

Physicians and Guns

By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

Once upon a time, when life seemed to be much more straightforward, a visit to the pediatrician's office consisted of basic questions about child development, what foods parents should be feeding, and some basic safety precautions. Most of you remember those visits.

Life has become more complex, as well as more dangerous, for children. Did you know that last year 55 toddlers shot someone with a gun? Firearms-related deaths are one of the top three causes of death in American young people. In the most recent year that data are available, 2009, 7400 children under age 20 were hospitalized for injuries from firearms. The majority were unintentional assaults, 2000 were accidents, and 270 were suicide attempts.

While we are shocked when we hear of a report of a mass shooting, firearms-related incidents

involving children are occurring in every city every day—20 times a day on average.

While we have made great strides in providing a safe environment for children from automobile safety to clean air and water, we have failed children with respect to our public health interventions for firearms safety. Guns are the ONLY consumer products manufactured in

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GUNS ARE KILLING THOUSANDS OF U.S. CHILDREN EVERY YEAR

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Tenth News

February 2016 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 13, Edition 2

www.tenthdems.org

Tenth Dems Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Dr. King

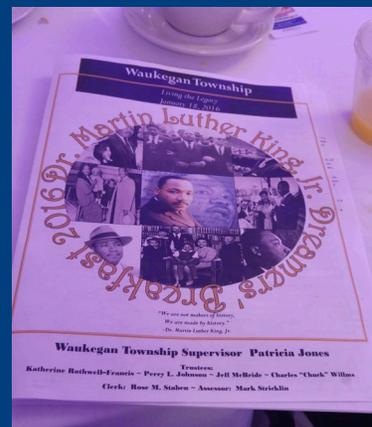


The North Shore Baptist Ministers Alliance celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at a worship service held at Corinthian Baptist Church in North Chicago.



Milan Banquet Hall in Waukegan was packed on January 18 for a celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday was January 15, and the federal holiday that honors his memory fell on January 18. Among the events over that busy weekend in the 10th Congressional District were the annual Waukegan Township Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers' Breakfast on January 18, and the North Shore Baptist Ministers Alliance celebration of Dr. King on January 17, in North Chicago. Many Tenth Dems leaders, volunteers, and friends were spotted at both events.



CONGRESS WATCH: Double-Talk Dold's Desperate Deception

Don't be fooled. The incumbent 10th District Congressman, Republican Bob Dold, is no independent. Facing a race against one of two strong Democratic candidates, either Nancy Rotering or Brad Schneider, in a presidential election year that pundits say gives an advantage to the Democratic candidate, he is pulling out all the stops to convince 10th District voters otherwise. But facts don't lie. Dold would like us to believe that he can represent the values of 10th District residents as well as either of these progressive Democrats. Better, he argues, because he has the ear, he says, of the Speaker of the House, his pal Paul Ryan.

Ryan was Mitt Romney's running mate. He rose to prominence as the author of budget proposals that would have ended Medicare as we

a Republican Congress could get rid of Obamacare once and for all.

Depriving millions of Americans of access to healthcare by repealing Obamacare and defunding Planned Parenthood is not an agenda that reflects the values or priorities of the 10th District. Either Dold's claim to being an influential moderate with the Speaker is nothing but election year hype, or Dold's just not very good at influencing the Republican leadership.

So much for Dold as a moderating influence on his pal Paul.

But are we really surprised that Dold's rhetoric doesn't match reality?

BOB DOLD:

VOTED FOR
EVERY
PAUL RYAN
BUDGET



PAUL RYAN:

RAISES
MONEY FOR
BOB DOLD



know it and turned over Social Security to Wall Street.

In his first term in Congress, Dold consistently supported these reactionary budgets. In return, Dold's pal Paul has used his power as the new Speaker of the House to appoint Dold to an "advisory group" that is supposed to influence the Republican agenda. Republican press releases tout Dold as one of two "moderates" in the advisory group. Not surprisingly, the other purported moderate appointed to the Speaker's advisory group is, along with Dold, one of the two most vulnerable Republican House incumbents.

