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Republicans Adopt New Theme Song for Upcoming Campaign

by John Hmurovic

The resurgent Republican Party has announced that it is taking a page from Depression era Democrats by adopting a song from those dark days as a means of rallying support for their policies.

During the Depression era presidential campaign of 1932, Franklin Roosevelt used the song "Happy Days are Here Again" to reflect his optimism for America's future. In the years since, the tune has become something of a theme song for the Democratic Party, which still sees itself as a party of optimism.

*Happy days are here again
 The skies above are clear again
 So let's sing a song of cheer again
 Happy days are here again*

Republican Chairman Michael Steele says just



as Democrats experienced a huge surge in support in 1932, Republicans are in the early stages of a similar resurgence. And, just as Democrats adopted a song from that era, the Republicans are now doing the same, adopting a theme song from 1932.

Steele says the song they selected perfectly fits today's Republican Party. The song was written
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Tenth News

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George Rosenblit, Volunteer Extraordinaire, Gets the Job Done

by Jane Goldenberg

If you've been to a Tenth Dems event, meeting, or rally in the past six years, chances are you've rubbed shoulders with George Rosenblit, who at 85, often shows more zest for making political hay than many people half his age.

Fresh off his volunteer effort on behalf of the David Hoffman for U.S. Senate campaign, Rosenblit, a compact man with an intense yet friendly gaze and a firm handshake, is already planning his next articles for the *Tenth News* as well as agreeing to be the subject of this one.

When Rosenblit volunteers, he gets right in the trenches, ready to do whatever is necessary, including making phone calls, commenting in the blogosphere on behalf of a candidate or issue, placing signs on the roadway, or even building shelves. Since his retirement in 1989, Rosenblit said he typically gives half his time to volunteer causes, including, over the years, AARP, Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, and, most recently, the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats.

"When George says he's working half-time, I think of that old joke. That means 12 hours a day," said Barbara Altman, who, as editor of



George Rosenblit's energy and dedication to the Democratic cause continue to serve as a model for volunteers of all ages.

the *Tenth News*, works closely with Rosenblit. "He's the consummate volunteer."

"There's nothing he's not willing to do," said Lauren Beth Gash, founding chair of the Tenth Dems. "He takes initiative in a way most people simply don't."

When the Tenth Dems started selling campaign buttons and it turned into a far bigger fundraising program than anyone expected, Gash said, they didn't have anywhere to store the buttons. "[George] came in, took some of the interns and said we're going to buy some lumber," she said. Before the day was done, Rosenblit, with the interns mainly looking on, had installed shelves so they could store the merchandise in an organized manner.

Rosenblit's multi-faceted career, combining chemistry and marketing, prepared him well for his second career as a volunteer in public service. The Hartford, Connecticut native started as an organic chemistry major at the University of Connecticut before joining the Navy in 1944, during the waning days of World War II. When he completed his service in 1946, he married his college

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Heating Buildings with Direct Sunlight

by George Rosenblit

This is the eighth article in a series seeking to investigate and report on sources of energy and their relationship to public health and global warming.

In the article on solar energy that appeared in the January issue of this publication, we discussed the development and use of solar cells for generating electricity. In this article, let's examine the use of direct sunlight for heating homes. This involves the use of passive or active systems as explained below.

Passive Solar Heating

Passive Solar Heating presents the most cost-effective means of providing heat to buildings. Generally, the amount of solar energy that falls on the roof of a house is more than the total energy consumed within the house. Passive solar applications, when included in initial building design, add little or nothing to the cost of a building yet have the effect of realizing a reduction in operational costs and reduced equipment demand. The process is reliable, mechanically simple, and a viable asset to a home.

So, homes can be heated directly by the sun without using solar cells to produce electricity. If glass windows of sufficient area can be installed on the roof and/or side of a house, facing southerly, the visible and short wave infrared radiation from the sun will easily pass through the glass. It is advisable to use glass that has been optimally rated for solar installations.

