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Editor: Barbara Altman
 Editorial Staff: Lauren Beth Gash, Eric Herman, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Ronald Schwartz, Steve Sheffey, Allan Sperling
 Contributors: Georgja Carrasco, Eleonora di Liscia, State Rep. Laura Fine, Steven Gan, Lauren Beth Gash, Deborah Kadin, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Dottie Palumbo, Laurence D. Schiller, Anne Wedner
 Photography: Louie Rivas (Fiestas Patrias), Carolyn Rivers (Zion Parade), Steve Rosenzweig (Lou Lang TDU)
 Design: Mike del Rosario
 Distribution: Roger Baron, Ron Schwartz
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Brad Schneider: A Study in Decency

By Eleonora di Liscia

In stark contrast to Donald Trump, Brad Schneider literally exudes caring and decency. He is a role model for our children at a time when Donald Trump is amplifying all the most hateful aspects of American culture.

In 2012, Brad became the first Democratic congressman for parts of the 10th Congressional District. In 2014, he lost to Republican, pseudo-moderate Robert Dold when progressives decided to sit that election out. Now, Brad is running to retake his seat this November.

Upon meeting Brad, you can't help thinking, "This is one helluva a nice guy." But don't take our word for it. Read what others have to say:

Illinois Senate Candidate Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth told this story at the Tenth Dems 2014 Annual Fall Fundraiser. She recalled how she had taken the last flight out of Washington



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Tenth News

October 2016 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 13, Edition 10

State Representative Lou Lang Gives The Lowdown on Gov. Rauner

By Steven Gan

On Monday evening, September 20, at the Deerfield Library, Tenth Dems University (TDU) presented "What's New? Ask Lou." Lou Lang, Deputy Majority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives, talked to a rapt audience with candor, humor, warmth, and a very down-to-earth style. And he gave those in attendance the skinny on how Governor Bruce Rauner is damaging our state.

Representative Lang's talk was enthusiastically received, as measured not only by the applause and comments afterwards, but also by the lively question and answer period that followed his prepared remarks.

Lou Lang was elected to the Illinois House in 1988 as a representative from the 16th District. He has established himself as one of the House's most effective leaders. In his position as Deputy Majority Leader, he has fought for economic development, working families, and healthcare and Medicaid reform.

In addition, Representative Lang has been a staunch defender of civil and equal rights for Illinois citizens; he was a proud co-sponsor of our state's marriage equality law. He is a strong advocate for reproductive choice and is currently fighting to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois.

Thanks to his leadership, Representative Lang has won the admiration and respect of his peers in the Legislature and his constituents at home. Over the years, he has received numerous awards and recognition for his work. He has been named "Legislator of the Year" by the Illinois



Hospital Association, the Illinois Council on Senior Citizens, the Service Employees Union, and the Illinois Public Action Council, among others.

In his engaging TDU presentation, Representative Lang explained how Rauner, a billionaire, has attempted to run the State of Illinois as if it were his personal fiefdom. Instead of bringing all the members of the State Assembly together to work in a collaborative and cooperative manner, he has chosen to use the Donald Trump playbook of "my way or the highway." And that's not against just Democrats, but Republicans as well. The latter are actually quite terrified of Rauner using his financial power against their continued political viability. In fact,

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CONGRESS WATCH: DOUBLETALK DOLD'S SMOKE AND MIRRORS

By Laurence D. Schiller

With Election Day just over six weeks away, Doubletalk Dold is ratcheting up his efforts to appear busy in Washington. Trying to sound more like a Democrat than the partisan Republican he is, he has (co) sponsored some non-controversial legislation. After all, who can argue with resolutions condemning the violence in Orlando or appreciating U.S. Olympians? But on many of the really difficult problems – gun safety, funding to combat the Zika virus, protecting Americans from predatory financial advisors, and preserving and increasing Social Security and Medicare for seniors – Dold has been completely ineffective.

To make matters worse, Dold proudly touts his support for these issues knowing his support is purely rhetorical. While gun violence persists, the Zika virus infects Americans, and the Dodd-Frank regulations that would prevent another 2008 financial meltdown are under assault by ideologues in Congress, Dold continues to hide in the parliamentary procedural weeds while smiling to the cameras.

Dold tries to sound like a progressive by saying he would, potentially, vote for the legislation if it came to the floor. But it doesn't get there. It doesn't reach the floor because of Dold and his fellow Republicans.



Actions count, and in Washington Dold's actions have earned him a spot on Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan's list of "strong conservative candidates who share Chairman Ryan's vision of common-sense fiscal policies." No wonder Ryan held a private fundraiser for Dold while Congress was in recess.

