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For information or to volunteer, email us at newsletter@tenthdems.org, call us at 847-266-VOTE (8683), or write to Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Founding Chair, Tenth Dems, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015. Please visit our website at www.tenthdems.org and like us on Facebook and Twitter.

Editor: Barbara Altman

Editorial Staff: Joan Attenberg, Lauren Beth Gash, Eric Herman, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Laurence D. Schiller, Steve Sheffey, Allan Sperling

Contributors: Barbara Altman, Ron Altman, Roger Baron, Steven Gan, Eric Herman, Carol Hillsberg, Larry A. Marks, Mark Rosenberg, M.D., Susan Zingle

Photography: Ravi Ganapathy

Design: Charles Troy

Distribution: Ravi Ganapathy, Glenn Stier

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Bob Dold, Republican Party Animal

If you listen closely to what he says to the people of the 10th District, you'll notice something odd: incumbent Congressman Bob Dold never mentions he's a Republican. He likes to portray himself as a suburban pest control business owner who woke up one day and decided to run for Congress. He'd have you believe he simply flipped a coin to decide which ticket to be on.

In fact, Dold is a lifelong, partisan Republican.

From 1991 until President Clinton's inauguration in 1993, Dold was on the staff of Vice President Dan Quayle. (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=D000613>) Quayle is best remembered for misspelling "potato," comparing himself to John F. Kennedy, and



L. to r., Bob Dold and his mentors, Bob Dole, Dan Quayle, and Dan Burton

linking riots in Los Angeles to a fictional single mother on TV, *Murphy Brown*.

Next, Dold worked for Republican Bob Dole's presidential campaign against Bill Clinton. Dole thought the best way to head into the 21st century was a return to Reaganomics. The voters disagreed.

From 1997 to 1999 Dold worked as a lawyer for the Republican-led House Committee on

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Tenth News

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Women in Politics Panel (Plus One) Pleases All Present

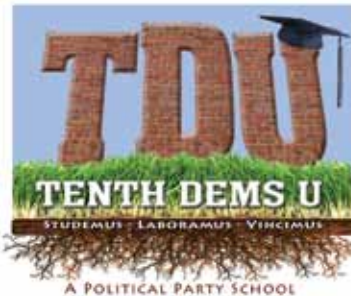
by Carol Hillsberg

What could be more fitting at "Women in Politics," a Tenth Dems University event on October 1, with more than 70 in attendance, than the serendipitous appearance of Donna Brazile, one of the most prominent and significant Democratic strategists? As director of Al Gore's 2000 presidential run, Donna Brazile was the first African-American woman to direct a major campaign. At present, among her titles are Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, contributor to CNN and ABC News, columnist for *Ms. Magazine* and other publications, and author of her memoir, *Cooking With Grease*.

Now Donna Brazile can add to her resume surprise guest at Tenth Dems University.

Similarly, the distinguished panel of women who spoke at the Tenth Dems University event at the Renaissance Hotel have extraordinary credentials and accomplishments. The participants included Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, YWCA Lake

County President Janice Bennett, and Josina Morita, candidate for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago. The discussion was moderated by author and lecturer Rebecca Sive who describes herself as "a fierce and devoted



advocate for women's full participation in leadership in the public square, from the board room to the White House." Ms. Sive, the founding Academic Director of a new program at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, Women in Public Leadership, is also the author of *Every Day is Election Day: A Woman's Guide to Winning Any Office, from the PTA to the White House*.

After introductory remarks by Tenth Dems Co-Chair Marguerite Hampton, the program began with Ms. Preckwinkle telling her story. On November 2, 2010, Toni Preckwinkle became the first

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PHOTO ALBUM FOR THIS STORY,

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Women in Politics

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woman elected Cook County Board President, capturing over two-thirds of the vote. Now serving her second term in that office, Ms. Preckwinkle described the ideal public servant as one who cares first and foremost about the public good. Fascinated by politics since her high school days in Minnesota, she ran and lost for alderman in Chicago in 1983 and 1987. In 1991, she achieved her goal and served as 4th Ward Alderman until becoming President of the Board.

