

# Steven Gan: Volunteer of the Month

By Avital Raff

Steven Gan’s unique life experiences — from running into trouble with the law in Japan, to establishing his own company—make his life story (thus far) fascinating reading. Just this summer he released his book, *Making It & Breaking It in Japan: My True Story of Songs, Sins, and Solitary*, which tells about his 15 years living in Japan. Steve’s passion for progressive values and insights into the issues make him a valued monthly contributor to *Tenth News* and an asset to our Tenth Dems team. Please meet September 2016’s Tenth Dems Volunteer of the Month.

Steve Gan is the founder of Stellar Risk Management Services, an avid pianist, and a passionate political activist. He grew up in the 10th District, attending Niles West High School.



Steve went on to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where he studied electrical engineering, more in accordance with his father’s wishes than his own. On reflection, he would have preferred to study political science.

As his college graduation approached, Steve was unsure how to proceed. He wasn’t very interested

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# Tenth News

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## Congress Watch: Double Talk Dold Votes for Anti-Choice Legislation

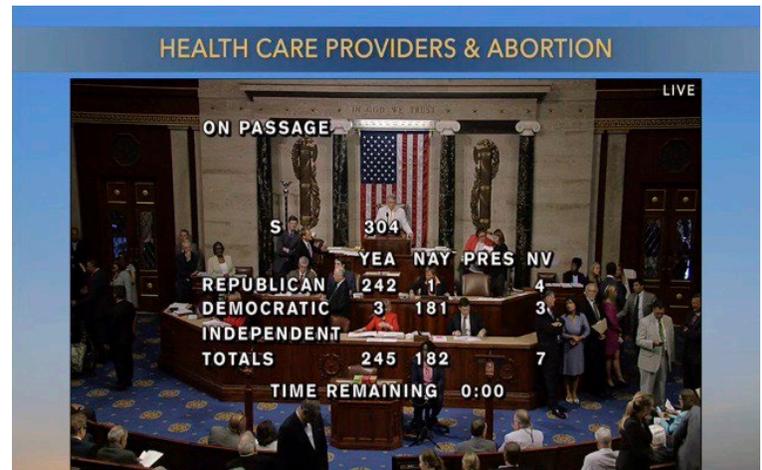
By Laurence D. Schiller

In the last days before the Republican Congress left Washington in late July for its extended summer vacation, while most Americans’ attention was on the Presidential race and the upcoming party conventions, the House passed the Conscience Protection Act of 2016, S. 304, along party lines. And there was the 10th District’s Republican Congressman, Bob Dold, voting right along with his anti-choice party.

It’s likely that Double Talk Dold thought that his constituents wouldn’t notice. After all, what could be bad about a Conscience Protection Act? But those in the know are familiar with the Republican trick of papering over toxic legislation with an attractive name.

Certainly the progressive pro-choice community knew what was up. In the days preceding the July 13 vote, more than 35 organizations wrote a letter urging a “no” vote on this bill. The opposition included prominent women’s rights groups like the National Organization for Women, the Women’s Law Center, and the American Association of University Women; medical professional groups like Physicians for Reproductive Health, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals; and, of course, prominent reproductive rights advocacy groups like NARAL Pro-Choice America and Planned Parenthood Federation of America. And President Obama has promised to veto the bill, should it come to his desk.

Of course, just as important as *who* opposed the legislation is *why* they



so strongly urged a “no” vote.

“The Conscience Protection Act would allow employers, insurance companies, and hospitals to **discriminate against women seeking reproductive health care**, seriously undermining women’s ability to obtain safe, legal abortion care,” the letter opposing the bill began.

And the letter continued with this dire warning: “The Act would not only interfere with a woman’s ability to access comprehensive health insurance coverage that enables her to make personal medical decisions with those she trusts, but **it would also put a woman’s health at serious risk in emergency situations.**”

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# Congress Watch: Double Talk Dold Votes for Anti-Choice Legislation

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Despite the strong opposition from the medical, civil rights, women's rights, and human rights communities, the leader of Dold's caucus, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, brought this anti-choice bill to the floor on the last day before the summer recess. And he did so rather than allow consideration of such pressing legislation as a bill to fund Zika research or to curb gun violence.

