

In This Issue:

Dems Buck Trends1, 4-5	Election Protection.....10-11
From the Founding Chair..1, 2	From the Heart13-14
The Way Forward.....2-3	Congress Watch.....18-19
Open Letter.....3-4	Just Words?23
Post-Election Forum.....5-6	Trumpcare is No Care28
Awards and Baseball7-8	

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Design: John Burger

Distribution: Roger Baron, Ron Schwartz

The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems



Dems in 10th District Buck National Trend with Victories Up and Down the Ballot

By Eric Herman and Roger Baron

While the national results did not turn out the way we would've wanted, local Democrats avoided the same fate. In one of the most closely-watched districts in the entire country, Democrats flipped the Republican-controlled 10th Congressional District seat from red to blue. The 10th District includes most of Lake County and parts of suburban Cook County. We also did our part to help elect statewide Democratic candidates, and we stood up to billionaire Republican Governor Bruce Rauner's financial onslaught in state legislative contests. Not surprisingly, Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump in Illinois. She won the 10th District with an even larger share of the vote,

Continued on Page 4...



Tenth News

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December 2016 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 13, Edition 12

A Message from the Founding Chair



Dear Friends,

I know how you feel. I feel the same way. The outcome of the presidential election upset me, too. And, let's face it, the country that we live in will be different—for the time being at least—from what we had envisioned. That much is

undeniable.

But you know what? I've been here before. Several years ago, as a member of the Illinois state legislature, I ran for Congress in one of the most closely-watched races in the entire country that year. It was tough. It was close. And I lost with 49% of the vote.

I'd be lying if I said losing that campaign didn't hurt—it did. But I turned my disappointment into action. We founded

Tenth Dems. For over a decade now, our grassroots group has worked to elect Democrats to all levels of government within the 10th Congressional District. Since then Democrats won control of Congress, giving the country its first female Speaker of the House. My General Assembly colleague Barack Obama won his Senate campaign in Illinois and then won two presidential elections. And the House seat that almost went to Democrats in 2000 has now been won twice by Brad Schneider!

A lot has happened...but not by accident. Boy, have things changed from the days when I served as the only Democratic legislator in the state legislature from Lake County! We have won so many races. And in 2016, while other parts of the country saw a rightward pull, the 10th District bucked the trend and elected Democrats up and down the ballot.

Congratulations to all of our wonderful Democratic candidates. Some of our victorious candidates include Tammy Duckworth, Susana Mendoza, Brad Schneider, Kim Foxx, Melinda Bush, Julie Morrison, Sam Yingling, Carol Sente, and Erin Cartwright Weinstein.

Continued on the next page...

Annual Awards Dinner in Words and Pictures Featured Throughout
Member Appreciation Pizza Party Set for December 13 (see p. 25)

From the Founding Chair

Continued from previous page...



We're grateful to all the candidates who ran under the Democratic banner, whether they won or lost, and were willing to put themselves forward in order to make our world a better place. Your work helping to grow the Democratic infrastructure WILL make a difference. Thank you.

In one of the most closely-watched races this campaign cycle, Democrat Brad Schneider defeated the incumbent Republican Congressman. Now, more than ever, the people of the 10th District must be represented in Washington by someone who is not afraid to stand up to Donald Trump and a right-wing Congress when they continue their assault on the environment, gun violence legislation, women's choice, immigration reform, LGBT rights, and an economy that works for all. Fortunately, we will have Brad fighting for all of us.

And I'm so glad that Brad will represent us in the Illinois delegation along with Tammy Duckworth, who defeated Republican Mark Kirk to become our new U.S. Senator from Illinois. I must say, this is a defeat I've been working toward for a very long time.

Tenth Dems activists helped make a significant difference for our local 2016 candidates. Those candidates will continue to build on the progress we've made nationally and locally and will stand up to those looking to take us backwards.

In the end, we get the elected officials we want by starting at the grassroots level, whether it's knocking on doors, making phone calls, or staffing offices. Though it was a good night for many of our candidates in the 10th District, the national results were heartbreaking.

So, friends, take some time (but not very much) and let's dust ourselves off and get started again soon. It's the only way we can build on the momentum we created in 2016. I know we can do it together.