What has Dold accomplished as a member of the Speaker's advisory group? Since Dold supposedly has the Speaker's ear, what "moderate" legislation has been put forward in the House? Conversely, what ultra-right-wing legislation has been held back?

Well, the first act of the House after the winter holiday break was to send a bill to the President to repeal the Affordable Care Act and withhold all federal funds from Planned Parenthood. Given the Republican majority in the House, for the Speaker to bring up the bill guaranteed its passage by that body.

Of course, President Obama vetoed the bill, protecting more than 20 million Americans' access to healthcare. But that didn't stop Ryan from doing a victory lap. Ryan boasted that passage of the bill by both houses of Congress proved that, with a Republican in the White House,

He's always been a reliable vote for Paul Ryan's right-wing budgets. Ryan lists Dold as a "strong conservative" meriting his financial support, along with such Tea Party types as Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton and Iowa Senator Joni Ernst (who as a candidate promoted castrating pigs into a seat in Congress.) (See <http://www.prosperitypac.com/prosperity-victory-project/>.) And would it be reasonable to expect Dold to undermine national Republicans when just last year he signed a secret contract with them pledging to support their agenda? (See *The Washington Post*, 9/3/15.)



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As a matter of fact, Dold's peerless Republican pedigree spans decades. After working for Vice President Dan Quayle in the 1980s, his next career step took him to Bob Dole's failed 1996 campaign to defeat Bill Clinton and retake the White House for Republicans. Dold also was a legal aide to the partisan House committee that attacked the Clintons.

And just last week, on January 27, Dold cohosted a Paul Ryan fundraiser in Chicago where tickets cost as much as \$50,000 apiece. (See *Crain's Chicago Business*, 1/26/16, at <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20160126/BLOGS02/160129899/speaker-ryan-sets-big-chicago-fundraiser> and <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/01/paul-ryan-chicago-fundraiser-ticket-price-218226>.) Congressional cohorts

for this fundraiser included Peter Roskam, the 100 percent anti-choice Illinois congressman who is dedicated to overturning *Roe v. Wade* and who, as a member of the Benghazi committee, subjected Hillary Clinton to one of the rudest of the hostile cross-examinations she endured during the committee's 12-hour long interrogation.

We deserve someone in Congress who represents the values of 10th District residents, not the political interests of D.C. Republicans. That's why we'll be working hard to elect whichever Democrat prevails in the March 15 primary.

You can read about the Democratic candidates for Congress, Mayor Nancy Rotering and former Congressman Brad Schneider, below.

Vote on March 15

With the primary elections upon us, *Tenth News* invited Democratic congressional campaigns to submit an article by or about the candidate, with a photo. Our only instruction was that the article be no more than 500 words. This month, we present below, on this and the following page, the pieces submitted by Mayor Nancy Rotering, candidate for Congress; former Congressman Brad Schneider, candidate for Congress; and Andrea Zopp, candidate for U.S. Senate.

Brad Schneider for Congress

Hello 10th District Democrats,

My name is Patrick Watson and I wanted to introduce myself. In December, I came on board as the Voter Outreach Coordinator for Brad Schneider's campaign.

I grew up in the Chicago suburbs and got involved with political organizing because I didn't like the direction our nation was moving in. When President Obama first ran in 2008, I was inspired by his message of ensuring that every American had a fair chance, and it led me to volunteer for his campaign. When he ran for re-election in 2012, I knew our work was not done and became a Field Organizer on his re-election campaign. Since then, I've been honored to work on Organizing for Action's Comprehensive Immigration Reform campaign and Governor Quinn's re-election bid.

Now that 2016 is here, the reasons I was inspired to become a political organizer are even more important to me. This is why I am proud to work for Brad Schneider. I believe in protecting the middle class and making sure that everyone has a fair chance to succeed in America. Looking at Brad's record in Washington and his connections in the district, he is the person to make that happen. There are too many Americans who are struggling and Brad not only understands these challenges, but he's done something about them.

