

In This Issue:	
Photogenic Fourth 1, 5, 6, 12, 17	In the Doldrums7
Schneider Endorsed.....1	The economy and you.....15
Social Security Solvency4	'Poster Child' Pence.....16
In Memory of Mikva.....5	Off the Mark!.....16
Abner Mikva Legacy.....6	Morrison Reelection.....17
Party with Our Party..7-14, 18	Magie Beans.....18

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A Photogenic Fourth!

Democrats walked, pushed strollers, waved flags, juggled, and turned cartwheels as they celebrated the Fourth of July across the 10th Congressional District



Illinois State Representative Elaine Nekritz



Lifesize Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama cutouts added to the festivities



Many more photos of Democratic Fourth of July celebrations and other summertime events can be found throughout this issue.



Tenth News

www.tenthdems.org

AUGUST 2016 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 13, Edition 8

Brad Schneider Endorsed by National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare; Bob Dold “Not a Friend of Seniors”

By Barbara Altman

On June 20 in Waukegan, Brad Schneider, the Democratic candidate for Congress from the 10th District, hosted a Senior Roundtable with Max Richtman, President and CEO, National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare. One of the reasons Richtman was in Waukegan was to announce his organization’s endorsement of Brad Schneider for Congress.

Declaring that Brad has shown that he will fight tirelessly to preserve these crucial programs, Richtman presented him with a pair of boxing gloves. The well-padded gloves bear the logo of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare.

Richtman called Brad’s opponent, Republican Congressman Bob Dold, someone who “clearly is not a friend of seniors.” The Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare scored Dold at zero for his voting record on those programs. Richtman said that Dold did not respond to his organiza-



tion’s invitation to defend his record on Social Security and Medicare.

Brad believes that Social Security and Medicare are promises we’ve made to our seniors and that they are promises worth keeping. He opposes Republican efforts to turn Medicare into a voucher program—something Richtman called “Couponcare”—and he backed up that opposition when he served in Congress by voting against the Ryan budget.

Continued on Page 3...

Remembering Ab Mikva See Pages 5 - 6

Dold's House and Kirk's Senate Take a Seven-Week Vacation After Doing Nearly Nothing All Year



By Laurence D. Schiller

The news headlines are dramatic: Shootings in Orlando, Baton Rouge, Portland, and Dallas, coastlines from the Atlantic to the Gulf disappearing as ocean levels rise, towns in Louisiana and Alaska literally having to be abandoned for the same reason, the Zika virus spreading through the U.S., lead-poisoned water in Flint and in Chicago schools—and Congress takes a seven-week vacation.



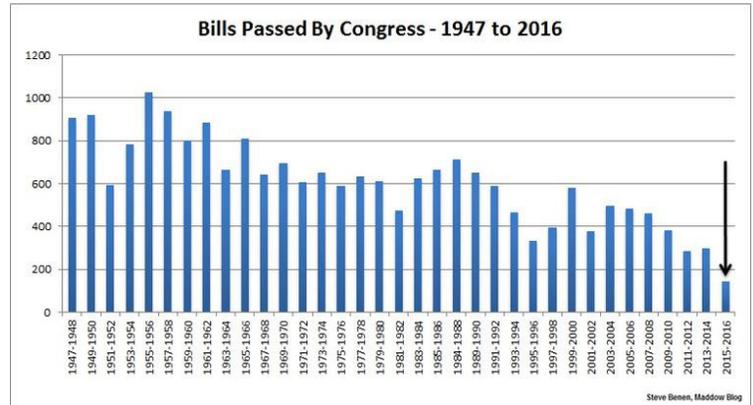
Wait, what? Yes, the Senate and House have recessed until after Labor Day, having accomplished hardly anything. Republican 10th District Congressman Bob Dold's good buddy, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), even recessed the House a day earlier than the Senate. Just one month after Orlando, two weeks after a dramatic sit-in by Democratic (and only Democratic) lawmakers, and a week after Dallas, Ryan continued to refuse to hold a vote on a commonsense gun bill that would deny access to assault weapons to suspected terrorists.

Meanwhile, Illinois' Republican Senator Mark Kirk's friends in the Senate majority continue to refuse to do their constitutional job to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. Judge Merrick Garland has been waiting for hearings for more than four months, which is unprecedented. And the Republican Senate majority is playing politics with the need for funds to fight the Zika virus, adding to the Zika funding bill Tea Party-backed amendments that would defund Planned Parenthood and loosen Clean Water Act regulations.

This 114th Congress has been the most unproductive Congress since the American Civil War. Neither chamber managed to pass more than a handful of the 12 annual appropriations bills this year. The new fiscal year begins October 1, and Congress won't even be in session again until after Labor Day.