Dold's counterproductive actions speak louder than the thousands of slick words spewing out of his media spin machine. When civil rights icon John Lewis led Democrats in the sit-in on the House floor to protest the lack of a real gun control bill, Dold was nowhere to be found. He explained his absence by claiming he was out drumming up support among Republicans he never would name. The fact is he FAILED to bring a single member of his caucus to support the Democrats and has FAILED to bring any gun bill to a vote in the House, siding with his party to ignore attempts to briefly put aside other activity in Congress so gun safety legislation could be debated and voted on.

And that wasn't the only time something like this happened. When

Off the Mark

During his time in politics, Republican Senator Mark Kirk has told at least 10 different lies about his military service. Now running against Iraq War veteran Rep. Tammy Duckworth, Kirk's campaign website has falsely called him a "Veteran of the Iraq War."



Social Security failed to give seniors an increase in the cost of living last year, and Republicans repeated their claims about how the program was failing, Dold voted "yea" on Paul Ryan's budget that would privatize Social Security and eliminate Medicare as we know it. On critical Zika funding, Dold, suddenly shy in front of a camera, has been silent while his right-wing colleagues add anti-abortion and other far-right amendments, delaying the passage of such critical legislation. And, when he thought no one was looking, Dold voted for the Investment Advisors Modernization Act of 2016, a bill that has been characterized by Americans for Financial Reform as removing the Dodd-Frank provisions that forced private fund advisors to work in the open.

That's not moderate. That's not independent.

Whether or not Donald Trump wins this November, we need to be represented in Congress by someone who does the right things, not someone who says what 10th District voters want to hear while doing what Paul Ryan wants him to do.

For those who really care about America and Americans, the only choice in the 10th District is Democrat Brad Schneider. Period.



Hillary Clinton — Two Rivers

By Her Self-Appointed Emotional Translator, Anne Wedner

Hillary Rodham Clinton has been in public service her whole life. All this time, despite her proximity to one of the most charming politicians, she seems to have trouble finding an emotional connection with the electorate. Having met her a few times, I can vouch that she is actually a very thoughtful and caring person -- and one who profoundly understands the challenges of our fragile yet strong democracy. So let's try an experiment. Instead of dismissing her as a cold, inhuman person, let's try to expand on the short cuts that she makes because she is so familiar with the challenges we face and so committed to finding a solution rather than dwelling on the problems.

When Hillary talks about the single mom who is struggling to raise her family, or when she mentions the problem of illegal substance abuse, she is really reminding us that there are two rivers that run through all people and peoples -- let's call one the river of hope and opportunity and the other the river of shame, sadness, and anger. We all struggle with these currents; it is our life's work to tame or to understand the sadness, the disappointments, the inequities, the injustices.

It is our work to find the courage to overcome the anger that flows through us. The anger that motivates young urban youth to use guns to settle accounts; the anger that propels suburban youth and their parents to become dependent on opiates and too often to die from too much numbing; the anger that turns us against each other, to place blame on this group or that group for endangering our futures. This anger leads us nowhere. What do we have for ourselves after we have murdered our rival -- jail, emptiness, a life squandered. When we have passed too early, we leave an inheritance of sadness, of hopelessness for those whom we have left behind. And, when we blame each other we lose opportunity; we lose that job or we don't move to a new city for a new life because we are afraid. Each individual loss mounts to a gigantic societal loss. There are cities throughout our country with so many jobs—and, of course, there are places with fewer jobs, where there still needs to be investment and encouragement for reestablishing the opportunity, the prosperity that once was there.

This takes courage. So many of the things that batter us are not under our control. We did not choose to be born into a family in poverty any more than we have chosen that our home be carried away by floods or that we have chosen to have cancer. It requires each of us to look long and hard at ourselves and ask, how can I make this better? How can I wrestle with my own challenges? How can I find my way back to the river of contentment, the river of fulfillment, the river of hope? And maybe, maybe the community, our collective governing promise, can help a little bit.

You know that Hillary doesn't like pretty words. That hasn't been her calling card. Her calling card is action. You know so much about her -- you know that she has had successes and failures and that these have been writ large on the main stage. It's been humiliating at times, and it has challenged her to the deepest parts of her being. When she says she feels your pain -- she does. But, she never wanted to swim in the river of disappointment. She fights to feel hopeful -- to see the best in every bad situation, to look for answers and solutions. That's why she makes so many lists. There is a lot to do.

But she can't, and really no one can, wave a wand and change the course of the river of shame and sadness. It doesn't work like that



because that river flows in us and around us. We need to look inward and to look for our own possibilities while our government supports us. Government will keep us safe from external threats; it will make sure that our air, our water and our land are clean; it will help us move wherever we need to go by reinvesting in bridges, tunnels, airports, roads, trains, sidewalks. It will provide us with an education that we want -- that supports our local traditions and also prepares us for the future. It will make sure that we can take care of our health because we can't work for our dreams if we are sick. And, in partnership with us, it will prepare for our golden years when we have fought and won the struggle between our two rivers, when we are ready to see the next generation prosper and grow.