With more than 100 members of the Republican House caucus on record as co-sponsors, the bill passed on an essentially straight party-line vote. While Democrats overwhelmingly voted against the bill, all but one Republican Congressman voted for it.

The lone Republican who voted "no" was *not* Bob Dold. Despite his supposed pro-choice stance, Double Talk Dold did not break with his party. Instead, when the time came to show where he stands on women's reproductive rights, Dold voted "yes" to dangerous restrictions on a woman's right to access safe, legal abortion care. And his "yes" vote put him in alignment with such anti-choice groups as the National Right to Life and the Family Research Council—whose other primary mission is to outlaw same-sex marriage.

When Dold is in the 10th District, he may try to run away from the Republican brand, but when he casts his vote on the House floor, he can almost always be depended upon to support Republican orthodoxy. From his vote for Paul Ryan as Speaker of the House to his most recent vote against women's reproductive rights, Dold has demonstrated time and again that he is a loyal Republican who puts party ahead of the desires of his constituents—which shouldn't be surprising, given Dold's long career as a Republican operative.

## In the Doldrums

Although he claims not to be supporting Donald Trump for President, Bob Dold recently headlined a private Republican fundraiser along with Paul Ryan and the Trump campaign's top money guy in Illinois.



Brad Schneider does more than claim he is pro-choice; he acts on those convictions. When Brad represented the 10th District, he consistently voted to protect women's reproductive rights. It's time to send Brad Schneider back to Congress and Double Talk Dold back to where he came from.



## How I Became an Enthusiastic Volunteer for Hillary Clinton: A Personal Journey

By Bonnie Bernstein Levy

When I was growing up, Voting Day was always a happy day. I remember the excitement and pride I felt as a five-year-old, all dressed up in my best dress, wearing little white gloves, standing next to my mother in the curtained booth as she voted.

At the many extended-family meals and celebrations I participated in, everyone at the grown-ups' table was a Democrat. And I could hear the grown-ups as they loudly discussed the issues and the candidates. So I felt informed and involved. I remember liking Adlai Stevenson who ran against Dwight Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956. I can still see the silver shoe pin, with a hole in the bottom of the shoe. To this day I can hear my family talk about Stevenson's television interview where, when he crossed his leg, you could see a hole in the sole of his shoe!



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# How I Became an Enthusiastic Volunteer for Hillary Clinton: A Personal Journey

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We identified with Stevenson because that hole showed he wasn't obsessed with vanity and slick looks. He was a man who worked hard—like us.

The next campaign button I wore with enthusiasm was a shiny large pin that said: *"Mamie—start packing. The Kennedys are coming!"* I adored JFK. We all did. It was a time of hope and youth and excitement and promise. I still was not close to voting age, but I was an American and proud of it. How wonderful it was checking in with the local Kennedy campaign office. How proud we were passing out literature and going door-to-door.

I grew up. I took my own daughter with me when I voted – without the white gloves. I became a teacher. The kids in my classes knew how proud I was to be standing with them reciting the Pledge of Allegiance each morning, and they knew I took it seriously. They modeled my strong posture, hand planted over my heart. I felt proud that I was teaching our American system with our ideals and values to the next generation.

In 2008 I added Social Studies to my Language Arts curriculum. How fabulous it was that I got to teach the Constitution and the electoral system—and that a neighbor of ours was running for President. I heard kids say "My uncle goes to the same barber with him!" or "He lives down the street from us and always asks what we were learning in school." It was exciting that Barack Obama was one of ours.

But I didn't ever wear another campaign button as an adult, or get involved in elections, because I felt everything was all right.

That is until now.

Last month, I listened to every word in every speech of both parties' conventions.