And those appropriations bills the Republican Congress did bring up for a vote were larded with dozens of amendments attacking women's health, defunding Planned Parenthood, and trying to

overturn President Obama's executive orders or decisions by the Supreme Court. For example, the House recently attached the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015 to a Senate bill called the National Sea Grant Act (S. 764)—a bill that, needless to say, had nothing to do with women's health. And the Republican-controlled Congress has managed to send to the President only a temporary bill funding the Federal Aviation Administration—the agency that oversees airline safety.



So what about Bob Dold and Mark Kirk? Dold claims—in press releases and TV interviews—to support legislation to curb gun violence. But when Democrats staged a sit-in to try to force the leadership of Dold's party to move such legislation forward, Dold was nowhere to be found. He's neither protested his party's cozy relationship with the NRA nor influenced Republican leaders to heed the people's overwhelming desire for action. In fact, since the June sit-in, Dold has joined fellow Republicans in no fewer than seven party-line votes that prevented gun safety legislation from coming to the floor.

On the Senate side, despite Mark Kirk's very public meeting with Judge Garland, Republican Senate leadership stubbornly refuses even to hold hearings on the nominee.

Dold and Kirk have tried to distance themselves from their party's deliberately ineffective do-nothing Congress. But they have neither renounced that party nor moved it back toward the center. As longtime members of the Republican Party, which controls both houses of this deplorable Congress, neither Dold nor Kirk can duck responsibility for Congress' failures.

Dold and Kirk excel at PR, but they're failures when it comes to governing. Why would the voters of the 10th District send either one of them back to Washington next year for more of the same?



Brad Schneider Endorsed by National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare; Bob Dold “Not a Friend of Seniors”

Continued from page 1...

Brad understands that prior to Medicare, only 50 percent of seniors had health insurance, and 50 percent lived in poverty.

Brad also supports strengthening Social Security, and he opposes raising the retirement age. Brad recognizes, as Richtman explained at the roundtable, that those seniors whose financial condition is most precarious are also those with the shortest life expectancy. Thus, to raise the retirement age is to take benefits away from the most vulnerable; the higher the retirement age the less likely low-income seniors are to live to draw their benefits.

As Brad understands, prior to Social Security, over half of America’s elderly lacked sufficient income to be self-supporting. Still today, barely half of all workers have access to retirement plans at work, and millions reach retirement age without enough private savings to provide an adequate living in retirement. Today, nine out of 10 people over age 65 receive Social Security benefits, and nearly two out of three of them receive more than half of their income from Social Security. Social Security is the only source of income for nearly 20 percent of seniors. Without Social Security, over half of all older Americans would fall into poverty.

Brad understands all this and will fight to protect the program. That’s why he earned the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare’s endorsement.

And how did Bob Dold earn his 0 score on protecting Social Security and Medicare?

In 2010, Dold announced his support for Paul Ryan’s Roadmap for America’s Future. This Roadmap included plans to:

- Privatize Social Security
- Privatize Medicare and Medicaid and gradually eliminate both programs
- Eliminate the Children’s Health Insurance Program and replace it with vouchers that decline in value

In 2010, Dold told the *Chicago Tribune* editorial board that he was in favor of transforming Social Security so that it would not be available to those younger than 55. “I would propose amending the current program for future beneficiaries by drawing a firm line at 55 – those younger than 55 would have a different plan,” Dold said.

Dold continued, “The age must be raised gradually to reflect the life expectancy adults are achieving today. Additionally, I would propose allowing a portion of Social Security payments (not more than 25%) to be put into Government

authorized individual retirement accounts that would be able to be passed to heirs if not used.”

And again in 2014, Dold was willing to guarantee Social Security benefits only to those already 55 years of age or older. That narrow guarantee is, of course, Republican code for doing away with the promise of the Social Security safety net by pitting one generation against another.

Think about that. If you were 54 years old in 2010, you’re 60 years old today. Are you content to forgo Medicare at age 65? Do you think a government payment of \$9,500 per year would give you healthcare benefits equivalent to what Medicare beneficiaries enjoy today? And just how alarmed would you be at the prospect of not receiving Social Security benefits until age 70, or beyond? Would you prefer that your financial wellbeing during your retirement depended entirely upon the performance of the markets, with no safety net? And if that’s okay for you, is that the future you want for your children?



Social Security has made it possible for millions of Americans to avoid poverty in their old age while Medicare has enabled them to access affordable, quality healthcare. The programs are solvent, and with some tweaking would endure for decades. Yet, ever since George W. Bush’s reelection in 2004, Republicans have been trying to convince Americans that Social Security is in danger and that the only way to save the program is to privatize it, for the benefit of Republican big-money donors. And Dold has been right there with his party, peddling that same malarkey.

Continued on next...