It sounds simple. Two rivers. But it is not so simple. People are always struggling to do the right thing; to take care of family, to build community. Things get in the way. We have an unexpected loss of a loved one, a deep struggle with disease, we lose jobs, our homes burn down, our best friend gets angry with us, we even hurt the ones who love and depend on us. We are not alone; this is one of the rivers. But there is another river where we don't drown in our sorrows, where we take hold of our lives, of our families, of our communities and of our country. Let's try to make this river bigger, together.

As Hillary Clinton says in her shorthand . . . Stronger Together.

In the Doldrums

Before he wanted to "Beat Hillary" in 2016, Republican Rep. Bob Dold cut his teeth in Washington partisan politics investigating the Clintons alongside Donald Trump's deputy campaign manager (and president of the right-wing group Citizens United) David Bossie, a notorious Clinton hater.



State Representative Lou Lang Gives The Lowdown on Gov. Rauner

speaking of lopsided financial strength, we learned that of all the contributions made to Illinois Republican legislative candidates, approximately 95 percent came from Rauner, whose intent appears not only to defeat Democrats but also to threaten Republicans who don't toe the Rauner line.

We also learned about how in 2015, when the last state income tax rate reverted from five percent back to three percent, Illinois was faced with mounting bills that escalated to \$9 billion. Although Representative Lang proposed a progressive income tax that would have raised taxes on only .4 percent of the state's wealthiest population, bringing in an estimated \$2 billion to cover some of the state's bills, Rauner opposed this. Could it have been that those making tens of millions of dollars per year, including Rauner himself, who earned more than \$57 million in 2014, would have been directly affected?

When Rauner had the opportunity to veto certain parts of the 2015 budget, he instead refused the entire budget, forcing Illinois to operate



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in a no-budget purgatory. But what really hit below the belt, Representative Lang said, was when Rauner cut hundreds of millions in child care assistance that affected 75 percent of single working parents who so desperately need this assistance. As a result of this heartless action, thousands of single moms and dads had to quit their jobs in order to be at home to take care of their children. So rather than try to keep families off welfare, Rauner's ridiculous and heartless child care cuts caused many of these working single parents to fall back into the welfare system.

According to Representative Lang, we might think that we can relax after November 8th, but the truth is that starting on November 9th, we need to pull ourselves together and prepare for the battle in 2018 to elect a highly qualified, compassionate, dedicated, experienced Democrat who knows how government works to lead all the residents of Illinois.



L. to r. Travis Haley, Highland Park City Councilwoman Alyssa Knobel, Sandy Stein, State Senator Julie Morrison, and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering.



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State Representative Lou Lang Gives The Lowdown on Gov. Rauner



Shown with Rep. Lang are, l. to r., Tenth Dems Co-Chair Bonnie Berger-Neel, Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, and Tenth Dems Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash.

Lou Lang photos continue on page 7

In Addition to Knocking on Doors Across the 10th District for Brad Schneider, Tammy Duckworth, Hillary Clinton, and State and Local Democratic Candidates, Many Tenth Dems Volunteers Caravan on Sundays to Swing States Wisconsin and Iowa to Canvass for Hillary



Rep. Lang Concludes His TDU Session With a Lively Q&A Period

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Brad Schneider: A Study in Decency

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after a long day of voting. At 3 a.m., her cell phone rang. It was her colleague Brad Schneider. There was a fire in the D.C. apartment building where she, Brad, and other members of Congress lived; and he was calling to make sure she could get out. He didn't know that Tammy had flown home that evening.

As Tammy recalled, "Brad asked, 'Do I need to come up and carry you down?' Of all those members in Congress, he was the only one who thought about me, thinking I was trapped in my apartment on the 5th floor. He was ready to walk back up and come and get me."

Karyn Davidman, Community Coordinator, Brad Schneider for Congress: "One of my favorite stories was when Brad organized a naturalization ceremony in Round Lake Beach. Almost 100 new citizens were taking their oath of citizenship that morning, and they all came with family and friends. The auditorium was filled. After the oath was administered, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ran a beautiful video ending with the song "God Bless the USA." The last lines were, 'And I'd gladly stand up next to you, And defend Her still today, 'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land, God Bless the U.S.A.' With this, one by one, the new citizens began to stand. They just all rose to their feet. Brad was on stage, tears flowing as he wiped them away. At the end of the song, the director said, 'And now, to say a few words, Congressman Brad Schneider...' Brad stood up and walked to the podium, looked at his prepared speech, folded it up because he could barely read through his tears and just spoke from his heart as he welcomed this roomful of new citizens. It was one of the highlights of his time in office."

