

In This Issue:

Poetry Competition	1	Martin O'Malley.....	5
Voter Forums	1	Tammy for Illinois	6
Congress Watch.....	2	Early Voting.....	6
Tea Party Dold.....	3	Caucus Watch Party ...	7
Hillary Clinton	4	Roboto Rubio.....	12
Bernie Sanders.....	4	Scalia	12

For information or to volunteer, email us at newsletter@tenthdems.org, call us at 847-266-VOTE (8683), or write to *Tenth News*, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015. Please visit our website at www.tenthdems.org and like/follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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6th Annual Community Connection Poetry and Prose Competition Planned

In early February, high school students in Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion began to receive information about the 6th Annual Tenth Dems Community Connection Poetry and Prose Competition. Community Connection is the Tenth Dems office in Waukegan, which was opened more than six years ago based on Tenth Dems' belief that politics should be about more than elections.

This year's Competition theme, "Justice," should inspire our young authors, as should the prizes on offer, which are more generous than ever before.

Submissions are due March 18. Upon receipt, Tenth Dems volunteers will separate the poem, story, or essay from the accompanying entry form and assign each a numerical identifier so that the written work can be evaluated without the judges knowing the name of, or any other biographical

continued on page 7

6th ANNUAL POETRY AND PROSE CONTEST

Open to:
High School Students in
Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion

Contest theme:
JUSTICE

Entry deadline:
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016

PRIZES AWARDED IN EACH CATEGORY

Grand Prize	\$150
1 st Runner-Up Prize	\$100
2 nd Runner-Up Prize	\$50

Come read your submission and applaud our winners at the

AWARDS NIGHT
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016
Ramada Inn - Waukegan
200 N. Green Bay Road
Waukegan, IL 60086

ASK YOUR SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AN APPLICATION
OR GO TO tenthdems.org/ContestApp

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL events@tenthdems.org

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Tenth News

www.tenthdems.org

March 2016 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 13, Edition 3

Brad Schneider, Nancy Rotering Answer Questions at Voter Forums

By Ellen Herdeck

On two Wednesday evenings, two weeks apart, voters in the Illinois 10th Congressional District had the opportunity to hear each of the Democrats vying to face second-term Republican Congressman Bob Dold answer questions about their positions on domestic and foreign policy issues. Both of the forums, cosponsored by Tenth Dems and Lake Forest College, took place at the Lily Holt Reid Memorial Chapel on the college campus and followed the same format. Former Congressman Brad Schneider appeared on January 27 and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering on February 10. Both events drew an enthusiastic crowd and also were live-streamed.

At each forum, Davis Schneiderman, Associate Dean of the Faculty and Professor of English, welcomed the crowd and explained the evening's agenda. He brought Barbara Altman, Managing Vice-Chair of Tenth Dems and editor of our newsletter, to the podium to introduce Tenth Dems leadership and talk about our work as a grassroots organization to elect Democrats up and down the ticket within the Illinois 10th Congressional District. Then, after Dean Schneiderman laid out some ground rules, he introduced the moderators. Next, he introduced the candidate, who had the opportunity to give an opening statement.

Questions during the formal phase of each forum were posed by two Lake Forest College faculty members. Prof. Siobhan Moroney, Associate Professor of Politics and the Chair of the Department of Politics, focused on domestic issues. She asked one or both candidates about wages and household income, mandatory prison terms and justice reform, reducing gun violence, immigration, and Obamacare. Prof. Jim



Marquardt, Associate Professor of Politics and Chair of the International Relations Program, propounded the foreign policy questions, asking one or both candidates about the Iran nuclear agreement, international trade and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, implementation of the Paris climate agreement, a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and American exceptionalism.

Audience members had the opportunity to question the candidate during the second part of each formal program. Afterwards, the candidate remained to talk to voters during a post-forum reception sweetened by cookies and a hot beverage.

continued on page 8

CONGRESS WATCH: MARK KIRK'S ANTI-ENVIRONMENT STANCE IN THE SENATE



By Laurence D. Schiller

When Republican Mark Kirk represented the 10th Congressional District, he billed himself as a protector of the environment. However, since becoming a senator, Kirk has left all such pretext behind. Mark Kirk's Senate record is rife with a dismal litany of votes against protecting our environment.