Brad Schneider Endorsed by National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare; Bob Dold “Not a Friend of Seniors”

Continued from previous:

During his two terms in Congress, Bob Dold voted for the Republican budgets put forth by Paul Ryan every time one came to the floor of the House. Every one of these budget proposals that Dold supported would have eliminated Medicare as we know it, turning the fee-for-service program into a voucher program. Republicans also would reopen the “donut hole,” increasing costs for Medicare beneficiaries with high prescription drug costs. The Affordable Care Act—Obamacare—eliminated the donut hole. Dold consistently has voted with his party to repeal Obamacare and reinstate the donut hole.

Whatever Dold is saying today, as he fights to retain his seat during what promises to be a wave year for Democrats, remember what he’s said in the past, how he’s voted, and what his party stands for.

Unlike Dold, Brad Schneider will fight to protect Social Security and Medicare. Just look at those boxing gloves.



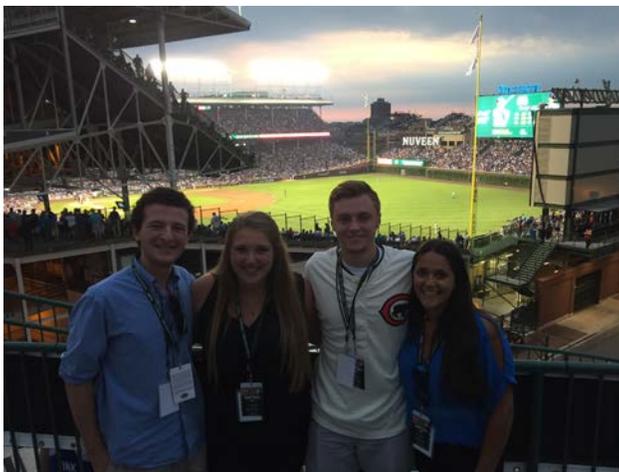
Proposal to Lift the Cap on Payroll Tax Contributions Would Guarantee Social Security Solvency

If you’re worried about whether Social Security can remain solvent over the next several decades, you should know about the legislative proposals that would guarantee the program’s solvency without raising taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000 per year on earnings above \$250,000.

According to *Politifact*, that campaign promise was not fulfilled. (<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/promises/obameter/promise/44/lift-the-payroll-tax-cap-on-earnings-above-25000/>)

Now, according to Max Richtman, there is a bill in Congress that would do what President Obama promised in 2012, but for earnings above \$400,000. This bill would maintain the payroll tax cap—to protect the middle class—but would have payroll tax kick back in after earnings reached \$400,000. That is, an earner would start paying payroll tax again on the 401,000th dollar of earnings and continue paying on every dollar earned after that.

Needless to say, as long as Republicans control Congress, this and similar proposals to preserve Social Security for generations without increasing the tax burden on the middle class will go nowhere.



Tenth Dems interns Joey Slater, Anne Grujanac, Noah Daniel, and Niveen Hennein help celebrate Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan’s birthday at Wrigley Field on July 19th



Illinois State Representative Elaine Nekritz addresses Northfield Township Democrats at the organization’s mini-convention on July 16th

In Memory of Abner Mikva: He Made the World a Better Place, One Person at a Time

A Personal Reminiscence by Lonni Berkley

I am honored and profoundly humbled to have been asked to write a remembrance of Abner Mikva, so I will attempt in my own way to describe his unique contribution to the trajectory of my life, in particular. I'll leave to the history books the daunting task of continuing to assess the remarkable contributions of a just and moral man who so fearlessly served in all three branches of government and embraced social change as social imperative.

I have been a news and political junkie as long as I can remember. When I was probably three or four years old, I adopted the unnerving practice of leaping out of bed the moment my father returned home from work as an attorney, slipping his heavy wing-tipped shoes over my feetie pajamas and discussing world events on his lap while "helping" him eat what was likely his first meal of the day consumed hurriedly at 10:00 at night. Although I was so very young, my father explained to me and instilled in me an appreciation for the gravity of world events which gripped the attention of thinking men and women throughout America in the 1960s. He discussed with me not only the events themselves, but also the champions of movements who had the vision, foresight, and courage to see beyond the racism and ignorance of the moment and grasp the beauty and justice of a world which could be.

Among these courageous heroes whom I came to worship while sitting on my father's knee were Bobby Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and, yes, Abner Mikva.

My father and I worked so very hard for Ab so many times, in so many different roles, because he embodied the very essence of Tikun Olum, the Jewish principle of "repair the world," i.e., leave the world a better place than it was when you came into it.

The first time I secured a position working for Abner Mikva, it was as a 14-year-old intern. I lived in an area of Lincolnwood known as "the Towers" – as far west, and hence as distant from Evanston as one could get—but I was determined to work for my childhood hero. I rode my bike each day from Lincolnwood to Evanston and felt privileged to be part of the election process.

By that time, I had already decided that when I grew up I would become an attorney. Just like my father. Just like Abner Mikva.