Mary Carmody, President and Founder of the Midwest Veteran's Closet: "I was the Executive Director of Lake County Council for Seniors. I identified a need when a veteran had come to see us who desperately needed all sorts of help. We started Midwest Veteran's Closet. Someone called Congressman Schneider's office and told them that I was acting illegally because the Lake County Council for Seniors' nonprofit exemption was to assist seniors. Well, this gentleman was a senior. I thought I was acting appropriately. Brad's office told me I had to call the IRS. I told Brad, 'I'll clear this up, just give me your super-secret number, and I'll call them.' He said, 'I don't have a super-secret number. Why don't you just start your own 501(c)(3)?' I said, 'I didn't know how,' and he said, 'I'll help you.'"

"If it weren't for Brad, Midwest Veteran's Closet wouldn't exist. We wouldn't be assisting 350 veterans a month with weather-appropriate clothing, housewares, furniture and food from our food pantry. Our newest program is delivering meals to disabled vets. If it weren't for Brad, we wouldn't be here. It's exactly the kind of help we should expect from a congressman."

Aaron Price and Carrie Price, Volunteers for Brad Schneider's Campaign: "We got to know Brad. We felt we could trust him. He would do what he said he was going to do. He treated us with dignity and respect. He showed generosity just by being nice and kind. Brad has also been to the Midwest Veteran's Closet, and he made poppies with us. We made 130,000 poppies for the American Legion. We do fundraisers with those." (Carrie Price is also a store manager in training at Midwest Veteran's Closet.)

Yvette Ewing, Executive Director, The Fuller Center for Housing Hero Project Lake County: "Brad connected our vision for a training center with Home Depot. The result was we received a grant and built a job training center and upscale thrift store. We are now building a kitchen to train veterans and under-resourced families in hospitality



Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth, running for U.S. Senate, addressing an enthusiastic Tenth Dems audience.

service. I am a disabled veteran, helping other veterans. He was one of the first local politicians to really put his words into action. His team really followed through in helping the community."

Mary Eileen King, Constituent: "During the recession, I had a lot of issues with the economy, and I was really struggling. So when I was able to qualify for Social Security, that check was very important to me. But then there was a problem because I was working, and things got complicated. The bottom line is I went over what I was supposed to earn, so I was going to have to pay back some Social Security, which was fine. We set up a payment plan. The next year they withheld my entire Social Security check, so I had no income to pay rent or anything. I spent a lot of time trying to get this resolved. Finally, my sister said, 'Why don't you try your congressman?' Sure enough, I found Brad Schneider's office, and they were very helpful. They were so professional and well organized. I was getting emails from Brad who was in Washington at the time letting me know they were working on it. I definitely felt he was personally concerned. Definitely. Within a couple weeks, the situation was resolved. Without Brad and his office, I wasn't going to pay rent or utilities. It was a question of getting things done and getting somebody to listen. Brad and his office listened, and they acted. To me, so many politicians are in it for the power and fame and the ego building. Brad is definitely not like that. He is there so much for his constituents, and he is so accessible and has such a great support system and family."



Melinda Bush, Agent of Change!

by Deborah Kadin

From her first days fighting massive development in Grayslake and Exelon, 31st District State Senator Melinda Bush has become a real change agent for Lake County. Residents and leaders alike affirm that dedication: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZa2zvZdE8>.

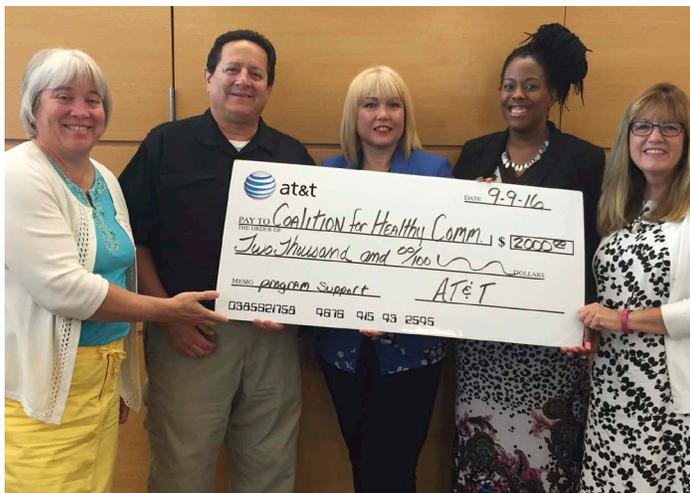
She plans to continue that energy, hard work and dedicated service in Springfield when she wins re-election this November.

“I’m proud to be an independent voice for Lake County,” said Bush. “I get up every day and work as hard as I can for the people I represent. Springfield needs more elected officials who put people before politics and focus on getting things done.”

The Grayslake businesswoman – potentially the first Democrat to be reelected in this district in history – has amassed an amazing record in Springfield, championing women, families, and veterans; fighting the scourge of opioid addiction; protecting the environment; and changing how government works.