Last spring, President Obama and his administration took several steps to strengthen the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. But the GOP and Mark Kirk were having none of that. With the backing of big oil and big coal, Mark Kirk joined with his party to undo the President's efforts to protect our environment. Specifically:

- The EPA promulgated a power plant emissions rule that would have put the first ever national limits on carbon pollution from power plants. Republicans vowed to block the rule by denying the EPA funding to enforce the limits.

Mark Kirk cast the deciding vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee to preserve the GOP's effort to block funding for the EPA's power plant emissions rule. The vote was condemned by environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club and The League of Conservation Voters.

In a brief interview with *Politico*, Kirk blandly stated that this vote "was not a tough call." Apparently Kirk doesn't mind the air getting dirtier.

- Next, the GOP, with Mark Kirk's full cooperation, tried to thwart the President's efforts to protect U.S. waterways from pollution. The Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA jointly promulgated a rule to strengthen the 1972 Clean Water Act. The rule extends EPA regulatory control over waste emissions into a broader category of U.S. bodies of water by clarifying the definition in the Act of "waters of the United States."

In September, Kirk supported S.J. Res 22, which would have voided this rule. The President vetoed the measure, and in January every Republican save one voted to override the veto.

Kirk was NOT the one Republican who parted from his party to protect the environment; he voted the GOP party line to allow toxic waste to continue to pour into U.S. waterways. Fortunately, the veto override failed to get the necessary votes.

Senator Kirk also joined with his party to protect big oil.

- This fall, Senator Kirk voted against clean energy when he helped defeat an amendment (Amendment 3176) to the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 (S 2012), that would have phased out billions of dollars of tax preferences for fossil fuel companies (to S. 2012). While Kirk's fellow Republicans propose cuts to social services ranging from Social Security to Pell Grants, they are content to give government subsidies to an industry that doesn't need them—an industry that, not coincidentally, pours \$720 million per year into GOP campaign coffers.
- Another amendment to the Energy Policy Modernization Act would have required financial disclosures from persons benefitting from fossil fuels (Amendment 3125 to S. 2012). Kirk also voted against that amendment, protecting the Koch brothers' ability to continue to secretly fund their GOP-supporting super PACs.

Most recently, Senator Kirk refused aid to the residents of Flint, Michigan, who continue to lack access to safe drinking water.

- As we now know, thousands of people in Flint were poisoned when city managers appointed by Michigan's Tea Party Republican Governor sent corrosive water from the Flint River through the city's aging lead pipes, causing toxic levels of lead to leach into the municipal water supply. Last month, Democrats proposed a rider to the energy bill that would allocate money to rebuild the Flint water system and provide some relief to Flint's residents. Showing shocking indifference to the plight of the poor and working class families—including children and pregnant women—through whose faucets highly toxic water continues to flow, Kirk joined with his fellow Republicans to bring the energy bill to the Senate floor without the proposed rider.

Once respectful of Kirk's environmental votes, the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters now recognize that Mark Kirk has become a reliable vote for Republican policies driven by climate change deniers and big polluters, and both organizations have chastised him for his anti-environment positions. Senator Kirk has failed to represent the views of Illinois voters who favor policies that promote clean air and water. As Republican leadership has moved to the extreme right, Mark Kirk has made his choice to follow them and betray his constituents.

Do the Math: A Vote for Bob Dold is Basically a Vote for the Tea Party

By Jeff Hupert

Bob Dold portrays himself as a “Republican Moderate.” Whether or not this is true—indeed, whether such a political animal even exists anymore—are questions for another day. However, there’s no question that Bob Dold is a **Republican** and that, if elected to a third term, he would vote for Paul Ryan to remain Speaker of the House. That likely would be the most important vote Bob Dold would make—possibly the only important vote he would make given the power of the Speaker to control the House agenda.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives is elected by a majority of the House and determines, among other things, what bills are allowed to come to the floor of the House for either debate or vote. Thus, even assuming the Democrats win the Presidency again, and even assuming the Democrats regain their majority in the Senate, a Republican Speaker of the House would be able to block any legislation from being considered, whether or not that legislation might be favored by a majority of the Members of the House.