When I shared my life's dream with my high school counselor in 1974, he asked me, "Lonni, have you ever met a lady lawyer?" It seemed like a perfectly legitimate question, and of course the answer was, "No I have not." However, if the inquiry was intended to give me pause, to make me ask myself, "Then what on God's green Earth makes you think YOU young lady can become a lady lawyer?" this particular counselor did not know that I was both Irwin Berkley's daughter and Abner Mikva's summer intern. For when my hero, Abner Mikva, heard about the 14-year-old who had ridden her bicycle the nearly eight miles from Lincolnwood to Evanston to work for his campaign that summer, he decided he wanted to meet that intern himself. And when Ab Mikva asked that young woman, "Lonni what do you want to do with your life when you grow up?" I said, "Mr. Mikva, I desperately want to become an attorney."

Abner Mikva replied, "Lonni, I believe you will make a fine attorney when you grow up." So I was well inoculated against my high school counselor's effort to infect me with self-doubt.

When less than a decade later, at 23 years old, I raised my hand to be sworn into the Illinois Supreme Court as a licensed attorney, I thought of Abner

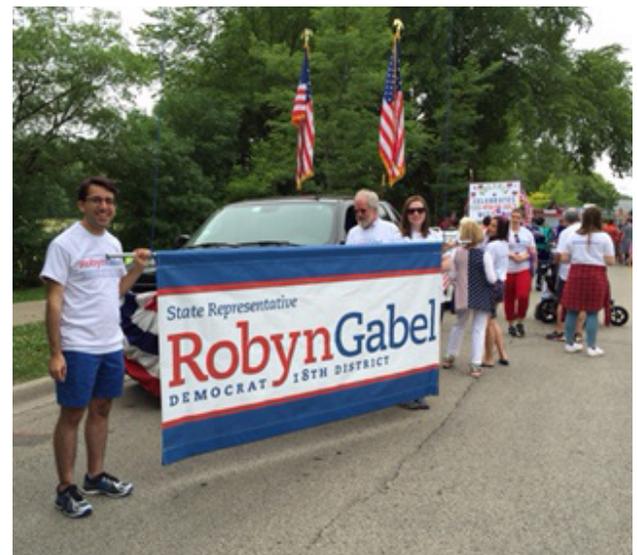


Mikva. On the day I made partner at Neal Gerber & Eisenberg, less than a decade after that, I thought of Abner Mikva. On the day I launched one of the first women-and-minority-owned law firms in the country, I thought of Abner Mikva. And, finally, on the day my then-secretary, a young man, told me he wanted to resign to join a political campaign to help our Senator, Barack Obama, become president of the United States, I thought of Abner Mikva and his wonderful words of encouragement to me and I said, "Duncan, I'll see you at the inauguration." Duncan continues to work directly for President Obama, yet another of countless men and women whose lives were touched and whose spirits were inspired by a man of such profound greatness, the 10th District's own Abner Mikva.

To paraphrase, "You change the life of one person, you change the world entire."

God bless you and keep you, Abner Mikva.

You can read more about Judge Mikva's legacy on the next page.



The Legacy of Ab Mikva

By Mark Rosenberg

We all lost a great friend and inspiration with the death of Ab Mikva. Among his many accomplishments, possibly his greatest legacy may be the Mikva Challenge that was founded by Ab and Zoe Mikva in 1997.

The mission of the Mikva Challenge, as we learned at a recent Tenth Dems University (TDU) event, is to empower young people to become active participants in the democratic process. Mikva divided real-life democracy education into five robust "Action Civics" programs that serve over 6,000 high school students and 130 teachers at 110 schools across the Chicago Metropolitan region.

The results of the Mikva Challenge programs are impressive, with 88 percent of participating students registering to vote compared with 50 percent of all 18 to 30 year olds overall. And two thousand students participated as election judges in recent Chicago mayoral elections.

Beyond the numbers, what has impressed me is how self-assured and engaged the students are, a stark contrast to the stories that appear daily in the Chicago media about today's youth.

In addition to helping organize the TDU program about the Mikva Challenge, I had the privilege of accompanying Chicago students who participated in getting out the vote for the Iowa Caucuses on a sub-zero January weekend this year. In addition to escaping a wild turkey on the streets outside Des Moines, my students learned communication skills and the election issues that were of concern to Iowa voters.

The success of the Mikva Challenge has generated state legislation to require civics education in high schools across Illinois. Thanks to Ab and Zoe Mikva, we can look forward to a new generation of students who are engaged and active politically.



A Fine Fourth!



Supporters of Josina Morita, candidate for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board, and State Senator Daniel Biss walk together on the Fourth.



Judge Mitch Hoffman and his wife prepare to walk with Tenth Dems in the Highland Park parade.