First, the Republican Convention. It was staged. The Trump Team looked like they were pop stars auditioning for a reality show, a lot like a series of five-minute auditions for *America's Got Talent*. Appropriate, since Donald Trump created and starred in his own reality TV show, immortalizing the phrase, "You're fired!" He craves being the star of the show. He makes no bones about it when he proclaims that he likes to win, he will win, and he will do anything he can to win.

But becoming President of the United States is not a game. It is the opposite. Work. And when we hold an election we hire a President to work for us and uphold our ideals and our laws.

Donald Trump does not work well with others. He purposely surrounds himself with people who will applaud all of his ideas.

We need someone who listens thoughtfully to a variety of courses of action, even those he or she may not favor. These are complex times, with complex issues. Donald Trump considers himself to be his own closest advisor. And he wants us to be fearful. He incites people to fear and to hate others.

We need a President who wants to bring us together, who likes people, who cherishes the individual.



By the close of the Republican Convention, I was furious, and worried. Then came the Democratic Convention.

I watched, and I listened. The difference between the two candidates was startling. Contrasting the ersatz glam and glitz of Trump's "reality game show" convention, Hillary's convention was real life. She is proven, tried, and true.

Hillary has demonstrated a life-long commitment to helping people. Real people—not those on a reality show, but the people of everyday life. And she has experience turning these ideals into real change. Throughout her life she has worked for children, for women, for families.

And not just in the United States. Her activism on behalf of women and children across the world is renowned. She has always fought for and achieved help for people who need help. She articulates everything I have always believed in and have worked for as a teacher.

I had to help. I had no idea what I could do, or where I could go, but I just had to get involved. I googled "Hillary for President," and I found a local phone number. Lauren Beth Gash, the Founding Chair of Tenth Dems, answered the phone.



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# How I Became an Enthusiastic Volunteer for Hillary Clinton: A Personal Journey

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I asked, "How can I help?"

She said, "Come on over."

I thought, "Now?"

Of course she meant *now*, and of course I went.

As I entered the office, I saw a wall festooned with posters and stickers from a multitude of elections. The room was buzzing with the energy of people planning, talking on phones, peering at computer screens. I was welcomed and offered cake. The frenzy provoked warm memories. I had not worked in a Democratic office since high school. My eyes lingered on a photograph of President Kennedy and another of Bobby; they were beckoning to me. I smiled back. I was where I belonged.

We decided I would do well on the phones. Knowing how important every single vote for Hillary is, I brushed aside my initial nervousness and could not believe when they told me the office was closing, that five hours had gone by. I was so involved...I was actually talking to other voters. I had wonderful conversations with real people with real feelings about real issues.

We need a President who can bring people together. Hillary does just that. I had always believed that, and now I was on her team, because that's just what I did that day—I connected to people I had never met both on the phone and in the office. She brought us together.

I came home smiling, knowing that this time I was involved. I was

working for what I truly believed in. I could make a difference.

Remember that spot above my heart that my Kennedy button occupied? Well, I'm once again pinned! This time it is Hillary who is by my heart and in my heart.

I can't wait to get back to work.



Volunteers supporting Susana Mendoza for Illinois Comptroller, working in the Moraine Dems office in Highland Park, pause to take a group photo.

## Steven Gan: Volunteer of the Month

in pursuing engineering as a career, but on a tip from a friend, he resolved to travel to Japan and get an internship there. After a short three months in Japan, Gan was conversational in Japanese.

When he returned home after his internship, Steve continued to do work for the Japan America Society of Chicago, which promotes Japanese and American friendships. He also kept exploring ways to go back to Japan. At age 30, he fulfilled this desire. He established a debt collection agency in Japan and resided there for over 15 years.

Gan's interest in politics grew while he was in Japan. A friend invited him to attend a political meeting of a socialist-leaning party that advocated for expanding Japan's social security program. He then proceeded to campaign for candidates in Japan. Once Steve came back to his home town, his passion for political activism led him to become a fervent volunteer for Barack Obama in 2008.