Onward,

Hon. Lauren Beth Gash

Tenth Dems Founding Chair



At the third of three training sessions, volunteers prepare for the Tenth Dems Election Protection project. See article on p. 10.

The Way Forward: Do Something!

By Barbara Altman, Editor

It's barely two weeks after the election, and my stomach won't settle down. The punch in the gut from the Electoral College results has subsided to a constant low-grade indigestion. Instead of feeling well-earned elation from Brad's, Tammy's, Susana's, and others' hard-won victories, I'm feeling despair about the future.

Nothing that the incoming administration has announced to date is alleviating those feelings. We're contemplating an opponent of strengthening the Voting Rights Act, with a record of racist rhetoric, as Attorney General, an Islamophobic hawk with ties to Putin as National Security Advisor, a promoter of White Nationalist ideas as a special advisor, and an unprecedented merger of family, business, and government to a degree that takes concerns about conflicts of interest to a whole new level. As someone very near and dear to me put it, Trump appears prepared to drain the swamp straight into his own pockets.

What to do?

Hoping for the best is not an option. For the good of our world, our nation, our communities, our families, and ourselves, we must take action. Here are my suggestions, in no particular order. (In a post-election conversation on November 21, these suggestions, and many others, were discussed by more than 200 deeply concerned residents of the 10th Congressional District. A report of that conversation can be found on p. 5.)

- **Join Tenth Dems and become an active volunteer.** There is power – and there is solace – in teaming up with like-minded people who share a common goal.

Continued on next page...

The Way Forward: Do Something!

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- **Donate to organizations that work for what you believe in.** Whether your concerns are the environment, Social Security, Medicare, women's reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, gun violence prevention, voting rights, something else, or all of the above, there are organizations that will use your money to promote your beliefs. And that includes Tenth Dems.
- **Make your voice heard by your elected officials.** Write to legislators. Call their offices. And don't limit yourself to communicating with Democrats. Yes, strengthen the resolve of Democrats to stand up for their values. Then spend an equal amount of energy telling Republicans how strongly you disagree with what they're planning to do. Write letters. Make phone calls. Then do it again.
- **Participate in peaceful demonstrations.** History shows that protests can move policy. Stand up for what you believe in. Literally.
- **Listen, learn, and speak out.** As difficult as it may be for those of us privileged to live in Chicagoland, we need to listen to those we disagree with. Yes, continue to watch MSNBC and CNN. But tune into Fox News often enough to know what that network's millions of viewers are hearing. Listen respectfully to opposing viewpoints and try to find common ground. But if someone repeats untruths or maligns other people, whether individually or as groups, respectfully call them out. And read enough so that when you do call people out, you know what you're talking about.



*State Senator Julie Morrison
and Joe Morrison*



Adrienne Kirshbaum, Karen McCormick, Jane Goldenberg

Open Letter

A version of the following letter was sent to outgoing Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid a few days after the election. Different versions of this letter also went to incoming Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Illinois Senator Dick Durbin and Senator-elect Tammy Duckworth, and outgoing Illinois Republican Senator Mark Kirk.

Dear Senator Reid,

I am writing to you as you complete your service as the Democratic leader in the Senate. With the entire federal government about to come under the control of the Republican Party, Democrats must take a principled stand now, before President Trump takes office, and demand confirmation of Judge Merrick Garland as a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Merrick Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court has been pending since March. Today, more than two months remain in President Obama's term of office. And although the Electoral College will make Donald Trump President of the United States, in excess of two million more American voters preferred Hillary Clinton.

Republicans have refused even to acknowledge the legitimacy of Judge Garland's nomination for more than eight months, claiming that the "next president" should appoint. From the first report of Justice Scalia's death, Republican leadership argued that the election would be a referendum on what kind of Supreme Court Americans want to see. And when they thought Hillary Clinton would be the next President of the United States, they spoke defiantly of no Supreme Court appointments for four more years. three more over the next four years.

Now, of course, Republicans are drooling with anticipation at the prospect of filling not only Antonin Scalia's vacancy on the Court, but also two or three more over the next four years.

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Open Letter

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Democrats must take a stand: no Trump appointments unless Judge Garland is confirmed.