Dark objects in the house, such as rugs, carpeting, and sofa coverings, will absorb this radiation, retaining heat that, in turn, emits long wave infrared radiation. This radiation is reflected from light walls and ceilings to bounce around the room, producing somewhat even heating.

This method, of course, works best in regions where there's direct sunlight most of the time and little or no overcast. Blinds or curtains should be open during the day to allow the sun's rays in and closed at night to retain the heat. Caulking around windows and the use of multi-pane windows will help reduce heat loss.

Skylights not only bring sunlight into the building for heating but also provide light, which reduces the need for energy-consuming electric light fixtures.

Passive Solar Cooling

In some southern regions of the United States where cooling is the problem rather than heating, steps can be taken to reduce the load on air conditioning systems. Passive cooling, which depends on passive heating principles, can be applied to your home, too, even if it's a modern building. It'll pay dividends. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, passive solar design can cut heating bills by as much as 50 percent. Find hints from [thedailygreen](http://thedailygreen.com) here:

www.thedailygreen.com/2007/01/11/cool-home-design/3676/. Also, here: www.thedailygreen.com/2007/07/09/keeping-your-cool/3585/.

Two homes were built for a Solar Energy Center study in humid, sun-baked Lakeland, Florida, to help demonstrate the benefits of passive

cooling. One was built using traditional design, while the other—a "minimum cooling energy building"—applied passive cooling strategies, such as well-designed overhangs, a white reflective roof, well-shaded or reflective double-glazed windows, and shady landscaping plus green features that go beyond that, such as solar photovoltaic panels. Results? The green home used 70 percent less energy. Its solar photovoltaic panels offset another 22 percent, making its net energy use nearly zero.

(See: http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/research/buildings/zero_energy/lakeland/index.htm.)



Active Solar Water Heating

Water mixed with antifreeze or ethanol (ethyl alcohol) acting as a heat exchange fluid can be heated by passing it through pipes embedded in black metal panels under glass. These flat-panel collector assemblies can be mounted on a flat or moderately pitched roof facing in a southerly direction. These should be securely mounted so as not to be damaged by wind.

This method is called active because a small pump is needed to circulate the above-mentioned fluid in a closed system to a coiled pipe mounted in a boiler having, for example, a 100-gallon capacity, and then back to the roof collector assemblies. These assemblies can generate heat higher than the boiling point of water on sunny days, even in the winter. The boiler, like the hot water heater used in homes, is fed cold water at one end, and hot water is drawn as needed. However, this type of system will not work during prolonged cloudy periods if the weather is extremely cold (See *Alternative Energy Demystified* by Stan Gibilisco, McGraw-Hill).

Generally, these systems are designed to operate below the boiling point of water. Though this solar heat may be supplemented by a gas or oil heater, the solar heat collected represents a major portion of the heat needed for the building. In a local installation, which is the largest solar thermal panel application in Illinois on an industrial building, 62 percent of the heat requirement is collected from the sun. This installation, located at 4800 S. Richmond in Chicago, has been in operation for several years during Chicago's freezing weather and cloudy days. It is reasonable to expect that 70-75 percent of its heat requirement can be collected with proper engineering design. This solar heat also provides for hot water usage. The building is a typical one-story industrial building occupied by several construction and service companies. Anyone who would like to visit the site to see the installation should call Robert Rafson at 312-961-0043.

A footnote to January's article on solar energy: Many residents of Chicago suburbs are installing solar panels on their roofs to take advantage of a 30 percent rebate for the installation from the State of Illinois and an additional 30 percent tax credit from the federal government's stimulus spending program. However, inspectors are finding that the current building codes do not address this new technology. The code books must be revised to address all types of renewable technology. (See "As Solar Energy Expands, Suburbs Are Still in the Dark," *Chicago Tribune*, 1/15/10, Section 4, page 1.)

Mark Kirk Votes Against Relief for Main Street

On March 18, President Obama signed the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act. The bill is intended to encourage private sector hiring through a series of tax incentives.