Ms. Preckwinkle would like to see more women follow in her footsteps in public office but acknowledges that they face difficulties. For example, women have trouble being taken seriously, and the percentage of women in the room decreases the higher up one moves in politics and government. They have to take risks and overcome stereotypical limitations to succeed in public life. As women have excellent leadership qualities, including being willing to compromise, it's hard to imagine that Illinois would be in the position it is in now if women were in power in the governor's office and in the legislature, Ms. Preckwinkle observed.

The next speaker shared her own inspiring story. As the Director of the Lake County YWCA, Janice Bennett works to eliminate racism and empower women. Although her advocacy for social justice is outside of elective office, Ms. Bennett has long been a political activist. Encouraged by her parents, she worked for Richard G. Hatcher, the first African American mayor of Gary, and for Chicago's first African American mayor, Harold Washington. She also registered voters for Barack Obama. Ms. Bennett believes that two major concerns for women are equal pay and support for child care. In addition, she believes that to be effective leaders in the public space, women must inspire others to achieve something larger than themselves and demonstrate a passion for racial justice and women's empowerment.

Ms. Bennett's ideal qualities for female candidates have been demonstrated by the third panelist to speak, Josina Morita, in her quest to be elected Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water District of Chicago. Guided by her father's belief that women are "either at the table or on the menu," if successful Ms. Morita would be the first Asian American elected countywide in Cook County. In addition, as an urban planner, she believes that the foremost goal is to protect Lake Michigan. She agrees with Ms. Preckwinkle that in approaching issues women look for solutions and are more collaborative than men. As one who is often the youngest individual and only Asian American in the room, Ms. Morita recognizes that it's difficult to be the first, and that it's essential to have a coalition perspective and demonstrate concern about all constituents. Although it's challenging, Ms. Morita loves campaigning, and in a down-ballot race it's important to educate the public. Therefore, in order to have the voters remember her name, she routinely repeats it three times: Josina Morita, Josina Morita, Josina Morita.

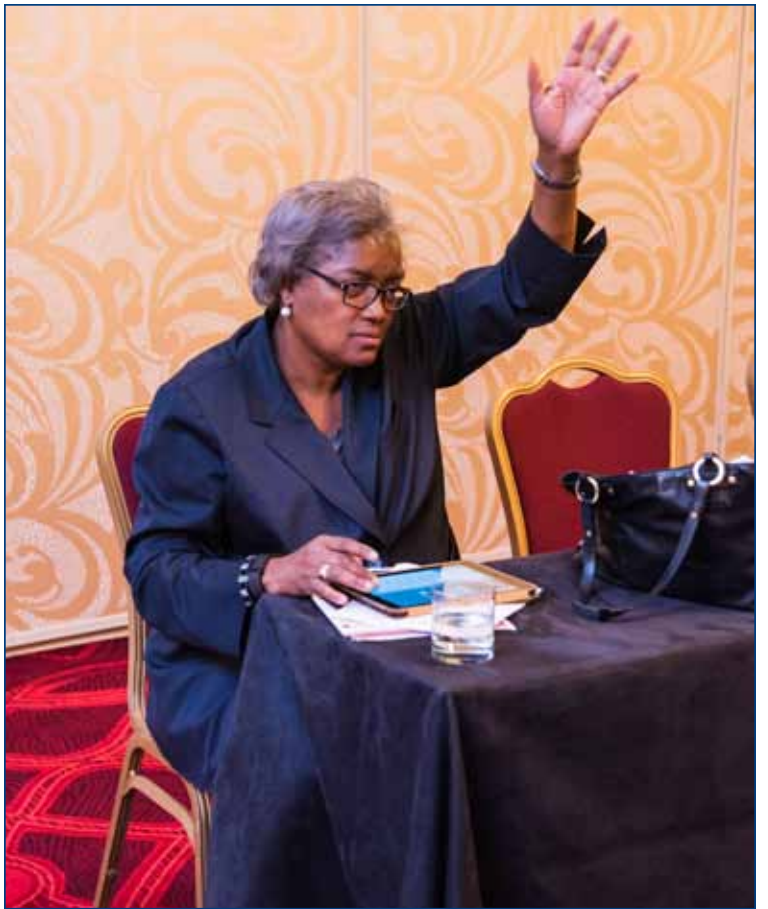
Toward the end of the program, Donna Brazile took the opportunity to comment, stating that it gives her hope to see so many engaged Democrats and progressives at this Tenth Dems University event. She believes that public service is the most visible form of leadership