Tenth Dems march in Highland Park with Brad Schneider, Tammy Duckworth, and other Democratic campaigns

Moraine Township Dems Party with Our Party in Highland Park

On the evening of July 13, close to 100 local Democrats celebrated the summer at the Moraine Dems's annual membership event, Party with Our Party, hosted this year by Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering. Even a brief thunderstorm could not dampen the festive mood as all present moved indoors to hear inspiring speeches from Susana Mendoza, candidate for Illinois Comptroller; Brad Schneider, candidate for Congress from the 10th District; Illinois State Senator Julie Morrison and State Representative Scott Drury, both running for reelection; Erin Cartwright Weinstein, candidate for Clerk of the Court of Lake County; Matt Stanton, candidate for Lake County State's Attorney; and Tom Rudd, Lake County Coroner. A team of Tenth Dems interns staffed the sign-in table and helped keep the food platters full and the drinks flowing. Illinois Comptroller candidate Susana Mendoza brought along her young son David, who seemed to find the speeches almost as entertaining as the rope swing in the garden.



Tenth Dems interns Avital Raff, Anne Grujanec, Mariel Boden, Bri Mairkranz, Bobby Reedy, and Sean O'Reilly staff the sign in table.



In the Doldrums

Bob Dold signed a "Patriot Program Contract" with the National Republican Congressional Committee in which he promised to provide the Party with "political justifications" for all legislative goals in exchange for strategic support and "a special pot of cash." (*The Washington Post*, 2/22/16).



More from Party with Our Party!



Robert Luna, Clara Berman, and Lynne West sign in for the event.



Moraine Dems Office Manager Jeanine Chyna and interns Anne Grujanac, Bri Maikranz, and Sean O'Reilly look on as Susana Mendoza, candidate for Illinois Comptroller, and her son make their name tags.



After his introduction by Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, the evening's host, Brad Schneider makes brief remarks about the unparalleled importance of the upcoming election--especially the presidential race--and the stark differences between him and his opponent.



(l. to r.) Murray Levin, Joan Levin, Robert Luna



Barbara Altman and Matt Pestine

More from Party with Our Party!



Lynne West and Beverly Mull



Vincent and Mary Ellen Bowman



Moraine Township Supervisor Anne Flannigan Bassi and Vic Bassi



Moraine Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash introduces speakers.



Laurence Schiller, intern Andrew Barnett, and Judge Mitch Hoffman



Vic Bassi and Flo Love

More from Party with Our Party!



Alyssa Knobel and Renee Kahn chat with State Senator Julie Morrison.



Susana Mendoza, candidate for Illinois Comptroller, with the support of her son, David, talks about the Comptroller's responsibility for prioritizing state expenditures.



Andrew Barnett, Tenth Dems intern, talks about internship opportunities.



Erin Cartwright Weinstein, candidate for Clerk of the Court, Lake County, talks about the corruption in the clerk's office under the Republican incumbent.



Illinois Comptroller candidate Susana Mendoza with her son, David, and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering.

More from Party with Our Party!



Moraine Township Trustee Cindy Wolfson, Karen May, Mark Paul



Laurence Schiller and Mary Friedman



Comptroller candidate Susana Mendoza, former State Representative Karen May, State Representative Scott Drury



Highland Park City Council member Daniel Kaufman with a constituent



Mary Ellen Bowman and Matt Stanton, candidate for Lake County State's Attorney



More from Party with Our Party!



Karen Singer



State Senator Julie Morrison talks about her work in Springfield and her Republican challenger who has no apparent record of public service in the district.



A scrumptious array of desserts awaits the completion of the program.



State Senator Daniel Biss shakes the hand of a young supporter.



Some Tenth Dems Fourth of July paraders with the car they decorated. Cutout Barack Obama (back to camera) has cutout Hillary Clinton's back as she looks out over the group.

More from Party with Our Party!



Rhoda and Dan Pierce, former Highland Park Mayor and currently Vice President, North Shore Sanitary District Board of Trustees



Brad Schneider chats with Tenth Dems interns Daniel Parra and Anne Grujanac.



Host, Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, and Highland Park City Council member Alyssa Knobel



More from Party with Our Party!



Interns Anne Grujanic, Mariel Boden, and Avital Raff with Susana Mendoza, candidate for Illinois Comptroller



Yumi Ross, member of District 112 School Board, and Cindy Wolfson, Moraine Township Trustee



Barbara Altman and Moraine Township Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi



If You Feel the Economy Has Left You Behind, Vote Democratic

By Murray Levin

Donald Trump has gained much of his support from people who feel that their financial condition has stagnated for the last several years. They know that their incomes and social situations have not improved and may have deteriorated. They have little hope for improvement. They blame both political parties and the Obama Administration. They blame NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), which makes them angry at Hillary Clinton because her husband signed NAFTA when he was President. In fact, NAFTA was negotiated mostly by the George H. W. Bush administration, but since it was signed by Bill Clinton shortly after he became President, Clinton tends to get the blame (or credit) for this trade agreement.