That’s OK. That’s how the system has worked for a long time (although things were much less partisan before the 1990s). Someone has to decide what makes it to the floor of the House in order for the House to function (to whatever extent it may currently be functioning). So it is important to examine who controls the Speaker, once he or she is elected. And it is equally important to understand how a Speaker decides what does, or does not, come to the floor for consideration.

Democratic as well as Republican Speakers have always been hesitant to bring a bill to the floor without very significant support from their own party’s caucus. But it’s been different for the Republicans since the advent of the “Hastert Rule.” In 2004, then Republican Speaker of the House (1999-2007) and now convicted felon (2015) Dennis Hastert instituted an informal “majority of the majority” rule that mandated that any Republican Speaker allow the House to debate and vote on bills only if they had the support of a majority of Republican members. The Democrats have not followed any similar rule.

With the Republicans’ adoption of the Hastert “majority of the majority rule,” the extreme right within the Republican Party has seized more power. When the Republicans regained control of the House in 2010, John Boehner said he was “not interested” in passing legislation with the support of Democrats. Still, he did not always follow the Hastert Rule, particularly when a bill might have “only” the support of 40 percent of the Republican caucus. For this temerity, Boehner was inundated with screams and complaints from right-wing bloggers (Andrew Breitbart is just one example) and from members of his caucus. Sick of this, he finally resigned, not just as Speaker, but as a Member of the House.

The Republicans elected Paul Ryan to serve in his place, but only after Ryan promised the extreme right-wing “Freedom Caucus” in the House that he would strictly follow the Hastert Rule.

Let’s look at the numbers. Right now, there are 434 members of the House (normally 435, but Rep. Boehner resigned and won’t be replaced until June). Of these, 246 are Republican and 188 are Democrats. If the Hastert Rule were to be applied, it would mean that the Congress of the United States could enact no legislation (including appropriations and budgets, not just new laws) without the assured support of 124 of its Republican members, whatever the other 310 members of the House thought. There are about 81 Republicans who are openly members of the Freedom Caucus and/or two similar “official” groups of the very right wing. Assuming the numbers stay the same in the next Congress, the 81 sure obstructionist votes would need only 43 more Republican votes from the remaining 122 Republican House members to keep any legislation from even being debated on the floor, much less voted upon. Furthermore, only about 50 House seats (ours is one of them) could



be said to be in play at all. In the other 380 plus districts, incumbent Republicans can pander as much as they like to whatever they consider their own party’s base.

Do the math. If the party breakdown of the House remains the same, 124 mostly extreme right-wing Republicans will be able to hold the lawmaking power of the United States hostage. Bob Dold might not be one of those 124. However, if he is elected, and if the Republicans retain a majority, he will vote for Paul Ryan for Speaker. And that will give those 124 or so right wingers veto power.

To those such as Michael Bloomberg who say, “We need more Republican moderates,” I say, “Sure. I agree.” But then I ask just how likely it is that “moderates” could gain control of the House Republican caucus. Watch the Republican presidential debates and then ask yourself that question.

Let’s face facts. Whether or not you buy Bob Dold’s pitch that he is a “moderate,” you have to believe him when he also says he’s a Republican. And know that, as a Republican, he will perpetuate the right wing’s control of the House agenda. You can count on it.

Hillary Clinton is the Best Choice

By Steve Sheffey

I feel so strongly that Hillary Clinton is the best choice for our party and our country that I am running as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention pledged to support her. The Republicans have promised to undo the progress we've made in the past eight years. With as many as four Supreme Court slots on the line (possibly even Scalia's slot), we must ensure that the next president is a Democrat. And since Republicans will likely have control of one or both chambers of Congress, we need a Democratic president who can work across the aisle to build on the success of the last eight years.

You say you want a revolution? We're not going to get one with a Republican Congress. But trying for a revolution could risk losing the White House, which is the only check we have on the Republicans. Under Hillary Clinton, we can move forward and continue to make as much progress as is realistically possible. Hillary is a fighter, as she has proven time and time again. She is also a diplomat who, as Secretary of State, showed she knows how to find common ground and build coalitions.