and encourages other women to run for office. She believes, echoing Josina Morita's father, that the problem is not that women are not willing and able to serve, but that they are often not at the table.

The moderator, author and academician Rebecca Sive, kept the evening's proceedings moving by posing meaningful and provocative questions to the panelists. In closing, she called on those in politics to be steadfast in their beliefs as she thanked the three distinguished panelists, as well as Donna Brazile. ■



more photos on next page





Dold

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Reform and Oversight in the role of “investigative counsel.” This is the highly adversarial committee that spent over \$35 million investigating the Clinton administration. More recently, this was the House committee that attacked Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards.

For his first Chief of Staff in Congress, Dold chose a pal from the Dole campaign who worked in George W. Bush’s White House and Bush’s Department of Energy. Right before his selection by Dold to be top aide, he was a Washington D.C. lobbyist.



Bob Dold Is No Stranger to Republican Witch Hunts Aimed at the Clintons

Republican Congressman Bob Dold (R-Kenilworth) is spending heaps of money to convince people in our area that he’s a “moderate” Republican who somehow is disconnected from the extremists in his party who are exploiting what happened in Benghazi in 2012 in order to damage Hillary Clinton. But we know the truth: Dold has been a GOP insider since the first Bush administration. He and the Washington Republican machine have spent millions in our competitive district spinning a tale that completely ignores his career as a partisan Republican operative. The GOP knows it has a loyal foot soldier in Dold and that the voters in our area would reject him if they knew his roots in the tired, ugly, anti-Clinton partisanship that’s defined his party for decades.

Thanks to House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY), it’s no secret that the House Select Committee on Benghazi was created to hurt Hillary Clinton’s poll numbers in the middle of a presidential election. We all know that this isn’t the first time Republicans have wasted time and tax dollars attacking the Clintons. But it is less known that our very own Republican Congressman Bob Dold has a history of playing partisan politics in an attempt to take down the Clintons.

Dold’s early political career was interrupted when Bill Clinton defeated Dold’s boss, Vice President Dan Quayle. After Clinton defeated Dold’s next boss, Robert Dole, Dold joined other highly partisan Republicans obsessed with investigating the Clintons, using a House committee so reckless that it managed to embarrass even Newt Gingrich. When the Chairman of that House committee, Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN), wasn’t busy shooting watermelons to desperately prove a conspiracy theory about Hillary Clinton murdering her friend Vince Foster (who actually had committed suicide), he was wasting taxpayer money on heavily-edited tapes to show that she was guilty of yet a different crime (*The Washington Post*, 1/31/12).

Bob Dold’s deep, partisan roots in the tired, ugly, anti-Clinton witch hunts that have defined his party for decades do not reflect the values of the people of the 10th District. ■

You will not find any of this biographical information on Dold’s official website.

Most recently, Dold signed a secret contract with the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC). Signing on to this Patriot Program Contract gets Dold campaign cash from his party in return for conceding it control over his legislative agenda.

Specifically, Dold promised to provide his party leaders “Detailed, written legislative strategy that provides short-, intermediate-, and long-term legislative goals, including political justifications for those goals” and to “Complete a Patriot Policy Priorities worksheet to be used by NRCC staff to evaluate legislative priorities for the current Congress and to promote and advocate for those priorities where appropriate.”