The Tenth District is going to be one of the closest races this year, and it's critical that the right person represent us in Congress. I believe Brad can take back the district for the Democrats. But we can't do it without your help.

We are going to be hosting phone banks at field offices throughout the district.



Please go to Brad's website and sign up to join us in Taking Back the Tenth. I look forward to working with all of you.

- Patrick

Nancy Rotering for Congress

As a lifelong Democrat and two-term mayor who actively promotes many of the values we all hold dear, I am seeking the office of U.S. Congress in the 10th District. I bring both private and public sector experience, along with a record of advocacy and achievement. It is time to elect someone with the background, experience, and energy to win this seat in November and hold it in 2018.

I grew up and attended public school in Highland Park, IL. After earning my undergraduate degree in economics from Stanford and an MBA from Northwestern, I worked in finance at General Motors before attending the University of Chicago Law School. I specialized in healthcare law, practicing with McDermott Will & Emery, before leaving to raise my family and devoting my time to public service.

After winning a hard-fought race to become the first woman mayor of Highland Park, I shook up City Hall with a major reform of city government that resulted in increased transparency and accountability. I've balanced five consecutive budgets and maintained a AAA credit rating, while shoring up pension funds for public safety workers.

I have consistently made it my mission to bring people from varied backgrounds, different communities and interests together to tackle some of our toughest problems. When powerful storms left residents without power for days, I led the fight to hold ComEd accountable, resulting in millions in equipment upgrades and better service. When we had the opportunity to protect our residents from potential mass gun violence, I passed one of the only local assault weapons bans in



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the nation and fought the NRA all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

We keep seeing nothing but gridlock coming out of Washington, people who are not interested in getting things done, but rather show up only when they are campaigning.

As a working mom of four sons and a mayor, I understand the issues that are important to our families and community. After nearly seven years in elected office, I know what it takes to represent my constituents – a willing ear, a fair response, and action on their behalf.

I am running for Congress to fight for educational opportunities for our students and economic fairness for all Americans. I will be a consistent advocate for a woman's right to choose, for accessibility to quality, affordable health care, and a strong partner with Israel. I bring a passion for advocacy, reflecting the progressive values of our district and a record of producing real results to a Congress that has achieved little in recent years.

Our district's voters tend to favor Democrats. With the right candidate, this seat should be held by a Democrat. Join Senator Dick Durbin, Hon. Ab Mikva, Dan Seals, Hon. Julie Hamos, and so many community leaders who have endorsed me, to create the change we envision and results we need. It's time to elect a leader who has the courage to do what's right, reflecting our Democratic values.

Mayor Nancy Rotering to Appear in Second Congressional Candidate Forum

If you missed the January 27 candidate forum with former 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider (read our report in the March issue), there's still time to register for the February 10 forum with 10th District Congressional candidate Nancy Rotering. Both 90-minute forums are cosponsored by Tenth Dems and Lake Forest College.

The Rotering forum will be held at Lily Reid Holt Memorial Chapel on the campus of Lake Forest College and will run from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Registration is free, and registrants will have the opportunity to submit questions in advance for the moderator to pose to the candidate. In addition, there will be time for live questions from the audience.

You can register for this event at <https://www.lakeforest.edu/live/events/479856-10th-congressional-district-candidate-forum-with>.

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

Andrea Zopp for Senate

I am a product of American opportunity.

Three generations ago, my family members were slaves. Today, the daughter of the first African American judge and one of the first women on the city's police force in Rochester, New York, is a candidate for U.S. Senate.

I want to make sure that this country offers everyone the same opportunities to succeed that many of us have had. Unfortunately, the door of opportunity is closing on more Americans each day. That is why I am running – the people of Illinois deserve a strong, proven leader representing them.