The Act passed the Senate (for the second time) on March 17. Thirteen Republicans and two independents joined 55 Democrats, including Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Roland Burris, in voting for its passage. Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson was the only Democrat to vote against it. *The New York Times* called the Senate vote a "rare example of bipartisan support in a capital that has become bitterly divided over...health care."

"I'm gratified that over a dozen Republicans agreed that the need for this jobs bill was urgent, and that they were willing to break out of the partisan morass to help us take this forward step for the American people," the President said. "I hope this is a prelude to further cooperation in the days and months to come, as we continue to work on digging our way out of the recession and rebuilding our economy in a way that works for all Americans and not just some Americans."

HIRE was approved in the House on March 4, with a 217-201 vote. Six Republicans joined 211 Democrats to support it. Current 10th District Congressman Mark Kirk, who seems to have shifted even further to the right since the beginning of the Obama administration, voted against the bill—along with most (166) members of his party. Kirk's opposition to the bill is especially notable in the face of Illinois' high unemployment rate, which hit 11.3 percent in January.

HIRE aims to spur private sector hiring by giving employers an



exemption from the 6.2 percent social security payroll tax through the end of 2010 for each new worker who previously was unemployed for at least 60 days. The bill also provides an additional \$1,000 tax credit for new employees who remain on the payroll for a full year. And it allows small businesses to accelerate depreciation on investments in equipment, permitting them to write off immediately purchases up to \$250,000.

HIRE also includes provisions to extend highway and mass transit programs through the end of the year, provides more funds for road and bridge construction projects, and offers tax credits to spur school construction and clean energy projects financed through Build America municipal bonds.

Most Republicans opposed the bill on the grounds that it would add to the national debt. "When are we going to stop spending money around here as if there's no tomorrow?" said Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH). "Because pretty soon there's going to be no tomorrow for our children as we add this debt to their backs." Of course, such fiscal responsibility did not stop Gregg and most members of his party from

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Republican Theme Song *continued from page 1*

by Harry Ruby (music) and Bert Kalmar (lyrics) and was popularized by Groucho Marx in the 1932 film *Horse Feathers*. The song's title is "I'm Against It."

*I don't know what they have to say,
It makes no difference anyway –
Whatever it is, I'm against it!
No matter what it is or who commenced it,
I'm against it.*

*Your proposition may be good
But let's have one thing understood –
Whatever it is, I'm against it!
And even when you've changed it or condensed it,
I'm against it.*

*I'm opposed to it –
On general principles I'm opposed to it!*

*Chorus: He's opposed to it!
In fact, in word, in deed,
He's opposed to it!
For months before my son was born,
I used to yell from night 'til morn,
Whatever it is, I'm against it!
And I've kept yelling since I commenced it,
I'm against it!*

Steele did say that the Republicans are embracing the lyrics through the chorus. But they are investigating whether to include the final verse after former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin told Fox News she believes the final verse is anti-child, and because of that, she's against it.

Steele hinted that he is negotiating to line up a big name Republican act to record the tune. Although he wouldn't say, the Republican crowd in attendance at his news conference was electrified by the rumor that it might be the Gatlin Brothers. Steele did say that former Attorney General John Ashcroft, the composer of the beloved song "Let the Eagle Soar," hopes to pull together a group of Republican Senators to do an all-star cast video rendition of "I'm Against It," similar in style to the all-star cast that sang "We Are the World" a number of years ago, although Steele stressed that the GOP Senate version would not contain any of the do-gooder feel of that video.

Until the Republicans finalize their recording of the song, you can see and hear the Groucho Marx version on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtMV44yoXZ0>. Steele, however, flat out rejected using the Groucho Marx version after Palin said on Rush Limbaugh's radio show that it was her understanding that Groucho Marx's older brother Chico was an illegal alien. She cited the fact that he was clearly a stowaway on an ocean liner in the movie *Monkey Business* and pointed out that he had a very unusual "accent-y, voice-y, kinda thing." She says if anyone wants to use the Marx version of the song, she's against it. Palin added that she also wonders about Groucho's last name. She did not elaborate, but is reported to have winked when she said it.