You won’t find the Patriot Program Contract on Dold’s official website, either. It took an exposé in *The Washington Post* for the public to find out about it. (See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2015/09/03/the-daily-202-contract-with-the-nrcc-the-deal-gopers-make-to-get-reelected/>, which also links to the text of the Contract).

It’s sad, but the only thing Dold apparently cares about more than his beloved Republican Party is making sure voters think that he doesn’t care about it. ■

Dold Joins Republican Freedom Caucus to Support Alternative to Raising the Debt Ceiling

by Ron Altman

On October 21, while the big political stories—the Republican Party’s speaker race and Hillary Clinton’s impending testimony before the Select Committee on Benghazi—dominated the news, House Republicans, with the full cooperation of Robert Dold (R-Kenilworth), paved the way for default on the National Debt. House Republicans passed H.R. 692, the Orwellian-titled “Default Prevention Act,” on a straight party-line vote. Dold was NOT one of the seven Republicans who refused to cooperate in this charade. Dold voted to pass the law.

This is the Bob Dold you don’t hear about. The bill, which President Obama has said he would veto, was praised by Tea Party darling Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) (see http://www.cruz.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=2485). The 10th District can’t afford to be represented by a partisan Republican who votes right along with the Freedom Caucus.

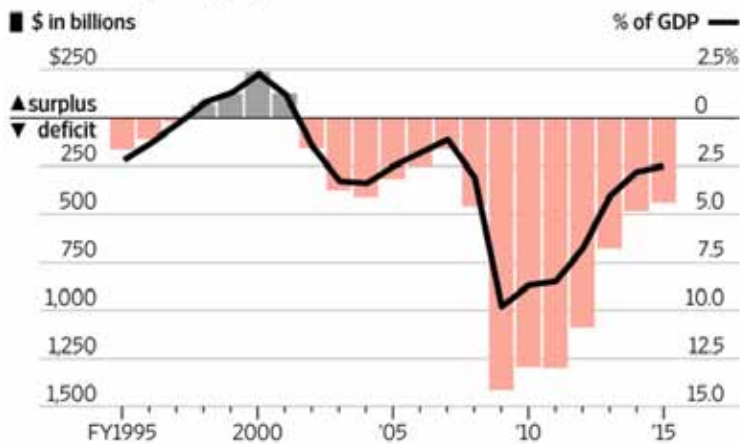
The Default Prevention Act directs the Secretary of the Treasury to issue new obligations outside the debt limit to pay for principal and interest on obligations held by the public, as well as the Social Security retirement and disability trust funds.

Are your eyes glazing over?

In plain English, this means that rather than raise the debt ceiling

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Federal budget surplus/deficit



Econ 101: Debt and Deficit

By Larry A. Marks

This article is the first in a three-part series.

To understand macroeconomics in today's environment, it's impossible not to touch on politics a bit and the fundamental difference in beliefs between real economists and those pretend economists who have run for office while actually knowing about as much about economics as they know about the average run score for a cricket match in India. But the concepts we're about to discuss are simple enough that most of the Republican Presidential primary candidates probably could understand them without much help.

For most of the readers of this newsletter, this is probably just review. But if we're going to have a conversation about economics, it's a good idea to make sure we're talking about the same things.

So, with that, let's begin.

Are "debt" and "deficit" interchangeable terms?

Although you can't always tell when listening to politicians, debt and deficit are not the same thing. The words have very different meanings. Debt is our history. Deficit is what we are doing now.

More specifically, debt is the amount of money that we have spent in the past, whereas deficit is the difference between what we take in—i.e., revenue, which comes primarily from taxes—and what we spend.

So which is the right one to look at? If you want to know what we have spent our money on, you can look at debt, but that's not very instructive. The much more important measure is deficit. That is the one that tells us if we are digging a deeper hole in debt or moving toward less debt.

But first, let's demystify debt a bit.

Is debt good or bad?

It depends. As many of us know from our personal finances, or if we are in business, debt can be good or bad depending on the circumstances. For example, let's say you have a company and need a road to connect your factory with a main highway. You would borrow money (that's debt) from a bank, or sell commercial paper, or take it out of savings, and build the road. You have now

acquired debt, but you also have an asset, the road.