Steve's time in Japan also helped form his strong belief in universal healthcare. "In Japan, healthcare is a given. There are varying degrees of deductibles, but everyone is insured. In America, the conservatives do not seem to

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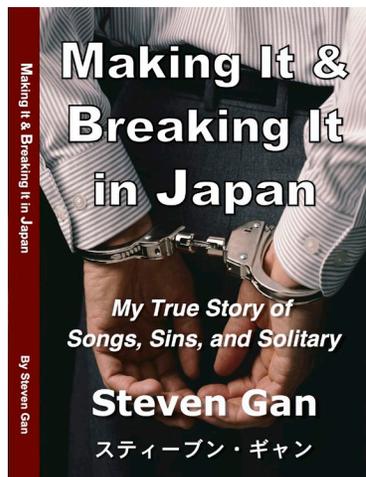
be sensitive to the fact that a health issue could cause someone to decline into poverty," Gan remarks.

Japan's gun control policies also influenced Steve's political views. "Japan has a zero tolerance policy for guns. Even if you want to go hunting, you are not

permitted to keep the gun in your home. And as a result of this Japan has very few homicides and does not have the problems that we here in the U.S. have with guns," he explained.

Steve's fondest political memory is spending most of the night at a Tenth Dems office watching the results of the 2008 election come in. "When we saw Obama's victory light up across the screen, we all started crying. It was the most emotional, magnificent, spectacular moment ever," he recalls with a wide smile. And he looks forward to sharing a similarly wonderful night this coming November.

By the way, if you're wondering about Steve's brush with the law in Japan, buy his book. He tells a fascinating story.



# A Personal Perspective: Trump's Desperation

By Steven Gan

I'll admit that the first thing I do when I wake up in the morning, even before getting out of bed, is check my emails, Facebook posts, and news sources for what's happening in the world. And these days, it seems that no matter what crises have unfolded, Donald Trump's gaffes, insults, and obnoxious comments take center stage, even over events of catastrophic proportions like the August flooding in Louisiana.

So in the early morning of Friday, August 12th, I read about Trump's insistence during a radio show interview with conservative host Hugh Hewitt that President Obama was the founder of ISIS. Once again, here was an outlandish statement by the "Only-I-Can-Fix-this-ISIS-Problem," self-aggrandizing, and textbook narcissist Trump. After all, you will recall that he claims he knows more about ISIS than our generals (<https://grabien.com/story.php?id=41501>). Pretty rich coming from a guy with four draft deferments during the Vietnam War who derides Senator McCain's record because, on planet Trump, a POW can't be a hero: "I like guys who don't get caught," he (in)famously proclaimed.

No matter how many times the Republican establishment begs Trump to "stay on message," the poor guy refuses to be anything but outrageous — knowing full well that he needs to continuously feed lots of red meat to his base.

And now we have the recent shake-up in the leadership of his campaign in which Trump has hired Stephen Bannon, the executive chairman of *Breitbart News* LLC (a highly unethical, unsavory, and completely unreliable conservative right fringe news outlet), to become the Republican campaign's CEO, and elevated Kellyanne Conway, a senior advisor and pollster for Trump and sidekick Pence, to campaign manager.

Mind you that neither one of these people has ever run a campaign, but they both have one overriding thing in common. They will be dedicated to supporting Trump's odious statements and pugilistic style with undying love and devotion. They will be his cheerleaders, his followers, his obedient "yes men" (and woman), and they will help guide him into the stratosphere of letting Trump be Trump.

And the reasons for this big change? Trump has become increasingly desperate, and here are the reasons why:

1) **He has an addiction to poll numbers.** During the primary season, Trump endlessly bragged about how well he was doing in the polls. He cited them at every opportunity, and because of his ongoing lead among his cohorts, he was always placed at the center podium on the debate stage. This constant reinforcement of being "numero uno" fed an already fat ego that ballooned to a state of morbid obesity.