Here are just a few examples:

- House Bill 3848 protects survivors of sexual assault from the added emotional burden of paying for the kits containing evidence of the crime. Listen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fbZ9CD_bRU
- House Bill 5576 extends insurance coverage to almost all approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products. Companies also would be required to provide 12 months of contraceptives at one time.
- Senate Bill 3401 allows veterans’ assistance commissions to provide mentoring and mental health and substance abuse programs in conjunction with Veteran & Service Members Courts that were specifically created to help veterans facing addiction.
- Senate Bill 1466 allows pharmacies to carry life-saving heroin overdose medication and expands access to families. Another piece of legislation would expand “Good Samaritan” protections to first responders who apply life-saving overdose medication.
- Senate Bill 1202 would allow for no new permits for fracking on or under state-owned land.
- Senate Bill 659 will create a website to help individuals create new businesses or relocate to Illinois.
- SB 1430 allows counties to consolidate township assessors by referendum or resolution.



“That’s what happens if you focus on public service and work for the good of your district,” said Bush. “Most of the political squabbling is just noise – the real work is done by legislators who put their heads down and fight for their communities.”

With the support of lawmakers in Zion, Bush has cosponsored legislation requiring the collection of an impact fee from companies that store their nuclear waste in the community. That bill would affect Exelon, which closed its nuclear power station there in 1998.

Bush has also become a role model for other lawmakers, cutting her own pay and perks and turning down a state pension.

Because of her efforts, the Illinois chapter of the Sierra Club and Personal PAC, which focuses on electing pro-choice candidates, have endorsed Bush for reelection. A full list of her endorsements is included on this page.

For more information, log on to her campaign website, <http://melindafor31.com/>.



Melinda Bush’s Endorsements

Organizations

- American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- Associated Firefighters of Illinois (AFFI)
- Personal PAC
- Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT)
- Service Employees International Union Health Care-Illinois (SEIU HC-IL)
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- Gun Violence Prevention PAC
- Sierra Club
- Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
- Illinois Education Association
- Planned Parenthood
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
- Stand for Children
- “Supported by the Illinois Realtors Political Action Committee”

Local Mayors

- Zion Mayor Al Hill
- Gurnee Mayor Krysti Kovarik
- Hainesville Mayor Linda Soto
- Wadsworth Mayor Glenn Ryback

Environmental Town Hall

By State Representative Laura Fine (D-17)

State Representative Robyn Gabel (D-18), State Senator Daniel Biss (D-9), and I held a captivating environmental town hall meeting on Monday evening, September 12, at the Evanston Ecology Center. We had a packed room, engaged crowd, and fascinating conversation. Our speakers included representatives from the Illinois Environmental Council, the Sierra Club, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The message was clear: we need to work to undo the damage that has already been done to our environment, we have to act now to make more clean energy sources available, and we have to save our pollinator population.

The conversation began with a discussion of lead in our water, especially in our schools. The Sierra Club discussed the importance of testing all water sources in the schools. If there is lead found, those water fountains, etc., need to be turned off. There was also discussion about filters residents can put on their faucets at home to ensure there is no lead in their drinking water. Consuming lead can be very harmful to children whose bodies are still growing and cannot process it effectively.

The Clean Jobs Bill continues to make progress. Illinois needs to build more clean energy sources. We have to make sure our future includes renewable energy such as wind and solar. This will not only improve our environment, it will also create thousands of jobs. The negotiations surrounding this legislation continue between our environmental organizations and the energy industry.

An intriguing part of the discussion focused on pollinators. These are insects, like bees and monarch butterflies that are being negatively impacted by pesticides and insecticides used in our communities and on our farms. Weed killers such as Round Up have been so effective in killing milkweed, the only food source for monarch butterflies and where they lay their eggs, that this source is no longer available to them



L. to r., State Senator Daniel Biss, State Representative Robyn Gabel, State Representative Laura Fine.

in many areas. This is also destroying the bees and their hives. We depend on bees to pollinate plants that are part of our food source. We need to advocate for the removal of neonicotinoid from these pesticides that are causing these problems. Home Depot, Lowe's, and Walmart have committed to stop selling products that contain neonicotinoids over the next several years. We need to continue pressuring the makers of these products to stop selling them in the marketplace and to replace them with less harmful products.

One way you can help is to purchase monarch butterfly license plates from the Secretary of State's office. The proceeds will go to planting milkweed along the roadsides to help repopulate the beautiful monarch butterfly population!

Buttons, Buttons — We've Got'em

By Dottie Palumbo

Tenth Dems campaign buttons are in demand! And casual and serious collectors can find them all on Sunday, October 23, at the Bourse, cosponsored by the Chicago Area and Wisconsin chapters of the American Political Item Collectors.

Buttons produced by Tenth Dems were instrumental in helping to underwrite the beginning of this organization, and these buttons are now valued by collectors from coast to coast.

Tenth Dems will have a table at this event, and collectors will be able to purchase a full set of our 2016 buttons. You can also browse 45 other displays, including campaign items from the 18th through the 21st centuries, as well as more current cause, social justice, and pop culture items.