Was that good or bad? If you really needed the road, it's good. How about the debt you acquired? Isn't that a bad thing? No. If your business will prosper because of having the road, you made a smart decision. And you have an asset that offsets the debt.

Let's now say government decides to build a road—for all the same reasons as the company in the previous example. We spend a few billion dollars on the road and issue some bonds (debt) to raise the money to pay for it. The government now has a debt of a few billion dollars, and if that's all you looked at, it would seem to be a real problem.

However, the public now has a new asset, a highway. It will be used to improve commerce, recreation, etc. It has a real value.

Where does the government show the debt? On financials, just like the company. So where does government show the offsetting asset, the road?

It doesn't. That's one of the differences between governments and households or businesses. Governments don't look at assets the same way.

But doesn't that distort the meaning of the debt the government just acquired? It sure does.

In our example, the debt is well worthwhile, but all the public sees in economic terms is the money owed, the need to pay interest and principal on the bonds. We kind of forget about the asset we obtained and are using.

That seems a bit skewed doesn't it?

To whom do we owe our federal debt?

The vast majority of the United States debt is owed to the people of the United States. The U.S. Treasury issues Treasury notes or bonds and sells them to the public. If the Treasury issues a \$100,000 T-Note and sells it to the public through the Federal Reserve (Fed), that's \$100,000 that the government owes to the holder of that T-Note. Or, put another way, we incurred debt. The debt is owed to the holder of the note, who will be paid interest and, at the end, principal once the note matures and is cashed in.

Well, we've all heard Republicans rant about how we're indebted to China. Is it true that China has a lot of our debt?

Sure, China does hold some of our T-Notes and T-Bills and China will be paid back as the debts mature just like anyone else. But why is that such a bad thing? What is China going to do? Come take a road?

Does too much debt hurt the economy?

It can, and if not managed properly, as it was not during most of the Bush administration, the debt can become huge and the interest payments can cause inflation. But the Fed has, at the direction of the Treasury Secretary, first under Bush and now under Obama, kept interest rates very low, close to zero. So the biggest danger of debt—inflation—has not been an issue.

continued on next page

Obamacare Entering Its Third Year



By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

It's hard to believe, but November 1 marks the beginning of the third open enrollment season since the Affordable Care Act was fully implemented. Through January 31, 2016, individuals with Marketplace plans will be able to choose a new plan if they wish. The still-uninsured will be able to enroll in a Marketplace plan. If eligible, they may receive tax credits to help pay their premiums and, in some cases, to reduce deductibles and copayments.

To date, more than 17 million Americans have enrolled in health insurance plans under the ACA. This includes not only plans offered on the Marketplace, but expanded Medicaid, which is available in Illinois although many states (22 at last count) still refuse to participate in that program.

There are still about 10 million uninsured who are eligible for coverage, either through the Marketplace or Medicaid. Whether it's word-of-mouth stories from friends and family who have benefited from the free preventive care that is a feature of all coverage under the ACA, or recognition that having health insurance with an annual out-of-pocket maximum makes catastrophic healthcare expenses a relic of the past, or simply the wish to avoid increased penalties for going without insurance, there are reasons to believe that a good number of these still-uninsured will join the 17 million who now have coverage.

For those eligible for Medicaid, there is no deadline on enrollment.

Although Republicans claim otherwise, and every Republican presidential candidate has stated opposition to the law, there no longer can be any question that the ACA is working to improve access to healthcare in our nation. ■

Editor's Note: Moraine Township has certified counselors who will help individuals understand their health insurance options under the ACA. Call 847-432-3240 for an appointment.