As a lifelong pro-Israel activist, I am especially proud of Hillary's foreign relations accomplishments. Hillary served as Secretary of State in one of the most pro-Israel administrations in American history. Hillary first visited Israel in 1981 and has proven to be a strong friend of the Jewish State throughout her career in public service.

As a U.S. senator, Hillary fought to get Magen David Adom accepted to the International Red Cross when other nations tried to exclude the organization. She wrote and co-sponsored bills that isolated terror groups, and she pushed to crack down on incitement in Palestinian textbooks and schools.

As Secretary of State, Hillary helped assemble the international coalition necessary for effective sanctions against Iran. These tough sanctions forced Iran to the table and made possible the deal that prevents Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Hillary is committed to making the deal work and to enforcing the deal, with military action if necessary, if Iran does not live up to its commitments.

Hillary supported Iron Dome, which has saved thousands of Israeli lives, she defended Israel at the U.N. (the Obama administration has a perfect record on Israel at the U.N.), and she opposed the biased Goldstone Report.

She firmly opposes the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement against Israel because she understands that only a two-state solution negotiated by the parties can solve the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Military and intelligence cooperation between the U.S. and Israel rose to record levels during the Obama administration. Hillary is committed to ensuring that Israel maintains its qualitative military edge and favors expanding high-level U.S.-Israel strategic consultations.

Hillary's foreign policy achievements make her not only the best qualified candidate in either party, but the candidate most likely to win in November—which is why I urge everyone to vote for her and all of her delegates in the upcoming primary.



Ila Rothschild and Lauren Beth Gash were among the Tenth Dems volunteers canvassing for Hillary Clinton before the Iowa Caucuses.

Why I Support Bernie Sanders for President

By Sharon Sanders

Who is Bernie Sanders? Bernie is an independent senator from Vermont vying for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Raised in a working-class home, his paycheck-to-paycheck upbringing has informed his decades-long fight for working families. His campaign is about transforming a political system captured by moneyed interests into one that represents all Americans and creates more opportunity for everyone. He has never veered from his beliefs. Bernie has no super PAC and no big money donors. Over 3,000,000 Americans have contributed an average of \$27 each to boost his campaign.

Since the extremist majority of the Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens*



Sharon Sanders, Dean of Tenth Dems University, was among the Tenth Dems volunteers canvassing for Bernie Sanders before the Iowa Caucuses.

United and McCutcheon that corporate political expenditures amounted to speech, many of us have worried that this would be the downfall of this country. Fighting money in politics is a massive job, because billionaires will do anything to hold on to their power and money. As Bernie knows, we will not be able to get binding change unless we wake up the American public to what's being done to them. We need a massive people's movement to stop the

ownership of this country by billionaires and their multi-national conglomerates that intend to control every piece of this country for profit. Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner is very much an example of everything we're fighting against: bankrupt the city, states, and

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country, and then privatize and sell for a penny on the dollar to corporate buddies.

But we are not against millionaires, billionaires, and profit; we are against those who made their money off the backs of the consumer, the workers, the middle class, and their savings.

Bernie knows this. As he points out, being a democratic socialist only means caring about the rest of society, not just oneself and understanding that when others do better, we all do better. Bernie knows that if we are to survive, we need a democracy in which everyone gets a chance to succeed, not just the few. We hear the term “free markets” perverted to mean everything at the top with nothing trickling down. Bernie wants fair markets where we spend money to improve society for all. Right now, 400 Americans own more wealth than the bottom 150 million Americans. Most people agree that this is not right.

Here are some brief bullet points that Bernie has put out as his platform.

- Create jobs and raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour
- Enact universal healthcare for all Americans
- Make public higher education free
- Combat climate change

- Rebuild our infrastructure
- Reform our broken immigration and criminal justice systems
- Stop police brutality and mass incarceration
- Rebuild our communities with jobs and good schools
- Promote diplomacy and avoid unnecessary wars
- Advance civil rights and equality for all

And how will this all be paid for? Bernie explains: We bring the trillions in hidden profits home so that everyone pays their fair share of taxes. We tax Wall Street a few cents per trade, which will not harm the average investor. We end private health insurance costs, which gouge our citizens, and pay a little more in taxes into a universal healthcare program.