The Bourse will be held at the Waybright Student Center of Trinity International University in Deerfield (2065 Half Day Road) from 10:00 in the morning to 4:00 in the afternoon. Admission is free, as is parking, and school-age children are welcome. For additional information, email ddpCAPIC@aol.com.



Remembering Terry Blaurock

By Lauren Beth Gash (from an email sent to all Tenth Dems)

Tenth Dems' great friend and volunteer extraordinaire passed away on September 22. We at Tenth Dems will miss Terry tremendously. She volunteered for us, and quickly became an integral part of our organization, handling matters from creating our Events List to managing our database to creating call lists for getting out the vote, volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

In 2011, Terry was honored as the Volunteer of the Year at our Annual Dinner. This is taken from that year's Program Book:

"Terry Blaurock became a volunteer with Tenth Dems to fill a need. Recently retired, she wanted to retain and expand her computer literacy. Tenth Dems has provided that beyond her expectations and she says she is grateful for all the help and instruction she has received from colleagues since she joined the group. She volunteered to enter posts on the website events calendar, then to send the weekly broadcast email. Since then she has produced much of the Tenth Dems electronic communication and manages the Tenth Dems database. Her interest in Democratic Party events began with listening to a nominating convention with her father before she was old enough to vote. After living in California, England, and North Carolina, she moved to Illinois for a position at the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in Evanston, where she gained meaningful database and computer knowledge. Terry did her first political volunteering with former Northfield Township committeeman Don Eslick."

Terry remembered sitting with her father listening to the conventions as a young child – and her interest in politics continued throughout her life. I enjoyed talking politics with her over the years, and most recently as I drove her to several of her medical appointments. She



was weaker, but felt just as strongly as she always had about how what was going on in our political world.

We are grateful for Terry Blaurock's service to our Democratic family, and toward making the world a better place. On behalf of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats, we send our thoughts and condolences (along with our gratitude) to her family at this difficult time.

Free Event: Debate Watch Party

Join us on Sunday, October 9, at the Bannockburn home of Hon. Kerry and Vicki Martin, as Hillary Clinton takes on Donald Trump in a Town Hall-style debate. Come at 7:00. The debate begins at 8:00.

For more information, email events@tenthdems.org or telephone 847-266-VOTE (8683). Address will be provided upon RSVP.

Cheer on our candidate at this fun and free event. Space is limited, so RSVP early.



Tenth Dems Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash was honored to be among the Chicagoland Democrats invited to greet Vice Presidential candidate Tim Kaine on the tarmac when he visited Chicago on September 14. L. to r., Senator Tim Kaine; Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan; Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle; Jorge Ramirez, President, Chicago Federation of Labor; State Central Committeewoman Lauren Beth Gash; Gregg Garmisa.

First Responders Endorse Julie Morrison

The Associated Firefighters of Illinois have endorsed State Senator Julie Morrison (D-29) for reelection. President Pat Devaney of the Associated Firefighters said, “Senator Julie Morrison has been a strong ally of all firefighters in Illinois. She has stood by us and made sure we have the proper equipment, training, and support to protect our communities.”

“The daily sacrifices of our firefighters and paramedics is critical to the safety of our friends and families,” Morrison said in response to her endorsement. “These heroic men and women put their lives on the line every day protecting our communities. I am proud to be endorsed by the Associated Firefighters of Illinois, and I look forward to my continuing work with the brave firefighters and EMS providers in our district.”

Senator Morrison is a leader in the field of child welfare and a strong advocate of fiscal responsibility and ethical government. The Associated Firefighters of Illinois is the state’s foremost authority on, and advocate for, issues related to professional firefighters and EMS providers.



A Personal Perspective: Trump Makes My Head Spin off My Shoulders

By Steven Gan

At the beginning of each month, I start thinking about what to write for my next Tenth Dems article. Naturally, I get my ideas from various news sources and make a mental note of topics that I think will last longer than the usual 48-hour news cycle. However, over the past few weeks, then the past few days, and now the past few hours, the way the news keeps changing is so dramatic that I can’t keep up with it. And most likely, neither can you. After a while, the frequency of new revelations by Donald Trump just makes my head continuously shake in disbelief.

How someone so self-aggrandizing, narcissistic, and obnoxious become the 2016 Republican Presidential nominee is something that historians will analyze for years to come. However, from my own perspective, a deep and debased psychological defect running through half of America is the only explanation I can find to justify this attraction to such an outlandish and odious, not to mention ignorant, figure.

Between September 15 and 16, we were suddenly thrown back into Trump’s birther conspiracy. What never should have been an issue, and

certainly should have been a dead issue after President Obama released his long-form birth certificate back in 2011, has now reared its ugly head because Trump again hesitated to acknowledge that the President was born in America.