Please understand that I am not advocating the kind of mindless partisan obstruction that Republicans engaged in throughout President Obama's two terms in office. They may have gotten away with it, but it was wrong, and I still believe that two wrongs don't make a right. But I also support taking a stand on principle, and I don't believe in rewarding bad behavior.

Under our Constitution, the Scalia vacancy has always been President Obama's to fill. Only if President Obama's prerogative is honored should Democratic Senators cooperate in moving forward any Trump judicial nominees. I am asking you to draw a red line and not to cross it under any circumstances.

Note that over two million more Americans voted for Secretary Clinton than voted for Mr. Trump, and that majority presumably favors appointing someone like Judge Garland to the Supreme Court. Donald Trump may have the electors, but he does not have the people; he has nothing approaching a mandate.

I am ready to march on Washington, to sit in at the Capitol or at the Court, in short, to do whatever I, as a citizen, can do to counter the latest Republican perversion of our Constitution and system of government. You have been a strong leader, and I am asking you that you continue this fight until your last day in office.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara F. Altman



Bill Trevino and Ed Gogol



Barbara Altman and Hon. Marc Jones

Dems in 10th District Buck National Trend with Victories Up and Down the Ballot

Continued from page 1...

62 percent in the 10th to 55 percent for all of Illinois. Meanwhile, Donald Trump received only just about one in three 10th District votes, 32.8 percent. Illinois as a whole was slightly better for him--39 percent statewide--but Election Day proved that the 10th District is not Trump Country.

In the high-profile congressional race, Democrat Brad Schneider comfortably beat Republican incumbent Bob Dold, 52.5 percent to 47.4 percent. 2016 marked the third time Schneider and Dold faced each other. Schneider's win this year was the largest margin of victory in any Schneider-Dold race.

Democratic Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth easily ousted current Republican Senator Mark Kirk. Duckworth won Illinois by more than 14 percent, garnering over 54 percent of the vote. While that result might not shock observers, the numbers in the 10th District might surprise. Kirk served as 10th District House Representative for five terms, yet he lost his home district 53.3 percent to 42.4 percent, not too far from his deficit for all of Illinois.

Another race that received a lot of attention was the campaign for Comptroller between Democrat Susana Mendoza and Republican Leslie Munger. Mendoza won the 10th District vote 48.5 percent to Munger's 46 percent. The spread was slightly larger statewide, as Mendoza received 49.1 percent while Munger totaled 44.8 percent.

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Dems in 10th District Buck National Trend with Victories Up and Down the Ballot

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In the races for the state legislature, Democrats withstood the flood of money poured in by Bruce Rauner and his Illinois Republican Party friends. 31st District State Senator Melinda Bush won with 54 percent of the vote while her colleague, 29th District State Senator Julie Morrison, received over 59 percent against her own Republican challenger.

In a heated contest targeted by Republicans, 62nd District State Representative Democrat Sam Yingling won 52.4 percent against Republican Rod Drobinski who failed to reach 48 percent. Meanwhile, 60th District State Representative Democrat Carol Sente easily won another term after receiving over 60 percent of the vote.

At the county level, first-time candidate Democrat Erin Cartwright Weinstein ousted Republican incumbent Keith Brin to become the new Lake County Clerk of the Circuit Court. Cartwright Weinstein won with 53.3 percent of the Lake County vote overall while Brin could muster only 46.7 percent, but she thoroughly dominated in the 10th District, winning 57.2 percent to Brin's 42.8 percent.

Democratic candidates up and down the ballot were strong throughout the 10th District, especially in Waukegan, Zion, and Moraine Townships. The foundation is there--now it's time to build on the 2016 success.



State Representative Robyn Gabel

200 Attend Lively Post-Election Forum

By Nancy Krent

On Monday evening, November 21, more than two hundred people gathered at the Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest to participate in the Tenth Dems open forum on the 2016 election. Tenth Dems Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash opened the meeting by noting that, locally,



Election Day was an overwhelming success for the people of the 10th District. In addition to Brad Schneider's win in the Congressional race, the 10th kept all its incumbent Democrats, picked up the Lake County Circuit Court Clerk's seat and helped Tammy Duckworth and Susana Mendoza win statewide. However, that stood in sharp contrast to the scary, shocking rightward pull seen in so many areas of the country with the election of Donald Trump. As Lauren noted, all of us are still trying to come to grips with the defeat of Hillary Clinton and what that means for Democrats and for the country. The purpose of the meeting was therefore to mourn, to celebrate, and to plan how to move forward.