I am a delegate for Bernie. Why am I giving 110 percent for Bernie? Because I've seen for the past 40 years that the billionaires and right-wing political and religious extremists are determined to take over this country—and they're doing a very good job of it at all levels of government. My fight is for everything Bernie believes. When I was young, what he represents is what the Democratic Party represented. His beliefs were not considered out of the mainstream then, and they shouldn't be today.

A Martin O'Malley Supporter Says Thank You

By Kerry Martin

I first met then-Mayor Martin O'Malley in 2001. I was struck by his “normalcy.” To me, he possessed the human attribute I believe to be the greatest indicator of future success, humility. He was comfortable in his skin, knew who he was, was unapologetic, and was firm in his convictions. I thought he was “Steve McQueen cool,” and that was before I learned he was in a band he founded. I walked away a big fan and believed he would one day be a national political figure of consequence. I was correct.

If you're unfamiliar with Governor O'Malley's Democratic credentials, let me help. A lifelong resident of Washington, D.C., and Maryland, Mr. O'Malley's political career started in 1991 when he was elected to the Baltimore City Council. In 1999, he ascended to Mayor of Baltimore. During his second term as mayor, Mr. O'Malley ran successfully for Governor of Maryland, and he served until term limits forced him out in 2014. Beyond his public service, O'Malley worked for such other notable Democrats as Gary Hart, Barbara Mikulsky, and Bob Kerrey.

O'Malley's list of accomplishments as Governor of Maryland reads like a Democrat's wish list. He

- Restored voting rights to 52,000 former felons.
- Signed Maryland's Dream Act.
- Repealed Maryland's death penalty in favor of the sentence life without parole.
- Passed the Firearm Safety Act of 2013.
- Decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana.
- Signed the Pre-K Expansion Bill providing access to pre-kindergarten to 1,600 children.



- Increased Maryland's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.
- Passed a marriage equality bill.
- Appointed the first woman to lead Maryland's highest court.

While Governor O'Malley was unsuccessful in this, his first Presidential run, his personal narrative is hardly complete. Timing is everything in life and this election cycle simply was not the right time for Governor O'Malley. Nonetheless, he ran a spirited campaign and was true to his Democratic ideals. At a different time in a different cycle, the purity and consistency of Governor O'Malley's message would undoubtedly resonate with a greater portion of the electorate. He is a Democrat's Democrat, a progressive anchor in a tumultuous sea of political soundbites and misinformation.

The best is yet to come for Martin O'Malley and, by extension, for progressivism and the country.

On behalf of all your supporters, I thank you Mr. O'Malley. Thank you for your sense of community, public service, and the personal and family sacrifice imbedded in all presidential campaigns. Your day is coming, and when it arrives, the country will be the better for it.

Tammy for Illinois: Investing in Our People Through Higher Education

By Rep. Tammy Duckworth (IL-8)

With the primary elections upon us, Tenth News offered Democratic congressional campaigns the opportunity to submit an article of no more than 500 words, with a photo. You can find the submissions of Mayor Nancy Rotering, candidate for Congress; former Congressman Brad Schneider, candidate for Congress, and Andrea Zopp, candidate for U.S. Senate in the [February issue](#). This month, we present the submission of Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth, candidate for U.S. Senate.

As I travel the state and talk to people across Illinois, I hear the same story time and time again: people feel like they're working harder than ever before, but they're still struggling to get ahead. Wages are stagnant; the cost of college feels out of reach; and a dependable, secure retirement seems unattainable. Illinois families are feeling squeezed, whether they live in Chicago, the suburbs, or Downstate, and they know the current leadership in Washington isn't working on their behalf.

When I hear these stories, it's deeply personal. My dad—a Marine Corps veteran—lost his job at 55. My family struggled to keep our heads above water and relied on programs like food stamps and reduced school lunches to get by. I was able to go to college, thanks to student loans, Pell Grants, and lots of waitressing. We were able to get back on our feet, but it took a tremendous amount of hard work—and help. Being able to earn that college degree set me on the path to become a combat helicopter pilot, as well as a Member of Congress.