The Tea Party movement appears to have picked up where Palin left off. A spokesperson said they will soon have evidence that someone named Marx had something to do with Socialism. Several Tea Party supporters in Massachusetts aren't waiting. They told Fox News that there is proof that Groucho Marx has the last name of a Socialist, and indicated that if the Republican Party persists in adopting this song, they're against it. In the meantime, they plan to disrupt an upcoming congressional town hall meeting to make their point.

George Rosenblit *continued from page 1*

sweetheart, Marcia, then returned to UConn to finish his education, earning a Master's Degree in physical organic chemistry.



He started his career at Texaco, evaluating scientific instruments, then went on to Bendix Corp. in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked on the marketing of scientific instruments for 14 years. A job with Fabricon Co. brought him to Chicago in 1967, where he used his love of research and knowledge of chemistry to expand the company's product line. He also helped the company develop a course to help people prepare their own taxes, something Rosenblit always did for himself.



"I wrote a lot of the copy and the instructional manuals," said Rosenblit, whose interest in writing goes way back. At the tender age of seven, he started his first newsletter, *The Geode*, to record the experiences of a mineralogy program in which he participated at the Children's Museum of Hartford. He later became co-editor of his high school newspaper in Hartford.

While Rosenblit has always been interested in political issues, his sons' anti-war activism in the late 1960s and '70s was his first

experience with organized political action, and then it was only as an observer. At the time, he was too busy with his career and raising his three children. Rosenblit has two sons, Hal and Joel, a daughter, Judy, and three grandchildren.

Later, he became more active, chairing the social action committee at Congregation Solel in Highland Park for three years in the late '70s. During that time, he joined a Jewish-Catholic dialogue group, and they started a program to feed the homeless once a month at an Evanston church. "That was an epiphany for me," Rosenblit said. After the group served the meal, the homeless "would elect a spokesperson to come to the kitchen to thank us on behalf of the entire group... I can feel tears coming to my eyes," he said. "They were so articulate. They're real people. Through no fault of their own, they were in the straits that they were," Rosenblit said.

That's when he realized what he would do with his retirement years. "My interest was how do we

create a situation where people don't end up that way," Rosenblit explained. "What are the ills of society, and how do we help in the broader sense?"

Rosenblit started his retirement career at the age of 65, spending five years with AARP, the last three of which he was liaison to U.S. Rep. John Porter, with whom he regularly met to discuss issues in Congress of concern to senior citizens. At one

point Porter asked Rosenblit to come do for him what he had been doing for AARP, but he declined, explaining, "I didn't believe in some of the things he did. I wasn't going to work for him. I'm a Democrat. I have always been."



While he started as a general volunteer for Tenth Dems, Rosenblit's skills were soon put to use across the organization. Before long, he was a member of the executive committee. He's also served on the

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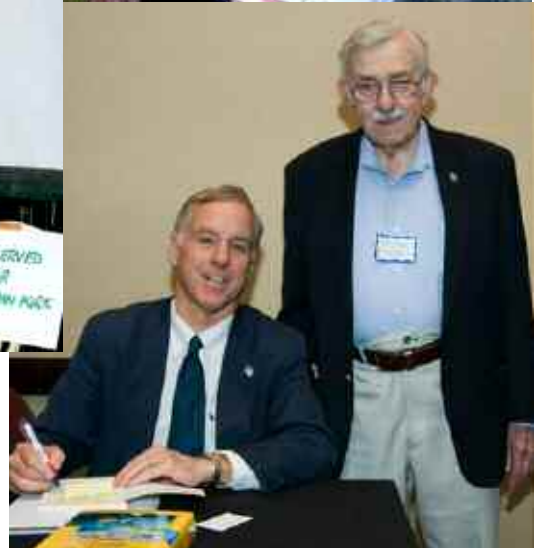


volunteer management and research committees and is a regular contributor to the newsletter as writer and, at times, photographer. A serious amateur photographer, Rosenblit has won some first place awards as a member of the Chicago Botanic Photographic Society.