For the next two hours, person after person lined up for the microphone and patiently waited their turn to share their concerns, their frustrations, and their suggestions for action.

Continued on next page...

200 Attend Lively Post-Election Forum

Continued from previous page...

Four of Tenth Dems' leaders—Managing Vice-Chair and newsletter editor Barbara Altman, Communications Director Eric Herman, and Leadership Committee members Nancy Krent and Laurence Schiller joined Lauren on stage



and occasionally engaged with the speakers on the floor by elaborating upon an issue or answering a question.

The conversation was free-ranging. Multiple people spoke about the need to engage younger voters and others who feel disenfranchised. Several speakers mentioned looking for ways to bring young Democrats together, and volunteers are being solicited to reinvigorate the Young Tenth Dems to focus on this goal.

A number of speakers addressed national concerns, such as voter suppression, Trump's expected Cabinet picks and ethics issues, and attacks on progressive legislation and programs, such as the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Among the suggestions for action were letter-writing



and educational campaigns, lobbying efforts, partnering with affinity groups, and working to make our voices heard nationally.

One key issue was the Electoral College. Some speakers talked about efforts to change or abolish the Electoral College, and others wanted to work on studying the issue more fully.



Others spoke about the need to prepare for upcoming elections, including the municipal elections in 2017 and the mid-terms and gubernatorial elections in 2018. Building and strengthening precinct committee structures, helping with canvassing and organizing, and encouraging and raising support for candidates were some of the suggestions that speakers shared. Additionally, people suggested reaching out to other states, and other areas of Illinois, where local Democrats may need our support to strengthen their organizing efforts.

Several people talked about the presidential campaign, and discussed some of the factors that may have led to Hillary's defeat. Many thought that it was important to study the election so that we could learn from what went wrong to help us build stronger, more successful campaigns going forward.

In all, dozens of people took the mic to voice their individual thoughts, concerns, and suggestions over the course of nearly two hours, and many more signed up to volunteer to put ideas into action.

Tenth Dems plans to host additional, smaller conversations in the coming months, across the 10th District, to talk more about the ideas that have been generated, to seek additional ideas, and to implement action plans. Find out more at TenthDems.org, and if you are interested in volunteering, you can do so at volunteer@tenthdems.org.

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

By Adrienne Kirshbaum

The best laid plans Well, you know the rest. When Tenth Dems chose the evening of November 1 to host its Thirteenth Annual Awards Dinner, who knew that the Chicago Cubs might intervene? As every Cubs fan knows, this is the first time the franchise has made it to the World Series since 1945. That's 71 years, if you're counting, and the longest time that any team in Major League Baseball has been absent from the sport's "big dance." So when it turned out that Tuesday evening, November 1, was the date of the pivotal sixth game of the series, with the Cubs facing elimination, Tenth Dems leaders got together and decided to combine two fall classics. The Annual Awards Dinner became a World Series Watch Party.

And a party it was. The evening at the Embassy Suites in Deerfield began with a delicious buffet dinner. Guests sat at tables decorated with blue Hillary Clinton signs used as placemats, anticipating the election that was just one week away.



Keynote speaker Scott Turow

Before the game started, John Schaye introduced Lauren Beth Gash, Democratic State Central Committeewoman and Tenth Dems Founding Chair, who explained how the program would occupy the three-minute commercial breaks between half-innings, with the rest of the time devoted to watching the game on the 10-foot screen at right angles to the podium. She then introduced keynote speaker Scott Turow, best-selling author, prominent attorney, and loyal Cubs fan, who used the time before the first pitch to give the standing-room-only crowd a federal prosecutor's perspective on how FBI Director James Comey overreached in his handling of the politically-charged investigations of Hillary Clinton's emails.

Scott Turow's long list of accomplishments includes serving not only as an Assistant U.S. Attorney,

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Remarks by State Senator Julie Morrison Upon Accepting the 2016 Mikva Leadership Award

Receiving this award is always a special honor, but more so tonight, as this is the first year that we mourn the passing of Abner Mikva. Judge Mikva was an icon to the Democratic Party and spent a lifetime in public service. Many of you might know him as a friend or as a mentor. I did not have that opportunity, having met him only briefly, but I heard him speak many times. It was not until I attended the Mikva Challenge Dinner that I really gained an appreciation for who this man was.