That's why I'm deeply passionate about access to a quality, affordable education. And that's why I'm disgusted when I hear politicians like Mark Kirk ridicule a program I support that would provide free



community college to students who earn it as a “handout,” as he did last year.

I recently visited with students at Chicago State University, which may be forced to shut down because of the state's budget crisis. Chicago State is a gateway to opportunity for some of our area's most disadvantaged kids. It's a place of refuge at a time when nearly half of Chicago's young African American men aren't working or in school. And yet, because of the budget mess in Springfield and the stubbornness of the Governor, it's a month away from shutting down. We can't punish kids like this.

But that's exactly what Republican ideologues like Gov. Rauner and Sen. Kirk seem intent on doing. Take, for instance, Senator Kirk's vote against Elizabeth Warren's bill to allow more than 25 million Americans to refinance their student loans at a lower rate. At a time when student loan debt is skyrocketing, this is the right thing to do. But Mark Kirk opposed it.

Once we decide that it's okay to stop investing in our people, the fabric of this state we love begins to fray. Yet the policies and priorities of Gov. Rauner and Sen. Kirk are doing just that. They seem to believe public universities and helping working people afford college are giveaways. In their way of thinking, the GI Bill, which paid for college for millions of Americans—including my dad—must have been a giveaway, too. I believe affordable four-year colleges like Chicago State and free community college for those who earn it are an investment in America, not a giveaway, and I'll be proud to have that debate with Senator Kirk this fall.

March 15 Primary: Early Voting Has Begun!

The primary elections are underway right now. Tuesday, March 15, is Election Day here in Illinois, but early voting already has begun. Whether you support Bernie Sanders or Hillary Clinton, whether you support Andrea Zopp, Napoleon Harris, or Tammy Duckworth, whether you support Brad Schneider or Nancy Rotering, now is your opportunity to make your vote count.

Voter Registration

Even if you're not registered to vote, it's not too late. Just follow these easy steps:

- If you're unsure whether you're registered, go to the State of Illinois voter website and search for your name and zip code at <http://www.elections.state.il.us/VotingInformation/RegistrationLookup.aspx>.
- If you find that you are not registered, you still can register. Grace period registration is available through March 15, Election Day. The only caveat is that registering during this period requires you to actually vote at the same time you register. All early voting polling places will be available for grace period registration.
- Same day registration also is available on Election Day.
- When you register, you will need two pieces of current ID, both

continued on next page



In February, Deputy Voter Registrars whose training Tenth Dems sponsored helped organize voter registration events at Warren Township and other area high schools.

bearing your current name and one bearing your current address (a driver's license or state ID or a utility bill or the like).

Voting

Once you are registered to vote, you may vote in person at an early voting polling place in your community or at your assigned polling place on Election Day.

To find out where you can vote in **Lake County**, go to <http://countyclerk.lakecountyil.gov/ElectionInfo/Voter-Services/Pages/Voting-Options.aspx>

To find out where you can vote in **Cook County**, go to <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/pollinglocations/Pages/default.aspx>.

On Election Day, March 15th, the polls will open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

You may also vote by mail. You need not state a reason for requesting a mail-in ballot, and you may do so even if you plan to be present in the state on Election Day. However, if you are a first-time voter and you registered to vote by mail or online without including your driver's license or state ID number and the last four digits of

your Social Security number on the registration form, you must vote in person and you may not vote by mail.

What about voter ID?

Illinois does not require you to show identification when you vote, **unless:**

- **First-time voter who registered by mail without giving a driver's license or State ID number and the last four digits of a Social Security number:** you will need to show a photo ID or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address;
- **Early Voting Period:** your signature is enough, you do not need a photo ID unless your signature is challenged; or
- **Same-day Registration/Vote:** you need to show two pieces of current ID, both bearing the current name and one bearing the current address (i.e. a utility bill or other similar mail).

Still have questions? Call Tenth Dems at 847-266-VOTE (8683).

Make sure you exercise this precious right!

