is a chance to help change the direction of this great country. By all accounts, this election will be close. Now is the time to speak up. Let your voice be heard!

Now that Barack Obama is the presumptive Democratic nominee, we are ready to move into general election mode. We need your help — please join us.

Tenth for Obama has organized an informational meeting to develop a strategy on how it can work to end Bush/Republican/McCain control of the country. The meeting is on Tuesday, July 1, at 7:00 p.m. at the Deerfield Public Library. The library is at 920 Waukegan Road in Deerfield.

To RSVP, or for more information, you can go to <http://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/4ghf> or call Sam Piro at 847-266-VOTE (8683). Space is limited, so please respond soon.