Rosenblit writes articles nearly every month for the *Tenth News*, Altman said, and has initiated a couple of major series, including one called "Lest we Forget," in which he reminded readers of some of the Bush administration's most egregious policies, such as signing statements and Bush's torture agenda.

For his contribution, the Tenth Dems gave Rosenblit its first Volunteer Award in 2006 and named the award for him the following year.

Even the family activist is inspired by Rosenblit. "He's become a model for me in what I might do in my retirement," said son Joel, of Salem, Oregon, an attorney for the Oregon Public Employees Union, Service Employees International Union Local 503. "Now he's outdone all of us.... I'm very proud of his accomplishments."



letter several days later and said we'll accept your letters," he said. "It sort of broke the ice and from that point on not only I but others got their things published."

Stories of Rosenblit's dedication are legion. A couple of years ago, on the day he returned home from the hospital after recovering from an illness, Gash called to check up on him at home but couldn't get hold of him. She tried every couple of hours, and finally he called her from his cell phone. Where had he been? As he explained to Gash, he had noticed on the way home from the hospital that there weren't enough signs for Dan Seals on Green Bay Road, so he had gone out to rectify the situation. He spent hours placing signs.

"Once you're in management for a large company, you get the confidence to do things," Rosenblit explained. "You don't ask permission. You see if something's right. You do it. That's what carried me all the way through."



Besides being a prolific contributor to this newsletter, Rosenblit also regularly sends letters to the editor to local newspapers and blogs. And he's not reluctant to take his political acumen to the newspaper business. A few years back, when he was having trouble penetrating the editorial pages of the *Highland Park News*, he called up the paper and was told they only publish letters on Highland Park issues, so he requested a meeting with the editorial board. "They sent me an email

Robert Dold: Quayle's Man, Not Ours

by Steve Sheffey

Robert Dold of Kenilworth won the Republican primary and will face Dan Seals in the Illinois 10th District congressional election. Dold defeated State Representative Beth Coulson, a moderate Republican who would have appealed to many independent 10th District voters and who would have been a tough opponent for any Democrat. Instead, the conservative wing of the Republican Party gave us Bob Dold.

Dold is... well, Dold is the kind of candidate who would seek out the endorsement of Dan Quayle. Quayle endorsed Dold in January. Dold's socially conservative views are out of step with the moderate positions held by most voters in our district. The stakes are high, and it's important for us to help voters understand what Dold really stands for and where his support comes from.

The Illinois Federation for Right to Life PAC recommended Dold. This anti-reproductive choice PAC recommended Dold in the Republican primary because Dold opposes public financial assistance for abortions; he supports the ban on safe and common abortion methods used well before fetal viability; he supports laws mandating parental involvement (which jeopardize teen safety and health); and he supports the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, which forces a government-mandated script of misleading information to women. Dold also supported the Stupak-Pitts Amendment, which would have resulted in women losing health benefits related to abortions.

But does Dold favor banning abortions? When asked by Jeff Berkowitz of "Public Affairs" whether he would like to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned, Dold replied, "I think, right now, the way it works with the Supreme Court is that *Roe v. Wade* is precedent at this stage of the game and it would be tough to do so. So, I just don't think that is realistic at this stage."

Not realistic at this stage? What does that mean? No one expects any candidate to be conversant on all the issues, but if he can't give a straight answer on *Roe v. Wade*, he's either too uninformed or too shiftily to deserve our support. Any thinking adult, let alone someone running for Congress, ought to be able to give a yes or no answer to the question of whether *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned.

By not giving a definitive answer, Dold avoids the "right to life" label—no "right to life" candidate could win in this district. But he buys into much of the "right to life" agenda.

Not realistic at this stage? Last month, the Supreme Court laid the groundwork for the repeal of *Roe v. Wade* in its discussion of *stare decisis* in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Committee*. Someone might want to tell Mr. Dold that overturning *Roe v. Wade* is only one or two Supreme Court justices away from becoming very realistic.