Tenth Dems Gather to Watch Iowa Caucus Results

Vicki and Hon. Kerry Martin hosted more than 50 political wonks on Monday evening, February 1, as Tenth Dems gathered to watch the returns come in from the Iowa Caucuses. The evening had everything a Tenth Congressional District Democrat could ask for: a gracious home in the heart of the 10th District; a wide screen TV tuned to MSNBC; two laptops tracking results from the Iowa Democratic and Republican parties, respectively; wine, cheese, and other munchies; and the fellowship of like-minded political activists.

Join us on March 1 as the Martins again host Tenth Dems, this time to watch the returns come in from the Super Tuesday primaries.

To RSVP for this free event, or to volunteer, email events@tenthdems.org or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).



Tenth Dems Managing Vice-Chair Barbara Altman steps in front of the TV screen to announce updated numbers reported by the Iowa Democratic Party.

6th Annual Community Connection Poetry and Prose Competition Planned

continued from front page

information about, the young author.

Our panel of judges, every one of whom is a published writer, will select the award-winning submissions in time for Awards Night from the more than 300 poems and short prose pieces we expect to receive. Those honored are invited to read their works aloud on Awards Night, and any other participant in the Competition is offered the opportunity to read, too.

This year's Awards Night is Thursday, April 21. Those of us who attend and hear these young people read their original works aloud are certain to be inspired.

Later in the spring or summer, look for the special poetry edition of *Tenth News*, where we will publish the six award-winning poems



Community Connection Corner

and prose pieces, as well as the three pieces in each category that the judges find worthy of honorable mention.

The event is free, but registration is encouraged. If you would like to volunteer to help with any aspect of this Competition and Awards Night, email events@tenthdems.org or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).

Voter Forums

continued from front page

Each evening was rich with opportunities to judge the candidate's breadth of experience, depth of knowledge, and ability to handle un-anticipated questions. We commend our readers to the video of each forum, which may be accessed through tenthdems.org or directly at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQ9uUQncS_o (Schneider)

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0t7LtNLowhk> (Rotering).

Adrienne Kirshbaum also contributed to this article.





MEET THE CANDIDATES
FOR THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

With the March 15 primaries approaching, 10th Congressional District voters will have the chance to hear both Democratic candidates for Congress in two voter forums.

Congressman Brad Schneider
Wednesday, January 27, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering
Wednesday, February 10, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Lily Reid Holt Memorial Chapel
Lake Forest College - 555 N. Sheridan Rd.

For questions about this event, please call 847-266-VOTE

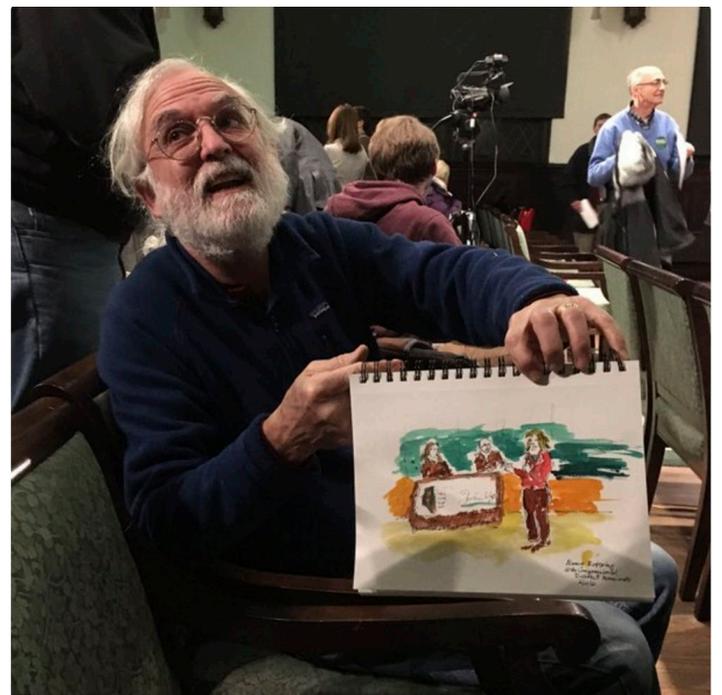
Registration is free, but required:
lakeforest.edu/schneider
lakeforest.edu/rotering

10 Tenth Congressional District Democrats
LAKE FOREST COLLEGE

If you need a disability-related accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Tegan Robinson (trobson@lakeforest.edu) at least 10 days in advance.