We are facing real challenges in our state and across our country. We have an economy that is not fully recovered, growing wage disparity, a declining middle class, communities awash in violence, and spiraling college costs. On top of that, the stepping stones of critical support that effective government should provide are being kicked out from under people who are trying to make a better life for themselves.

We need new leadership that is grounded in experience, has a demonstrated commitment to taking on tough issues, and a track record of success. This is what I bring to the table and what I plan to do for you in Washington.

As a former state and federal prosecutor, I fought to protect our most vulnerable citizens. I am also the wife of a retired DEA agent, so I understand the challenges law enforcement faces every day. Gun violence, gun trafficking, community police relations, and criminal justice reform are major issues facing America right now, and I am the



only person in this race uniquely qualified to address them.

Because of my time in business, I understand how they make decisions on how and where to invest. I also understand how to effectively hold them accountable.

As President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League, I fought for educational and economic change that led to job creation. I created thousands of job opportunities and helped numerous small business owners get major government contracts. I also helped students stay on track in moving towards college and helped them afterwards by creating career development programs for young professionals.

Making sure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed is at the core of our Democratic values. I ask for your support as I help restore those values in our nation's capitol. Your voice matters in this election, and I am fully

committed to representing you and the issues you care about as your next United States Senator.

I ask you to give fresh ideas a chance and remember that Democrats win when the grassroots come together and all of our voices are heard.

Andrea Zopp

Candidate, U.S. Senate

the United States that are not subject to Federal health and safety regulation. Your child's teddy bear has gone through a more rigorous evaluation than any handgun.

There are a number of reasons for this failure, but they all boil down to our collective refusal to recognize that firearms pose a threat to public health. First, to be effective public health requires data, yet as a result of Congressional action, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been prohibited from collecting data on firearms-related injuries and deaths, despite their obviously large numbers. Second, we are not enacting simple legislation that could reduce risks to children without limiting the ability of adults to obtain a firearm. For example, we could require manufacturers to increase the pressure required to fire a handgun. This might reduce the likelihood that a toddler who finds a gun is able to pull the trigger to discharge the weapon. States also could enact laws to require

safe storage of firearms if children are present in a home. Illinois has done so. Third, we should repeal a little-known provision in the Affordable Care Act that prohibits physicians from documenting patients' answers to questions about guns. While gun rights advocates claim the intent is to prevent the Federal government from keeping a database of gun owners, the effect is to essentially muzzle physicians from asking about firearms safety. And in Florida, the courts have upheld a law that prevents pediatricians from even asking parents about guns or counseling them about firearms safety.

President Obama's executive action to require background checks for sales at gun shows is an important step in the limitation of illegal gun sales; however, another important step is the recognition of injuries caused by firearms as a public health issue. That will lead to a better understanding of the impact of firearms on children and help ensure our children's safety.

It's Time to Enact Reasonable Gun Safety Measures

By Mark Mayer

It was time. It was time to get off my butt and become active combatting what I saw as our country's insane position on gun safety. Oh sure, I had become adept at sharing cute posts on Facebook about Congress' cozying up with the NRA; and I talked my friends to death about how crazy it was that our country won't pass reasonable gun legislation – especially after all the mass shootings over the past four or five years. But posting on Facebook and talking pretty much summed up my "activism" on the issue.

Okay, so now that I'm going to move away from my computer screen, "What exactly can I do?" I asked myself.

I believe that most Americans feel the same way I do about gun safety. And I have lots of friends. Hell, Facebook says I have 239 of them! So I figured I could use social media to enlist my friends and get a rally going.

And I did.

That's why on Saturday, January 9, there were 20 of us standing in the cold, rain, and sleet at Jewett Park in Deerfield to rally for "Reasonable Gun Legislation." I was very proud of and thankful for those of my friends who showed up—many with signs—to express their outrage that Congress refuses to pass any type of gun safety legislation.