JACPAC, a national PAC committed to the special relationship between the U.S. and Israel and a domestic agenda that includes reproductive choice and separation of religion and state, endorsed Seals on February 25, citing his commitment to the strengthening of the U.S.-Israel relationship and his commitment to reproductive choice.

"We've known Dan Seals for years, and we believe that Seals is the only candidate in this race who will stand up not only for Israel, but for women's rights and separation of church and state," stated Marcia Balonick, Executive Director, JACPAC.

Meanwhile, Dold is reaching out to the Tea Party movement. Dold said on February 19 that "what the Tea Party is really resonating with is that things in Washington are going wrong. And so they're talking about liberty and the Constitution, okay? Both things I stand for. I mean, those are good things to be for—liberty and the Constitution."

But according to journalist James Besser, "Some Jewish leaders are concerned that the conservative Tea Party movement could transcend traditional politics entirely and create an extremist surge that is threatening to all minorities. 'This is bad news for Jewish Republicans,' American University political historian Allan Lichtman said. The Tea Party movement harkens back to the old anti-immigration movement, to the Ku Klux Klan, to the George Wallace movement in the 1960s. Lurking behind all of these was the idea of 100 percent 'pure' Americanism—and of taking America back from the 'outsiders.'"

Dan Seals is a pro-Israel moderate Democrat. No matter who we voted for in the primary, it's important that we work hard to ensure that Dan Seals—not a social conservative who doesn't understand why the Tea Party movement is so troubling—becomes our next congressman.



Dold endorser Dan Quayle.

Congress Watch *continued from page 3*

voting to start the war in Iraq and for bailing out the big banks and insurance companies that caused the economic crisis.

The cost of the HIRE bill is to be financed over the coming decade from new revenues derived from a crackdown on offshore tax havens. The bill includes provisions, written by Senator John Kerry (D-MA) and Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) to help the Internal Revenue Service detect, deter, and discourage offshore tax abuses that currently allow companies and individuals to avoid paying taxes. We strongly suspect these provisions are a key reason for Republican opposition to the bill.

The HIRE Act is hardly the first time Mark Kirk has voted against Democratic legislative proposals to provide relief to Americans who in this recession have lost their jobs, their homes, and their health insurance. Kirk has voted against numerous Democratic proposals to extend unemployment benefits; and on September 22, 2009, he was notably absent from a House vote on such an extension. Kirk also opposed the President's February 2009 economic stimulus plan and,

in the midst of the mortgage crisis, he voted against legislation aimed at stemming the tide of foreclosures. Kirk has also been a highly vocal, staunch opponent of healthcare reform.

The HIRE Act, alone, isn't sufficient to address the unemployment crisis. Under the most optimistic estimates, the bill is projected to generate about 250,000 jobs—a tiny fraction of the 8.4 million jobs lost since the start of the recession. The President himself says it is just a first step in an effort to spur job creation.

Additional, larger efforts are under way. One new bill announced last week by Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA), which proposes to fund up to one million local jobs, is gaining support in the House. Known as the Local Jobs for America Act, the bill would provide \$100 billion to fund wages and benefits for a million workers who would otherwise be unemployed.

Unfortunately, we know all too well that we can't count on Mark Kirk to support this and similar important efforts to bring relief to Main Street. That's why we must work hard to elect Alexi Giannoulias in November.

The “G” Word

by Ron Levitsky

The recent earthquake in Haiti caused generous and often heroic assistance by the world community. Although the herculean efforts by the Haitians themselves were generally underreported, the media covered in great detail how movie stars wrote million dollar checks, everyday people donated money and supplies, and nations sent medical teams and other forms of relief.

One shouldn't compare human tragedies—suffering is suffering. However, it is worth noting that, while the death toll in Haiti has exceeded 200,000, that of Darfur is probably more than 300,000, as well as perhaps as many as three million refugees (since 2003). Why is a world, so compassionate when confronted by a natural disaster, far less sympathetic to one that is man-made? During the last hundred years, this has not been an academic question but rather one of life or death to Ukrainians, European Jews, Cambodians, Tutsis in Rwanda, and Bosnians.