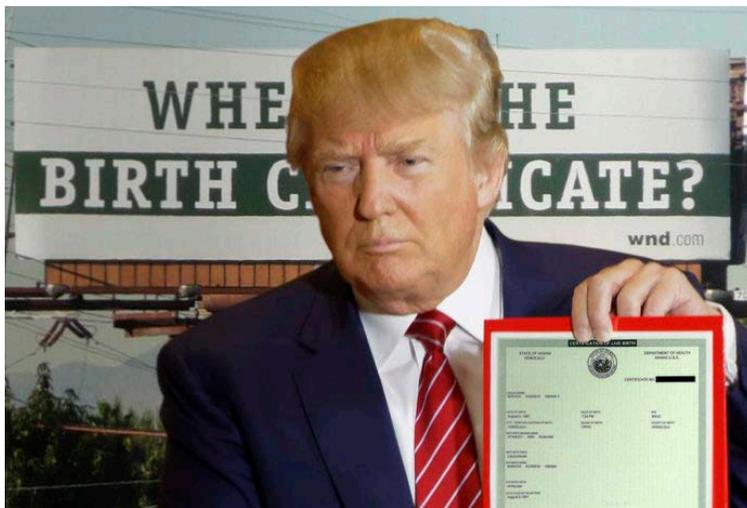
In an interview with *The Washington Post* that was published on Thursday morning, September 15, Trump declined to answer when asked about President Obama’s birthplace, saying he’d answer the question at the right time and didn’t want to answer it yet.

Subsequently, due to the pushback, the Trump campaign issued a statement on Thursday night that Trump was acknowledging that Barack Obama was born in the U.S. and even taking credit for “resolving the issue.” The statement accused the 2008 Hillary Clinton campaign of bringing up the issue in the first place and said Mr. Trump deserves credit for having put the factual issue to rest by compelling the President to release his long-form birth certificate. “Having successfully obtained President Obama’s birth certificate when others could not, Mr. Trump believes that President Obama was born in the United States,” said Jason Miller, the Trump campaign’s senior communications adviser.

Of course the statement not only did not come from Trump himself, but it also falsely blamed Hillary Clinton for instigating the whole conspiracy. Finally, on Friday afternoon, September 16, Trump uttered in his own words that “President Barack Obama was born in the United States, period.” And the world gave a collective sigh of relief, knowing that even Trump has ultimately conceded that the world is not flat.

Or did he? On Wednesday, September 21, just five days after his supposedly final word conceding that President Obama was born in the U.S., Trump reverted to form. In an interview with a Columbus, Ohio TV station, when asked why he had changed his position on birtherism, Trump declared, “Well, I just wanted to get on with -- you know, we wanted to get on with the campaign. And a lot of people were asking me the questions...” Not “I was wrong and it’s time to move on.” Rather, “The issue seems to be hurting me, so let’s talk about something else,” which is where Trump was the week before, prior to his so-called final word; period.

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A Personal Perspective: Trump Makes My Head Spin off My Shoulders

continued from page 12



So why did (and still does) this birther issue bother us so much? Beyond the obvious fact that Trump is a serial liar who will say three different things on a subject on three different days in the course of a single week, it's because we can't cope with an ignorant person who

continuously tries to tell us the world is flat. And even more galling is Trump's base attempt to try to delegitimize President Obama, this country's first African-American president.

So on one hand, by continuously keeping the birther conspiracy alive, even by a flicker, Trump is trying to stay nicey-nicey with the segment of his supporters, the bigoted and racist ones who are turned on by David Duke, former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, who are indeed deplorable. On the other hand, he tries to reassure his non-deplorable supporters that he is not racist. And then, he has the temerity to claim to reach out to African Americans, many of whom, like me, are very proud of President Obama and all that he has done for this country, and ask them for their vote by asking, "What the hell have you got to lose?"

My head keeps shaking with utter disbelief, and I imagine yours does, too.

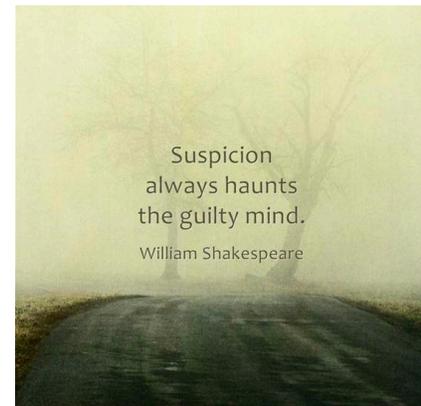
Donald Trump – Projection Personified

By Georgia Carrasco

The circus that is Donald Trump's campaign became even more chaotic in the days preceding his appearance on *The Dr. Oz Show*. Originally, his plan was to appear on the show and provide explicit details on the state of his health. It seems that the "media medic" was to "analyze" and "certify" how healthy Mr. Trump was. Of course, this stands in stark contrast to the traditional way that presidential candidates submit their records to the public. But Trump is such a product of television and reality shows that he chose to do things his way. On Monday, he announced his appearance on Thursday's show. On Tuesday, his campaign said that he was not going to release his doctor's report. On Wednesday, the show taped and Trump asked the audience what he should do. He was urged to hand over the report and did so. On Thursday, the show actually ran.