The rally lasted for about half an hour. That was a good start, but it was not an ending. The next rally will be Saturday, February 13, 2016 at Jewett Park, near the flagpoles adjacent to the Deerfield Metra Station. I'm hoping that more than 20 people show up then. I'm hoping I can inspire others to get off their communal butts and realize its time – time to demand that Congress pass and not oppose laws requiring background checks on all gun purchases, pass and not oppose laws to close the gun show loopholes, and pass and not oppose the previous, now expired, ban on assault-style weapons.



Keeping Up with the Campaigns

During this busy election season, Tenth Dems could use someone to serve as an in-house campaign liaison. All that volunteer would have to do is consult with the 10th District Democratic campaigns on a weekly basis to learn what events they are planning. These happenings can then be relayed to Tenth Dems to be published in our Events List, which is distributed weekly via email or can be found on our website.

Be that important someone! Contact us at volunteers@tenthdems.org or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).

Illinois' Social Service Agencies Suffering Under Rauner

By Daniel Biss

A new year can be a time for hope and celebration, but that's not the case this year for providers of vital human services in Illinois.

Cut to the bone and relying on prayers and lines of credit to keep the doors open, human services providers rang in 2016 by bracing for more fallout from the state budget impasse and a single-minded governor content to watch Illinois' critical social safety net unravel in service of the pursuit of a radical, unrelated agenda.

These services — by and large directed to women, children and the elderly — are among the programs receiving no funding from the State of Illinois because of the lack of a budget, putting the providers' objectives and their futures in peril.

Included is support for public health departments, as well for programs for the homeless, sexual assault victims, autistic children, those in need of mental health and addiction-treatment services, at-risk teenagers, and more.

After a series of cuts to programs and services last year, things have grown worse for the state's remaining providers. More people in need of help are being turned away. Staff vacancies go unfilled as waiting lists grow. Agencies are dipping into reserves and borrowing money to stay afloat. For example:

* People in southern and central Illinois are coping with the aftermath of historic winter flooding, yet public health departments — which can be instrumental in safety and sanitation efforts — find themselves doing their jobs with far fewer resources because of the budget impasse.

* The Ford County Public Health Department in central Illinois — established just 18 months ago — is looking at options for cutting expenses, including mandatory furloughs, staff reductions, and possibly closing its doors as soon as late February.

* A DuPage County program that offers hot meal delivery for senior citizens hasn't received state funding since July. Organizers are planning to reduce the program this month.

* In southwestern Illinois, an agency that provides seniors with hot meals, transportation to medical appointments, and legal assistance is poised to cut services Feb. 1, affecting up to 900 people in seven counties.

* Nearly one-third of Illinois' United Way programs have just enough cash reserves to see them through one month or less. One-quarter of them established lines of credit to see them through the budget impasse, and nearly one-quarter cut the number of clients they serve by 10 to 20 percent. About 15 percent of them have closed programs.

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Ted Cruz's Hypocritical Tea Party Values

By Steven Gan

I'll be honest with you about Ted Cruz. He scares me. Even more than Donald Trump with his offensive and outlandish insults and megalomania, Cruz makes my skin crawl. As a ringleader of the Republican Tea Party Caucus in Congress, his strategy to shut the government down back in 2013 not only cost taxpayers over \$30 billion, it accomplished nothing for his party or the nation. When I look at Ted Cruz, I see a power-hungry ideologue who as President would impose his rigid and reckless Tea Party ideology on America.

But as we watch the Republican political chess game, I'm guardedly encouraged that Ted Cruz is going to face two battles of his own making that will prevent him from becoming the Republican nominee.

First, what started out as a minor nuisance, the debate about whether or not Cruz is a "natural born" citizen of the United States, is morphing into a major concern for Cruz, whose American mother gave birth to him in Canada. In fact, until 2014, Ted Cruz was both an American citizen and a Canadian citizen.

Article II, section 1, clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution states: "No Person except a natural born Citizen...shall be eligible to the Office of President." Some legal experts, including Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe, have opined that to be "natural born," one must have been born on American soil.