Nor was it academic to Raphael Lemkin, a Polish attorney who lost most of his extended family in the Holocaust. In coining the term “genocide” to describe what the Nazis had done to his fellow Jews, he identified as the first genocide of the 20th Century that which the Ottoman government had perpetrated against its Armenian subjects. From 1915-23—during and after World War I—as many as 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered. Hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Assyrians were also exterminated in what was a largely successful attempt by the Ottoman Turks to rid their empire of all Christian minorities.

Make no mistake. What happened to the Armenians clearly was genocide, which the United Nations defines as, among other things, “killing members of the group” or “deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or part.” Armenian men were worked to death in labor battalions; the elderly, women and children were marched to death in the desert; other women and girls were raped and murdered or sometimes forced to convert to Islam and “adopted” by Turkish families.

Numerous eyewitnesses testified to the organized method of destruction. Not only did Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians bear witness, but also Germans, who were allies of the Ottoman Turks during the war, and American missionaries and relief workers (the United States was a neutral nation vis-à-vis the Ottoman Empire during World War I). In addition, memoirs of Ottoman officials and Turkish court proceedings held immediately following the war all support Raphael Lemkin's belief that this was, indeed, genocide. In 1997, the International Association of Genocide Scholars formally recognized the Armenian Genocide.

On April 22, 1981, President Reagan, in a proclamation recognizing the Holocaust, referred specifically to the “Armenian Genocide.” Thus far, he is the only American president to do so publicly.

April 24 is the date used by the Armenian community worldwide to commemorate this genocide. In recent years, there has been an annual effort in Congress to pass a resolution officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide. In a legislative body hopelessly fractured by self-interest, this is one of the few truly bipartisan efforts. Co-sponsors in the House and Senate include Dennis Kucinich, Peter Roskam, Jan Schakowsky, Joe Lieberman, Barbara Boxer, and John Ensign. Co-chairs of the Congressional Armenian Caucus are New Jersey's Frank Pallone and our own Congressman Mark Kirk. Known locally as Mr. Flip-Flop, Kirk has been one of the most steadfast supporters of this resolution. And on this he occupies the moral high ground.

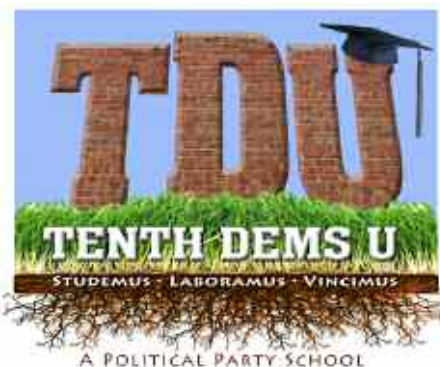


Tsitsernakaberd memorial in Yerevan, Armenia, dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Although as a presidential candidate, Barack Obama promised to recognize the Armenian Genocide, last April he couldn't bring himself to use the “G” word in describing what the Ottoman Turks did to the Armenians. Nor could Vice President Joe Biden or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, both of whom, as Senators, co-sponsored the resolution. In fact, Clinton has stated, “The Obama administration strongly opposes the Resolution...” and will actively work to have it defeated in Congress.

Why this refusal to do the right thing? It is well known that successive governments of Turkey have denied the Armenian Genocide. They say that killings by both sides occurred during wartime and that many Armenians were relocated because they were traitors. The real reasons for this denial may be due to a fear of reparations, shame, or concern that such recognition may call into question how the Turkish nation was created in the aftermath of World War I. In fact, Article 31, passed by the Turkish government in 2004, makes it a criminal offense to mention, within Turkey, the Armenian Genocide. Turkey has gone to great lengths to prevent the U.S. government from formally recognizing this genocide. Turkey has threatened to stop its cooperation with our nation's foreign policy in the Middle East. It is in a strategic location both militarily and economically, being on the Black Sea and near major oil fields and pipelines. Most U.S. supplies bound for Iraq and Afghanistan go through Turkey.