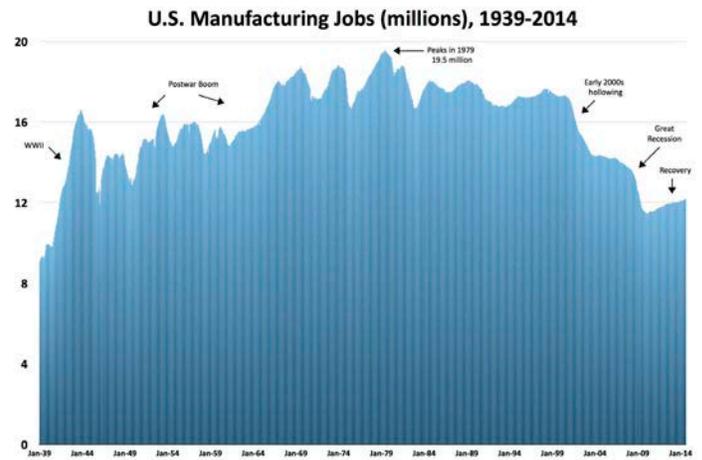
Here's another fact. Although some jobs probably have been lost because of NAFTA, the largest number of U.S. manufacturing jobs lost over the last several decades were lost between 2000 and 2010— mostly during the George W. Bush administration. Since 2010, the US economy has actually gained manufacturing jobs.

These facts bear repeating. The majority of manufacturing jobs were lost to other countries during the George W. Bush Republican administration, and the Obama administration has increased manufacturing jobs in the U.S. Of the five million U.S. manufacturing jobs that went overseas during the first decade of this century, over three million were lost to China and several hundred thousand more to other Asian countries. This large number of jobs went to China and other Asian countries because U.S. businesses found it cheaper to manufacture there despite some terrible quality and safety issues. This occurred after China was allowed to enter the World Trade Organization in December, 2001, during the Bush 43 administration. The Bush administration put up few if any obstacles to this shift of jobs to China and other Asian countries.

NAFTA was not the cause of this job loss. Only 20 percent of the five million jobs lost from 2000 to 2010, about one million, went to Mexico and Canada, the two countries that were part of NAFTA. What happened in Asia from 2000 forward cannot be attributed to Bill Clinton's having signed NAFTA, much less to his first lady, Hillary Clinton.

One answer to bringing back U.S. jobs is government-funded infrastructure improvement. However, the Republican leadership in the Senate and House has done everything it can to block President Obama's efforts to create construction jobs through programs to improve our infrastructure.

Of course, we know why infrastructure improvement, a program that should be noncontroversial, has been blocked over the last seven and a half years. Senator Mitch McConnell, leader of the Senate Republicans, famously called a meeting immediately after President Obama's first inauguration in 2009 and launched his plan to obstruct everything Obama wanted. The result? No infrastructure jobs, no new energy jobs, no government-



supported jobs program.

Both Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton have championed infrastructure job creation as a way of providing better jobs for the lower and lower-middle economic classes.

The anger of those who are justifiably unhappy with their current economic lot should be directed in the appropriate direction—at the loose attitude toward job loss to China by the Bush 41 administration and at Republicans in Congress, who have blocked President Obama's efforts to build a better economy.

Donald Trump's economic plans, which have been blasted by economists of all political and social leanings, would only make things worse. Investment in new jobs would be difficult, if not impossible, if Trump's plan to decrease tax rates for the wealthy and for corporations were implemented. In contrast, Clinton wants to make sure that the rich and the companies pay their fair share so that our country's economy can move forward with investment in our infrastructure and education.

These are only some of the reasons why election of Democrats like Brad Schneider and Tammy Duckworth is essential to helping the next Democratic administration break the logjam in Washington and get our country moving forward again.

Off the Mark!

As documented by Emily's List, Mark Kirk has consistently opposed equal pay for women. He voted against the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in the House, and since then he has voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act at least six different times.



Governor Mike Pence: The Poster Child for Homophobia in America

By Steven Gan - A Personal Perspective

By the time you're reading this, the Republican and Democratic Conventions will have come and gone and Trump's campaign of insults, lies, and outrageous and outlandish remarks, assertions, and beliefs will be in full swing. But now he's going to have a sidekick who will try to modulate Trump's sewer mouth, joining those advisors who do their embarrassing best to get Trump to be more "presidential."

I can't say that I was surprised when Trump picked Governor Mike Pence of Indiana to be his running mate. When he called Ted Cruz "Lying Ted," while holding up the Bible and proclaiming him to be a religious hypocrite, Trump alienated Evangelicals throughout the country.