Dold and Republican Freedom Caucus

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when the government's borrowing authority expires, as has been urged by every responsible economist, the bill authorizes very limited new borrowing by the federal government outside the constraints of the debt ceiling. The bill doesn't prevent default, it just limits it. Specifically, it protects two groups: investors and Social Security recipients (thus insulating the third rail of U.S. politics); the Treasury could borrow to pay those who hold debt instruments and those entitled to Social Security payments, but no one else. Until the debt ceiling is raised, as Democrats advocate, the government could not borrow to pay for any of its other functions.

Econ 101

continued from preceding page

What about the idea that by incurring debt we are selling our future?

If we are incurring debt past our ability to control it, that is a bad thing. And with the two unfunded wars that Bush initiated, followed by the collapse of the housing markets and banking sectors that was caused by removing necessary regulatory control on key industries, we were on the verge of exactly that. Even Hank Paulson, the Secretary of the Treasury under Bush, realized that the policies we were following in creating debt faster than we could create revenue (taxes) was killing us.

That brings us to the Federal Deficit.

Are we now spending more or less than we did under George W. Bush?

We are spending much less.

The deficit, which was well over \$1 trillion per year in the Bush years, is now at \$439 billion, the lowest since 2007 and below the 40-year average, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. That takes a huge amount of pressure off our economy and allows businesses and the stock market to start to feel more secure, which spurs investment. With increased consumer confidence, people shift from saving (which slows the economy way down) to spending (which stimulates the economy).

If deficits are lower, why is the national debt still growing?

Until we have surpluses again, as we did under President Bill Clinton, the debt will continue to grow. We are still spending more than we take in as revenue, because we still need bridges and roads and hospitals and an army and navy, etc. So next month's installment will focus on why we need taxes and why giving the rich big tax cuts is dumber than putting chocolate in front of a dog. ■

In short, as President Obama has said, what the Default Prevention Act would do is the opposite of what its name suggests. It would ensure that the United States defaults on the bulk of its obligations—by November 3, according to current estimates. Given its name, the bill's sole apparent purpose is to give cover to the Republican's Freedom Caucus and other right-wingers who relish default.

And Bob Dold is right there with them. ■

Editor's note: As this issue goes to press, Congress is expected to pass a compromise measure that will raise the debt ceiling through 2017. We expect Dold to vote for the bill, and if he does, we suspect that he'll try to take credit for the bipartisan compromise. We know for sure that he won't mention the highly partisan vote exposed in this article.



Didn't It Make You Proud to Be a Democrat?

by Barbara Altman

After being subjected to four-plus hours of the Republican candidates' Presidential debates and writing two columns about them, I had the opportunity to watch the first Democratic Presidential candidates' debate. What a pleasure it was to spend two hours listening to intelligent politicians discussing substantive issues. Finally, the media afforded airtime to ideas instead of insults.

There has been a lot of talk on cable about who won the first Democratic Presidential debate—Hillary or Bernie. The pundits have all missed the point. There was one clear winner of the October 13 debate, and that was the Democratic Party.

Every one of the Democratic candidates—yes, even Lincoln Chafee with his somewhat disturbing affect and his disastrous explanation of his first vote in the Senate—lives in the real world. These Democrats talked about a world in which falling wages and skyrocketing college tuition are more of a threat to Americans' lives than "illegal immigrants;" a world in which Social Security is a much-needed safety net, not a drain on our nation's solvency; a world in which pollution-induced climate change must be addressed; a world in which money is not speech and the ubiquity of guns in our communities is a problem, not a solution.

And the Democratic candidates live in a nation in which

government is an instrument of the people. They understand that our government not only "provides for the common defense" but also "promotes the general welfare," as recited in the Preamble to the Constitution. And recognizing that according to that same Preamble government "secures the blessings of liberty," Democrats eschew the use of government authority to deny the benefits of marriage to same-sex couples or to dictate to a woman decisions about her own body.

Certainly the Democratic candidates had disagreements—most notably about the virtues of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the best way to regulate the banks so as to avoid another meltdown like the one that triggered the Bush recession—but they were unfailingly respectful of one another's points of view. They listened to one another and addressed issues, not personalities. The much-aired clip of Senator Bernie Sanders declaring that we've all heard enough about those "damn emails" shouldn't have surprised. None of the candidates could be drawn into the kind of trash talk we hear when the Republicans take the stage.