But now that he's trailing Hillary in the polls due to his "my way or



## STEPHEN BANNON

CAMPAIGN CEO

SPLC: Breitbart News shifted towards "embracing ideas on the extremist fringe of the conservative right" under Bannon.



the highway" fumbles, and especially after his attacks on the Khans, a Gold Star family, being "numero dos" must be killing him. I can just imagine him sitting in his Trump plane monitoring every poll on a huge screen and getting increasingly depressed every time the gap between him and Hillary widens just a tiny bit more.

2) **Top Republicans continue to proclaim their disgust with him.** With more Republican national security experts and other leaders repudiating Trump every day, and 50 of them describing him in writing as "not having the temperament to be our Commander in Chief," this schoolyard bully has to be very worried. Seeing his own party is turning against him, especially with rumors that the RNC may stop funding his campaign if his poll numbers don't improve, has to be painful even to this self-deluding narcissist.

3) **The media is driving him absolutely crazy.** When he was the darling of the media during the primaries, he welcomed the press with bear hugs and wet kisses (except certain women and reporters with disabilities). But now that everything he's saying is being scrutinized and challenged and he's even been forced to backpedal at times on his irrational and odious comments, I doubt it's nearly as much fun for Trump to follow his own press. Now with Stephen Bannon and Kellyanne Conway as leading surrogates, Trump no doubt hopes their rabid dog attacks on the media will give him some breathing room.

4) **"The system is rigged against me."** Although Pennsylvania hasn't voted Republican in a presidential election since 1988, if it goes Democratic this time, Trump claims that will be evidence of cheating. "The only way we can lose, in my opinion, I really mean this, Pennsylvania, is if cheating goes on. I really believe it," he told a rally in Altoona. These are the words of a desperate man trying to lay the groundwork for an excuse for a probable loss.

5) **"If I lose I'll take a very, very nice long vacation."** When Trump uttered those words on August 11th, it made my backbone straighten. Although we know without question that Trump rambles out loud about whatever is going on in his head at any given moment, when a candidate for POTUS starts talking about losing, even for a nanosecond, we can't help but think that his desperation may be giving way to some reconciliation with the inevitable.

So there you have it, my Democratic friends. Trump's decision to shake up his campaign shows that he's not going to allow himself to be restricted by the Republican establishment anymore. He doesn't like being told to "stay on message" by reading a teleprompter. Rather, with the help of his new cronies, he's going down fighting, no matter the cost to him or his country, by spewing out every provocative, wacky, and aberrant thought that comes to his warped mind.

I wish I could say that it's going to be fun. It's not. It's just going to be ugly.

## Weekend “Days of Action” Activate Volunteers for Julie Morrison

Illinois State Senator Julie Morrison’s campaign hit big strides in the heat of the summer. Julie hosted two “Day of Action” events on successive Saturdays, July 30th and August 6th.

On July 30th, Senator Morrison was joined by Illinois Comptroller candidate Susana Mendoza and volunteers who knocked on over 1,000 doors in Wheeling Township. On August 6th, Senator Morrison joined with volunteers in Highland Park for Brad Schneider, candidate for Congress in the 10th District. Nearly two dozen volunteers knocked on over 1,500 doors and made over 500 phone calls.

“I have had a great response from the community,” said Morrison. “I’m proud to have the support of so many volunteers. I truly appreciate when someone takes time out of their busy life to help me.”

Morrison herself has been going door-to-door all summer to talk with constituents. “I’m always available for appointments in my Senate office, but it’s nice to visit people at their homes. Everyone has concerns, whether it’s rising property taxes or the culture in Springfield.”

Morrison’s message has been well-received. “I stand by my record, and I tell constituents what I have been able to accomplish in Springfield against this backdrop of gridlock.”