A Personal Perspective: Marco Roboto Rubio - Hopefully His Batteries Will Fizzle Out Soon

By Steven Gan

I love watching the name-calling, brow-beating, and immature antics of the Republican presidential candidates during the debates (and I bet many of you do, too). They just can't have a discussion and keep focused on the issues without tearing each other apart. Personally, I become giddy over the circus performance, since it reflects how immature their temperaments are and exposes their Sarah Palin-like hubris.

So at the GOP debate on February 7, at Saint Anselm College, Florida Senator Marco Rubio was asked the inevitable question about his experience. True to his pre-programmed, Intel microchip form, he rattled off a list of his accomplishments and then pivoted to an attack on President Obama. "Let's dispel once and for all with this fiction that Barack Obama doesn't know what he's doing. He knows exactly what he's doing. Barack Obama is undertaking a systematic effort to change this country, to make America more like the rest of the world," Rubio said. That's when New Jersey Governor Chris Christie called out Rubio for answering questions with memorized speeches. When Rubio punctuated his response to Christie by repeating the exact same talking point about President Obama, Christie pointed out the robotic nature of Rubio's response directly to the audience, drawing raucous applause. And then it boggled my mind to hear Rubio repeat himself almost word for word another two times during the exchange. You can view the comedy routine yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOOs-ft7S2c>.

Now, the reality is that virtually any candidate may repeat talking points over the course of multiple debates. However, what is important to note with Rubio is that even what he says only once doesn't make much sense, and there's little or no substance in his elegant phrases. His oratorical talent masks not only his lack of political experience

but also his lack of significant real-life experience. Bottom line, he's mostly hot air.

Some people try to compare Marco Rubio to President Obama because his experience before running for President includes a first term in the U.S. Senate and service as a state legislator. But Barack Obama brought so much more than that to the presidency. One of the things that I am so proud about regarding President Obama is his experience as a community organizer. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he could have obtained a high-flying position for a gazillion dollars at a prestigious law firm. But instead, he got down into the trenches to help people. And that kind of real-life experience is one of the things that's missing when you probe behind Marco Rubio's facade.

As far as I'm concerned, the faster Roboto Rubio's batteries fizzle out, the better for all of us. To me, his pre-programmed chatter is just annoying.



One Supreme Reason to Vote in November

By Mark Rosenberg

If, as expected, the U.S. Senate with its Republican majority stone-walls President Obama's expected nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, you will need no more significant reason to actively participate in the November presidential election. With Justice Scalia's death leaving a vacancy on the Supreme Court, our next President could impact the direction of this nation for the next generation with his or her first appointment.

Since his appointment in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan, Justice Antonin Scalia has been the face of conservative legal decisions. Think about the *Heller* decision, which established the right to possess handguns, or *Bush v. Gore*, which decided the 2000 election. Think about *Citizens United's* effect on money in politics and the subsequent gutting of the Voting Rights Act. And think about Justice Scalia's unsuccessful efforts to invalidate the Affordable Care Act, to overrule *Roe v. Wade*, and to undermine gay rights.

For those who agree with the Republicans who say that Scalia's re-

placement should be appointed by the next President, consider that according to the strict interpretation of the Constitution that Scalia advocated, it is the President's responsibility (and prerogative) to make appointments to the Supreme Court, and it is the Senate's responsibility to "advise and consent."

And what if Republicans succeed in thwarting an Obama appointment? For those Democrats who will be so disappointed that their candidate, either Bernie Sanders or Hillary Clinton, does not win the nomination, or for those who do not find either candidate worthy of their vote, consider the implications of staying home and conceding this election to the Republican candidate. Consider a Republican-appointed Justice and the very practical effects of such an appointment on voting rights, money in politics, guns in our communities, a woman's right to reproductive choice, and a host of like issues. Consider the implications for democracy with a small "d."

Elections have consequences. This one's for you.



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