I'm determined to keep watching the Republican debates, because I want to know what these folks are up to, and I don't want to be limited to whatever excerpts happen to be chosen by cable news producers for airing. But I eagerly anticipate the ensuing Democratic debates and the intelligent discourse they surely will generate. ■



Tenth Dems leaders, volunteers, and potential volunteers discuss projects and politics as ArtWauk passersby drift in and out of the conversation. (Photo by Lawrence Sommer.)

ArtWauk Provides Opportunity for Lively Organizing Meeting

By Susan Zingle

Outside, goblins and ghouls strolled the sidewalk. At the cross street, a band was setting up. It was October 17, the third Saturday of the month, and time for ArtWauk. Sponsored by the Waukegan Arts Council, the City of Waukegan, and Waukegan Main Street, ArtWauk encourages residents to “experience the arts revolution in downtown Waukegan.”

There is free admission and full access to all art galleries. Many of the surrounding restaurants and businesses stay open as well, and there is a vibrant feel to the crowds enjoying the evening.

At the Tenth Congressional District Democrats’ Community Connection office that October evening, a lively conversation among 20 or so participants was underway. The group included Tenth Dems leaders and people inspired by particular Democratic candidates to seek ways to become more involved. There were some first-time candidates, and there were voters just starting to explore what options Tenth Dems offers for grassroots political involvement.

As people wandered in and out of the Open House, they joined and left the conversation. We talked about some of the many different ways people could get more deeply involved in the political process.

For example, a volunteer can become a Precinct Committeeperson (PC). PCs take responsibility for just one electoral precinct, delivering literature, talking to neighbors, and helping to get the word out about all the Democratic candidates on the ticket in that precinct. Outreach is key. A PC can be elected or appointed; several people showed interest.

Tenth Dems also sponsors individuals who are interested in becoming Deputy Voter Registrars (DVRs). After completing



Community Connection Corner

training with the County Clerk’s Office, a DVR is authorized to register new voters and process name and address changes. Tenth Dems periodically schedules special training sessions in the evening for groups of 10 or more, or sponsors individuals able to attend daytime training sessions offered regularly at the County Clerk’s office in Waukegan.

Another route to deeper involvement in the political process is organizing events. A favorite Tenth Dems program is Let’s Talk Politics, a series of roundtable discussions, often with guest moderators, that encourage Democrats and progressives to exchange ideas. The goal is to schedule Let’s Talk Politics sessions in communities across the 10th District, and several of the ArtWauk walk-ins showed interest in bringing LTP to their communities.

Indeed, at times the ArtWauk Saturday evening Tenth Dems Community Connection meeting became an impromptu Let’s Talk Politics session. As always when politicians get together, there was much conversation regarding the upcoming elections—from national down to local county board—and how the issues affect us.

Community Connection, Waukegan, is just one of three offices in the 10th Congressional District that Tenth Dems makes available to Democratic candidates and other public interest groups who need a space for activities and events. Our other offices are in Highland Park and Grayslake.

The urgency and importance of the coming election year was not lost on those at Community Connection during ArtWauk. Everyone left recharged and recommitted to making 2016 a tremendous year for Democrats in the 10th Congressional District. ■



An Open Letter to Senator Rand Paul About His Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell Policy for the Workplace

Dear Senator Paul,

Just the other morning, I was reading about a student at Drake University who, on October 14, asked you whether or not you're comfortable with workplace discrimination against LGBT employees. You answered:

"I think, really, the things you do in your house, just leave those in your house and it wouldn't have to be part of the workplace, to tell you the truth. I don't know if we need to keep adding to different classifications to say government needs to be involved in the hiring and firing. I think society is rapidly changing and if you are gay, there are plenty of places that will hire you."

So let me try to understand what you meant by that statement.