Ab Mikva knew that civic engagement is the linchpin of our American democracy. The Mikva Challenge, which he took great pride in helping to found, recruits, mentors and places young adults, mostly from disadvantaged backgrounds, in opportunities to learn and then to lead. They are the last, the lost, the least in our society; young people too easy to dismiss and to disregard. But Judge Mikva created the Mikva Challenge to propel these young people into active participation in the world of government, public policy, and advocacy.

He recognized that it is our collective responsibility to engage and incorporate these young citizens into the processes and institutions that make up our American Democracy.

It is this inspiration and his mission that we commemorate tonight with this award. And I gratefully accept and thank you for this extraordinary honor.



State Senator Julie Morrison

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

Continued from previous page...

but also on a commission that recommended candidates for nomination to the federal courts. Scott explained that one of the group's greatest challenges was trying to predict whether a respected lawyer might, with an appointment to the bench, fall prey to "black robe-itis," a sense of entitlement to impose one's views on others that can afflict certain people appointed to positions of authority. Turow then condemned FBI Director James Comey's conduct in July, when Comey exonerated Hillary Clinton of any criminal conduct in connection with her private email server, but only after expounding at length on his view of Secretary Clinton's missteps.



In Turow's view, Comey demonstrated "black robe-itis" at its worst by improperly passing personal judgment on the subject of an investigation, an infraction compounded when on October 28 he announced the FBI's intent to investigate emails that may or may not be found on a laptop belonging to the estranged husband of Huma Abedin, a Clinton aide. In Turow's view, Comey violated his duties as a law enforcement officer and as a federal official.

The keynoter completed his remarks just as the game began, and people turned their attention to the giant TV screen set up at one end of the room. Dismay about Comey turned to giddiness as a two-out rally ended the top of the first with the Cubs already up 3-0. The crowd was able to cheer for the home team, and everyone seemed to agree that this was a really fine idea. One could attend a political dinner with unusually good food and root for the Cubbies, all at the same time!

The mood never changed. Each time a team yielded the field, the program filled the three-minute interval. Barbara Altman, Managing Vice-Chair,

spoke about all that Tenth Dems does and how it was all possible because of the work of the volunteers and donors who filled the room. Conor Kennedy, a Tenth Dems summer internship alum, talked about how much he had done and learned. The Founders Award was presented to Ron Schwartz, Communications Chair, and the Rosenblit Volunteer Award went to Communications Manager Roger Baron. The Mikva Leadership Award went to State Senator Julie Morrison. (see sidebar)

Candidates for office within the 10th District were introduced by State Senator Daniel Biss and asked to say a few words. Brad Schneider, running to reclaim his seat, came to the podium and spoke briefly.

And, as has become a tradition, Hon. Dan Pierce, 10th District State Central Committeeman and former State Representative, offered closing remarks.

The idea of combining baseball and politics appeared to work rather well. Maybe the Cubs can become perennial participants in the World Series and we can try this again.



Tenth Dems interns Mariel Boden and Conor Kennedy



Hon. Marc Jones, John Joanem, Octavius Hayes

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

Continued from previous page



Continued on page 12...

Election Protection Saves Votes

By Barbara Altman



On November 8, Tenth Dems deployed about 125 lawyers to polling places across the 10th District to help ensure that Election Day went smoothly and that everyone entitled to vote was allowed to do so. Each team member received a detailed manual and training that highlighted the issues most likely to arise and then was assigned precincts to visit on Election Day. Entering polling places as poll watchers, these lawyers served the

Tenth Dems lead election protection lawyers, including those who drafted the manual and facilitated the training, spent Election Day in law offices made available to serve as election protection headquarters.

From there, they supported the team in the field by answering questions and, when appropriate, conveying concerns to the Cook and Lake County Clerks' offices.