To those who value Dr. Oz's credentials, his imprimatur, his reassurance that The Donald is indeed (despite his increasingly corpulent appearance, spray-tanned pale visage, etc.) a fine healthy specimen is all they have to hear. But a new wrinkle appeared in this perfect presentation -- Dr. Oz has now been reduced to a mere narrator of general health issues. On the 15th, he did not analyze Donald Trump's health but instead discussed generalities. Like the tax returns no one in Trumpland wants to discuss, to last year's sad, goofy letter from the gastroenterologist who has treated Trump for years, the bait-and-switch masquerading as "information" is on again, and Trump's claim to "transparency" is shown, once again, to be simply a figment of his imagination.

Yet this same person and his bizarre entourage project their actual lack of transparency onto the Hillary Clinton campaign. Trump's running on empty, and his major technique seems to be projection of his failings onto the opposition.



How many Donald Trump non-appearances, cancellations of "important" news conferences (with no real explanations/reasons given), and postponements of policy notifications to the American people, etc., do we need to realize that the Republican campaign is little more than smoke-and-mirrors hoodoo? While Mrs. Clinton recovers (and very promptly!) from her walking pneumonia, Trump and his minions are running around saying that, because she didn't announce her diagnosis the day she got it, she shows an "extreme lack of transparency." Really???

Mr. Trump, where is the true medical assessment of your health? Where are your tax returns? Your fiscal policy is a disaster, and you are hiding its true cost to the American people. Your projection strategy is believable only if you yourself are not guilty of hiding relevant information, and you do that on a daily basis.

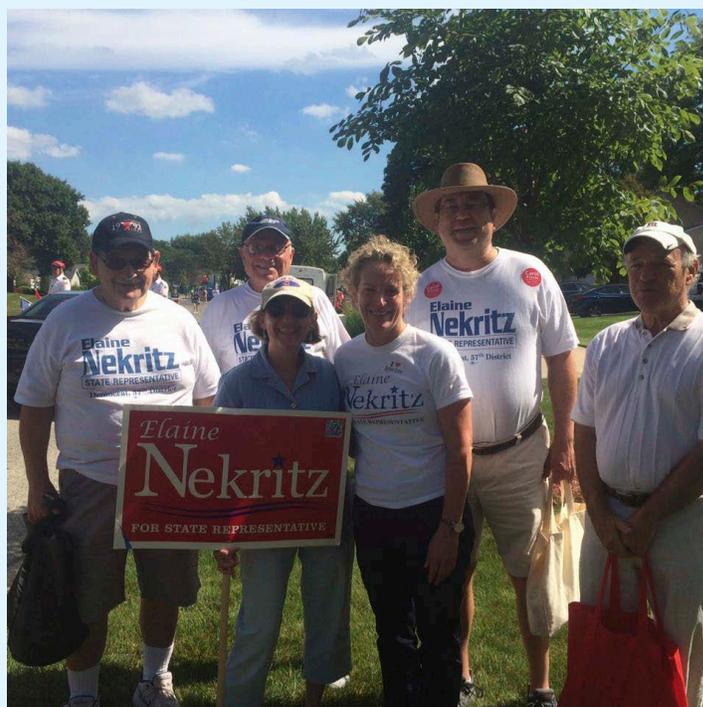
Projection is the coward's way out of a quagmire. It is a childish ploy, normal for a six-year-old but not in a grown-up race for the most important post in the free world. Hillary Clinton's campaign has been unfailingly candid about the important issues, and only a person with an immature mentality would equate her actions with the grindingly subversive postures of her opponent's camp. Donald Trump's whiney little complaints have brought this country to the brink of division, and his projection strategy is just one more indication of his minuscule mentality.

Democrats Celebrate September Holidays



Brad Schneider and supporters gather to celebrate Fiestas Patrias in Waukegan on September 18.





On Labor Day Weekend, State Representative Elaine Nekritz with some of her supporters at Buffalo Grove Days.



Democrats marching in Zion's Labor Day Parade included Brad Schneider, candidate for Congress in the 10th District (above), Erin Cartwright Weinstein, candidate for Clerk of the Circuit Court of Lake County (previous page, top left), John Idleburg, candidate for Lake County Board, District 4 (previous page, top center and right), and Nick Ciko, candidate for State Representative, 61st District (above).



Supporters of Susana Mendoza, candidate for Illinois Comptroller, at the home of Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering. Among those present were Tenth Dems Co-Chair Bonnie Berger-Neel and Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash.

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