This was a real problem for Trump. Most religious conservatives revere Cruz. In addition, many suspect that Trump is just not a real conservative.

So who is Mike Pence? He was suddenly in the national spotlight in April, 2015, when he signed Indiana's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in Indianapolis. Although legislation with the same name was originally passed on the federal level under President Bill Clinton, and a version of it was even passed in Illinois with the support of then-Senator Barack Obama, additional legislation at the federal and Illinois State levels was also passed to make it clear that no business that sells to the public could discriminate against anyone based upon sexual orientation or sexual identity. This was not the case with Indiana's RFRA.

But the fact that the country has overwhelmingly changed its understanding and acceptance of LGBT Americans means that any legislation that has the potential to undermine the rights of LGBT Americans is now recognized as being discriminatory.

So just after Governor Pence signed Indiana's RFRA bill—in relative secrecy, surrounded by a bunch of conservative religious men and women and some anti-LGBT activists—he got a swift kick in the derriere when many corporate and political leaders threatened to pull their business out of his state. This would have caused serious economic damage and earned Indiana the moniker "The State of Hate." Furthermore, the inclusion of the RFRA into the Indiana Constitution would have made it possible for florists, wedding caterers, photographers, and anyone else who sells to the public at large to say to LGBT Americans, "Sorry, but my faith doesn't allow me to recognize your same sex wedding or other gay ceremonies. You'll have to go somewhere else."

From Pence's twisted perspective, this was all perfectly logical, since a person of sincerely held religious beliefs should be able to discriminate against those who they feel might be in violation of their religious doctrine. Fortunately, the blowback made Pence's head spin, and an amendment to the RFRA was quickly signed into law to make sure that Hoosier LGBT Americans could get their flower arrangements, photos, cakes, gowns, liquor, bands, etc. from any vendor who provides their services generally.

Pence has had a long and illustrious career when it comes to his obsession with religious liberty as an excuse for opposition to gay rights. When running for Congress in 2000, Pence's campaign website was full of homophobic gems like this: "Congress should oppose any effort to recognize homosexuals as a 'discrete and insular minority' entitled to the protection of anti-discrimination laws similar to those extended to women and ethnic minorities."

The website also declared Pence's support for gay conversion therapy, evinced the belief that organizations receiving HIV-treatment funds under the Ryan White Care Act "celebrate and encourage" HIV transmission,



and demonstrated his conviction that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

In Pence's 12 years in Congress, he voted to define marriage as only between a man and a woman, opposed measures to block employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, and opposed the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. In 2009, he opposed the expansion of hate crime definitions to include crimes motivated by sexual orientation because he claimed that it would have a "chilling effect" on religious expression. A year later, he told CNN that open LGBT military service amounts to "social experimentation."

So here we have it. Trump picked Pence to shore up the Evangelical vote. And rumor has it that Pence was willing to be Trump's running mate because his reelection as Governor of Indiana was in doubt. So I say to Mike Pence:

Hopefully this will be your last year in any government office as your bigoted and discriminatory beliefs towards LGBT Americans have no place in a civilized, enlightened, inclusive, and rational society.

And shame on you, Donald Trump, for your willingness to exploit Pence's homophobia to further your own ambitions.



State Senator Julie Morrison Launches Reelection Bid in June and Announces Gun Violence Prevention Legislation in July

On June 28, Democratic State Senator Julie Morrison (29th District) officially kicked off her reelection campaign at her campaign office on Lake Cook Road in Deerfield. Morrison was surrounded by friends, family, and more than 50 supporters as she announced the start of her campaign.

Then on July 19, surrounded by Highland Park officials, other local and state public officials, and gun safety advocates, Senator Morrison appeared at the Highland Park City Hall to announce important new gun violence prevention legislation.

The legislation introduced by Morrison, Senate Bill 2130, would give Illinois municipalities the ability to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

“My plan would give control to local communities who don’t think assault weapons have any place in their neighborhoods,” Morrison said. “It is entirely permissive and puts the power in local hands. At a time of continued inaction in Washington and Springfield, we must give local communities who want to protect their neighborhoods the ability to do so.”



At a press conference in Highland Park on July 19, Morrison announces her plan to authorize Illinois communities to ban assault weapons as (l. to r.) Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering and city council members Kim Stone, Alyssa Knobel, and Dan Kaufman, along with other city officials, look on.

Current Illinois law prohibits municipalities from enacting assault weapon bans. The practice was legal until 2013, when the controversial law allowing Illinois residents to carry concealed weapons was passed.

Highland Park was one community that enacted an assault weapons ban before the state prohibition went into effect.

“When Highland Park’s ban on assault weapons was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, I contacted Senator Morrison, urging her to draft legislation to allow all Illinois municipalities the opportunity to take action. Senate Bill 2130 provides all Illinois cities and villages the opportunity to reduce gun violence and protect their communities from mass violence and grief,” said Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering.