Trump has skillfully planted seeds of doubt among Cruz's base of support. I'll leave the question of Canadian-born Cruz's eligibility to serve as President of the United States to the legal experts, but I admit that I'm just delighted it's a discussion that continues to distract him from focusing on other issues.

Second, Cruz appears to have made a major misstep when he criticized Donald Trump for having "New York values." For the life



of me, I do not have a clue as to what "New York values" are, but since it sounded insulting to the people of the state with the fourth largest population in the U.S., Cruz won't be welcome there anytime soon.

And how hypocritical of Cruz to defame New Yorkers when one of his single biggest donors is a hedge fund billionaire from ... New York. Robert Mercer, co-chief executive of Renaissance Technologies, has poured \$11 million into Keep the Promise, a political action committee supporting Cruz. It's also worth noting that Cruz's wife Heidi is on leave from her job as managing director at Goldman Sachs, the New York investment bank.

So on one hand, Cruz criticizes Trump for having "New York values," but on the other (open) hand, he'll take New York money.

I guess that's what you call Cruz's "Tea Party values."

On the Campaign Trail in Iowa with the Mikva Challenge

By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

Having learned about the Mikva Challenge at a Tenth Dems University event last spring, I volunteered to chaperone a group of Chicago high school students for a weekend in Iowa. The goal was for the students to better understand the election process as well as the issues addressed by candidates.

The Mikva Challenge is nonpartisan. As it happens, though, despite the large number of Republican contenders, my van was assigned to a Democratic campaign—that of Bernie Sanders.

The five students I chaperoned learned the issues, made phone calls, and canvassed door-to-door in 12 degree temperatures. Among the memorable experiences were meeting Chris Christie at a town hall-type event in a bar, hearing Bill and Chelsea Clinton speak briefly at a rally for Hillary, and getting a telephone pep talk from Senator Bernie Sanders. Still, the highlight had to be, while parked on a side street, watching a wild turkey chase the students around the van. (Video evidence is available on request.)

Here are my personal political impressions:

The Bernie Sanders campaign has the most energy and volunteers. Recent polls seem to confirm that he has a large lead among independents and young people. The Clinton campaign seems to be in shock at the success of Sanders and has lost focus.

On the Republican side, the Ted Cruz campaign seems to be by far the best organized, having copied the Barack Obama playbook. Marco Rubio has the template but not the ground game. Chris Christie's is pretty much a single issue campaign, relying on the scare value of terrorism. Donald Trump has little organization visible but is relying on his name and rhetoric. The other Republican campaigns were practically invisible.



What we learned was the pivotal role both Iowa and New Hampshire play in selecting the parties' nominees. Iowa seems to represent a microcosm of each party, with conservatives, evangelicals, and tea partiers on the Republican side and labor, progressives, and students on the Democratic side.

Still, the Iowa caucuses do not always select the eventual nominees. They do often leave some candidates by the wayside, a phenomenon we'll likely witness after February 1.

Illinois' Social Service Agencies Suffering Under Rauner

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Why is Gov. Bruce Rauner forcing these essential providers to plead for the money they were promised and shake out the couch cushions in hope of finding enough to stay open one more week? Some of them are hiring lawyers rather than saving clients. What does this say about the governor's priorities?

It tells us that he's incapable of being a leader, persuading the General Assembly and the people of Illinois of the wisdom of his so-called reform ideas. Instead, he's using vulnerable people as hostages — crossing his fingers and gambling on people's lives.

Even though Gov. Rauner vetoed spending proposals presented by the General Assembly last year, he has yet to propose a plan of his own or reveal how he thinks Illinois should find money for these now-compromised human services, as well as for colleges and low-income students who also find themselves begging for help from back of the line.

Illinois' human service providers have done whatever they can to continue helping the state's poorest and most vulnerable residents. But the day will come — sooner than later — when there will be nothing more they can do.



These organizations need money immediately. I urge the governor to put aside his personal agenda and work with the legislature to make it happen.

— Sen. Daniel Biss (D-19th) serves as chair of the Illinois Senate Human Services Committee.

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