In her first term, Morrison has been the Chief Sponsor of 57 individual

pieces of legislation that have been signed into law, 25 from the 98th General Assembly and 32 from the 99th General Assembly. “I think I have proven to be an effective legislator and have been able to work with both Democratic and Republican Governors.”

Julie Morrison is running for State Senate in the 29th Legislative District. Morrison is a leader in the field of child welfare and a strong advocate of fiscal responsibility and ethical government.



## Show Your Support for Democrats with Tenth Dems Campaign Gear

Tenth Dems is gearing up for the election in more ways than one. We’re registering voters, hosting phone banks, publicizing candidate events, and so much more.

And we’re selling campaign gear.

We’ve got unique, stylish Hillary buttons; unique buttons pairing Hillary and Tammy Duckworth, our candidate for Senate; and even a triple candidate button featuring Hillary, Tammy, and Brad Schneider, candidate for 10th District Congressman.

And that’s not all...

We’ve got Hillary yard signs and window signs and Tenth Dems-designed Clinton/Kaine buttons and bumper stickers.

Support Democratic candidates by supporting Tenth Dems. To order any of this gear, email us at [info@tenthdems.org](mailto:info@tenthdems.org) or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).



At a summer campaign event, Barbara Altman gave Tammy Duckworth, candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, a Tenth Dems-designed button featuring Duckworth with presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and 10th Congressional District candidate Brad Schneider.



# Democratic Candidates and Supporters Turn Out in Force During Gurnee Days

By Bonnie Berger-Neel

Democratic candidates and elected officials came out during Gurnee Days to meet and greet voters and constituents and walk in a parade. The Warren Township Democrats hosted a booth at the exhibitor area at Gurnee Days on August 13 and 14, and traffic was brisk. Warren Township Dems also had a spot in the parade on Sunday, August 14, where many candidates and elected officials walked together.

More than 100 people joined the Warren Township Dems in the parade, walking in support of Brad Schneider (former congressman and candidate in the 10th Congressional District), Jim Walz (candidate in the 14th Congressional District), Erin Cartwright Weinstein (candidate for Lake County Circuit Court Clerk), Matt Stanton (candidate for Lake County State's Attorney) and Diane Hewitt (Lake County Board Commissioner, District 2). Current Democratic Lake County Coroner Dr. Tom Rudd also walked with the group.

Warren Township Dems were accompanied by several vehicles, including a 1929 Mercedes-Benz, a horse, and several dogs, including one wearing a tutu.



*more photos on page 9*



## Off the Mark

While bragging to local Republicans about the impact of obstructing President Obama's agenda, then-Congressman and first-term Republican Senator Mark Kirk said, "We're on the way to making this guy a one-term."



## Voter Registration



*Tenth Dems sponsors training for Deputy Voter Registrars. Many of these trained volunteers have been out at local events like ArtWauk in Waukegan and Book Bag Giveaway in Zion to register new voters.*



## Lake County Fair



*Susana Mendoza, candidate for Illinois Comptroller, visits the Lake County Democrats/Tenth Congressional District Democrats' booth at the Lake County Fair. With Susana are Tenth Dems Co-Chair Bonnie Berger-Neel and her husband, Jim Neel, a Wildwood Park District Trustee.*



*Democratic candidates and elected officials gather at the Lake County Democrats/Tenth Congressional District Democrats' booth at the Lake County Fair. L. to r., Matt Stanton, candidate for Lake County State's Attorney, standing behind a supporter; State Senator Terry Link; Tom Rudd, Lake County Coroner; cutout Hillary Clinton; Paul Law; Erin Cartwright, candidate for Clerk of the Court of Lake County; John Idleburg, candidate for Lake County Board.*



*Tenth Dems interns join two of Tenth Dems founders at a summer event for State Representative Laura Fine. L. to r., Niveen Hennein, Kyle Rugletic, Marcy Maller, Nancie Blatt, Rep. Laura Fine, Andrew Barnett.*

# Democratic Candidates and Supporters Turn Out in Force During Gurnee Days

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