A coalition of gun safety advocates, including the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, People for a Safer Society, and Moms Together, joined Morrison in support of her proposal.

“Military style weapons have no use on our streets and cities across Illinois. These weapons of war are not designed for sport - they are designed to kill humans quickly and efficiently,” said Mark Walsh, Campaign Director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.

Morrison’s plan, contained in Senate Bill 2130, will be heard in a Senate subcommittee in late August. Morrison has started a petition for residents in support of Senate Bill 2130 that can be filled out on her website at www.SenatorJulieMorrison.com.

[SenatorJulieMorrison.com](http://www.SenatorJulieMorrison.com).

When she announced her reelection bid the month before, Morrison touted her ability to get things done. She also pointed to her family as her inspiration to pursue public service. She spoke about her experiences in the district as her motivation to focus on the needs of the community. She said, “It’s important for me to go back [to the state legislature], because people who have been part of a community, people who have paid property taxes, people who have sent their kids through public school and public university are best equipped to put Springfield back on track.”



Enthusiastic supporters crowded into Morrison campaign headquarters to help the State Senator kick off her reelection campaign on June 28.

“No one has seen a time like this in Illinois where we have gone a whole year without a budget. It’s unprecedented and we must overcome the egos that are creating these impasses,” she continued.

Senator Morrison stressed the need for bipartisan compromise at this significant time in Illinois. She called on her supporters to work hard over the coming months so that she gets another opportunity to fight for them in Springfield.



After the Fourth of July parade, Tenth Dems interns help staff a booth for Moraine Dems at Sunset Park in Highland Park. L. to r., Avital Raff, cutout Hillary Clinton, Christina Li, Moraine Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash, Joey Slater, Kyle Rugletic, Sarah Green, Mariel Boden, cutout Barack Obama, Anne Grujanac.

Magic Beans

By Jack Altschuler

The people of the United Kingdom have spoken and, while the final count was very tight (51.9 percent to 48.1 percent), a slim majority has decided the future of the UK, and it is not with the European Union. World financial markets, governments around the world, and a global army of pundits are trying to sort out the meaning and ramifications of the decision. Everyone wants to know how this works, what's next, and how it will affect them. All good questions, but the far more important question is why apparently sensible people would do such a thing. What are the drivers for this odd behavior?

Try this.

We've been told since the 1960s that the world is changing and that the pace of change will continue to accelerate. Indeed, it seems that the crystal ball gazers back then were right, and the world now looks in many ways as it was predicted to be by outlandish science fiction stories of the past. And be clear. There are unintended consequences to all that change, one of which is job displacement.

One of the key drivers of the Brexit impetus was a reaction to immigrants. The EU mandate is to accept immigrants, many of whom come from Eastern Europe with not much in the way of marketable skills. The belief of the UK public is that these immigrants have been stealing jobs from the "natural" residents of the British Isles and, in consequence, depressing all wages. Regardless of the accuracy of that belief, Britons have reacted in a protectionist way, wanting life to return to a time when they had a steady job with good, livable wages. All they have to do, they apparently believe, is to raise an Anglo-Saxon finger eastward and prevent all that immigration. That feels ever-so-powerful.

Another way to say that is that the world has changed, they don't like it, and they want to revert to a time before the change, when things were understandable, life was steady and predictable, and they felt in control of their own lives—when "others" weren't upsetting their equilibrium. They imagine that they felt powerful then.

Doesn't that sound a lot like the Donald Trump "Make America Great Again" message to American voters?

Millions of Americans are angry. Their jobs went somewhere to someone who would work for 1/30th of the wages they worked for. All they can find are jobs that pay poorly and have no benefits, so they can't adequately support their families. Even their well-educated kids are living in their basements. They've been promised over and over that their leaders will make things better, but those same leaders have betrayed them for selfish reasons. They're angry and they're raising an American middle finger in just about every direction, especially at the establishment.

We, like the UK, are living in a state of change, and some of it hits us hard. Worse, we don't know what tomorrow will bring, and human beings have an existential fear of the unknown.

Circus sideshow barker Trump is doing what the Brexit leaders did – he is promising a return to a predictable world, some imagined golden yesterday. That message sells well to people desperate for some sense of control and power in their lives, but it is nothing more than the illusion of vapor, something that nobody can deliver.

No one knows how this rapidly globalizing world will work; we humans are making it up as we go along. So, beware the charlatan who tries to sell us magic beans, lest we make a mess for ourselves the way they just did in the UK.

More from Party with Our Party!



State Representative Scott Drury talks about the issues facing the state.



Moraine Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash, Highland Park City Council member Alyssa Knobel, and the rest of the gathering listen intently to the speakers.



Volunteers carry the Moraine Dems banner indoors and out of the rain.



Tenth Dems intern Daniel Parra

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