Turkey has worked tirelessly to influence American public opinion and



Tenth Dems University

A School of Grassroots Politics

presents...

Ex-Illinois Reform Commission Member and U.S. Senate candidate David Hoffman

Legislative Redistricting in Illinois, or...Why Drawing a Line Is More Complicated than You Think

Date: Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook

Instructors:

David Hoffman, former member of the Illinois Reform Commission

David Morrison, Associate Director of Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Jan Czarnik, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Illinois

Come hear from these experts about redistricting: the current method (which has involved for the last three times the drawing of a name out of Abe Lincoln's hat), a reform proposal (for which Morrison and Czarnik were among the principal drafters), and the pros and cons of change.

The class is free and open to all. Register in advance at www.TenthDemsU.org.

A Message from Tenth Dems

We need your continuing support as we build on our success.

If you agree that government must be fiscally responsible and avoid excessive debt, as well as excessive taxes...

If you share our belief that government has a role to play in helping the poor and middle class as well as the wealthy...

If you agree that America should lead by working with its allies, and should resort to war only after all other efforts have been completely tried...

If you share our belief that government should not impose the moral beliefs of any group on others in our society.

If you believe all this, you are a Democrat. If you believe it strongly, you should work with us to make it a reality.

We encourage you to renew your Tenth Dems membership now...or join us and become a new member of Tenth Dems.

For more information, call 847-266-VOTE (8683) or go to www.tenthdems.org

The "G" Word *continued from page 7*

official U.S. policy. It has given endowments worth millions for chairs in Turkish history to major universities such as Princeton and the University of Chicago. Turkish-American political action committees regularly contribute to elections across the country. For example, the Turkish Coalition USA PAC donated \$500 each to the campaigns of Julie Hamos and Beth Coulson. The Turkish government has hired as its lobbyists ex-Congressional heavyweights like Dick Armey, Dennis Hastert, Bob Livingston, and that great (?) progressive Dick Gephardt, who championed the Armenian Genocide Resolution while in Congress and now works against it. Retired foreign service officer and U.S. Ambassador Arma Jane Karaer has recounted how, in the 1980s, Turkey worked behind the scenes with the U.S. State Department to lobby Congress to kill the resolution.

Against such money and political pressure, what hope is there that the Armenian Genocide Resolution will pass Congress?

During World War I, the American people conducted the first major foreign relief effort in our nation's history—to save the "starving Armenians." Like what is going on today with relief efforts in Haiti, ordinary Americans held fund-raising campaigns in their communities, schools, and religious institutions; \$117 million was collected, the equivalent today of \$1 billion. In 1915 alone, *The New York Times* carried 145 articles on the Armenian Genocide. Many refugees, including orphans, were rescued, some brought to the

United States. There was even the possibility that, after World War I, Armenia might become a U.S. mandate.

Instead, Americans, turning to isolationist sentiments, along with government officials and business leaders looking for economic agreements with Turkey, lost interest in the fate of the Armenians (and the Greeks and Assyrians). The result was a continuation of the genocide.

There is a story that at the end of World War I, Eastern Europeans would meet and whisper one word, "Wilson," hoping that the American president would transfer the ideals of democracy, self-determination, and human rights to that part of the world ravaged by tyranny and war. They had confidence that Americans truly believed in the ideals we proclaimed.

What does the rest of the world whisper—or shout—about the U.S. today?

We can repeat our indifference yet again or, instead, demand that our nation live up to its core democratic principles. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs narrowly passed Resolution 252, recognizing the Armenian Genocide. The Senate is considering a similar resolution. I would have asked you to contact your congressman requesting his support when the full House votes but, ironically, this time you don't have to. But please contact President Obama, Senator Burris, and Senator Durbin, asking them to persuade Congress to pass the Armenian Genocide Resolution.