If you're a gay man like myself, better not cross your legs knee-over-knee at the workplace, because even if that's something you do while talking with your mother on the telephone, that might look effeminate, give you away as being gay, and open you up to the possibility of being fired? Or, if you happen to be talking about opera rather than the Cubs, that also would be very telling as to your sexual orientation and you could get relocated to the oil fields of North Dakota, where men only talk about sports and women and adjust their crotches regularly? Now I get it.

Then you elaborated, volunteering that you also oppose legal remedies for workplace discrimination against LGBT people:

"It sets up a whole industry for people who want to sue. If you happen to be gay and you get fired, now you have a reason. People

don't put up a sign and say, 'I'm firing you because you're gay.' It's something that's very much disputed."

Here again, thank you so much for enlightening me on the importance of staying in the closet because I certainly wouldn't want to sue anyone who denied me a job, fired me from a job, or discriminated against me solely because of my sexual orientation. After all, as a productive, constructive, tax-paying American citizen who is entitled to all the same rights and privileges as you are, it would be just unconscionable of me to sue anyone who treated me any less fairly than they treated you. Moreover, to think that I would be part of a class of people who, while contributing to all strata of our society, might also demand to be a protected class, is total chutzpah. What was I thinking?

You know, Senator Paul, I become demoralized when watching and listening to Republicans like you. You make me want to pull my hair out and trash my surroundings with your ludicrous comments, ideas, and statements. But, after calming down, I realize that even as you pontificate your libertarian ideology, you're still entrenched in ignorance and stupidity regarding gay rights. And, in a strange way, you deserve some thanks for that, since you're a reminder to all LGBT Americans that we need to keep pushing to expand our civil rights.

Sincerely yours,

Steven Gan



Disastrous Effects of Rauner Agenda Aired at Labor Town Hall

By Roger Baron

In late September, Roger and Margi Baron represented Tenth Dems at a town hall meeting in Gurnee organized by the Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor. Rank-and-file union members talked about the disastrous effects of the Rauner agenda on their daily lives and the people they care about.

The meeting was moderated by Tim Drea, Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO. Panelist Paula Yensen, candidate for the Lake In The Hills Board, told of budgetary cutbacks that are today affecting the operations of agencies that depend on state funding, many that are close to running out of operating funds. Scott Carstens, a fireman, expressed concern about the underfunded pension plan for police and his fellow firemen. Mark Boumstein, a teacher, expressed similar concerns about the teacher's retirement fund. Cheryl Graham talked about the harmful effect of the Rauner agenda on agencies serving persons with developmental disabilities and their clients.

Following the panel, State Senator Melinda Bush and Representative Sam Yingling expressed dismay over Republican legislators following Rauner's direction in lockstep, even when doing that harms those who most count on governmental programs.

Democratic Congressional primary candidates Nancy Rotering and Brad Schneider, speaking from the floor, added their concern about Rauner's efforts to cripple the unions. They noted that the resulting lack of a budget is causing real harm today, with greater disruption expected as time goes by. ■

Help Wanted

Tenth Dems continues to seek committed, creative, energetic Democrats and progressives to join our leadership team.

We need graphic designers to help maintain the professional look of this newsletter; web designers to help keep our website up to date; and social media users to help us post and tweet effectively.

We need people who can organize events large and small. We need people who can organize phone banks – make sure an office is opened on time, properly set up, and closed after a clean-up.

We need office managers who can keep a Tenth Dems office humming.

We need people who can write a newsletter article, proofread an email, manage a database. In particular, we need "beat reporters" willing to find out and report what's happening with Democratic candidates and office-holders at the state, county, and local levels.

And if you don't consider yourself a leader, perhaps you'd like to make phone calls, stuff envelopes, or make courier runs. Every one of these tasks will help us achieve our goals of electing Democrats.

Bottom line: If you believe in the Tenth Dems mission and want to see Democrats hold office at every level of government within the 10th Congressional District—not only Congress, but also the Presidency, statewide offices, countywide offices, and local offices—then let us know your skills, and we'll put you to work.

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

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