The headquarters group also redeployed lawyers to trouble spots as they became aware of the need. An incident log prepared in election protection headquarters documents how critical these efforts were to the success of Democratic candidates across the 10th District. Just as the experience of the election protection team in 2014 helped leaders target polling places for 2016, the 2016 log will be an important tool for organizing the election protection effort in 2018.



critical function of monitoring the activity at targeted locations to prevent voter suppression by making sure that lines were moving smoothly, rules against electioneering were being enforced, and voters were not given provisional ballots when they were entitled to vote a regular ballot, among other things.



Election Protection Saves Votes

Continued from previous page...

The headquarters team also staffed a Voter Assistance Hotline, directly speaking to voters who wanted to know where to go to vote, whether they were registered, and what documentation they needed to same-day register and vote, among other things.



Nancy Krent leads the second of three training sessions.



The headquarters team discusses one of the many issues that arose on Election Day.



Andy Booker and Hon. Amanda Howland



Scott Linn and Leonard Cahnmann



Mary Turley



Bill Trevino and Hon. Sam Cunningham

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from page 9



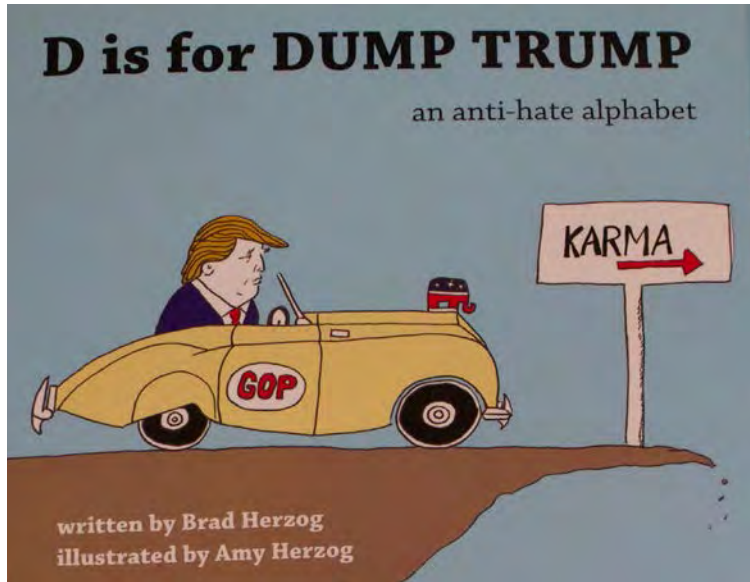
Erin Cartwright Weinstein, newly elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Lake County; David Weinstein; John Joanem

From the Heart: A personal perspective

By Steven Gan

Let me start by apologizing for rambling.

On the night of the election, as my 90-year-old Mom and I were watching the results come in, we started to feel sick when we saw Trump leading in Michigan and Wisconsin. Like every other Hillary supporter nationwide, and probably worldwide, we sat in dismay, wondering why Hillary wasn't dominating in these states as the polls and pundits had all predicted.



Then as we saw how Pennsylvania flipped to Trump pulling ahead, I decided to turn off the TV. My Mom and I looked at each other with total despair and hung our heads low.

Just at that moment I received a text message from a high school friend of mine, Chris, who I would describe as a hold-your-nose Trump supporter. Chris was checking in on me and sincerely wanted to know if I was all right. Over the years we have become good friends through our online debates and discussions on a wide range of issues. He is truly one of the only Republicans with whom I can enjoy analyzing the world in detail.

I told my Mom that I was going to take a sleeping sedative (over the counter and organic) because I was just too distraught and didn't want to even think about the election anymore. For 18 months we've all been subjected to the daily exuberant emotional highs and traumatic emotional lows of this past presidential campaign. I couldn't stomach the outcome and needed to sleep. With a heavy weight on my shoulders as to the future of this country, I went to bed and fell into a deep sleep.

When I awoke, as usual, I picked up my iPhone but before I could open my emails as I normally do, I saw a text message that read, "Ken T. passed away last night due to a heart attack and he was only 54 years old." As I reread the text message several times, I immediately called a few friends in Ken's and my writing group to find out more. I couldn't believe how a person I've known so well for the past few years could be here one day and gone the next. What was even more disturbing about his sudden passing is that I had only spoken to him a few days before about the election. How terrible to lose a friend in an instant.

My friend Ken was not only an avid Hillary supporter, but also a champion of all Democratic causes. Sometimes after our writing group get together, he and I would discuss the ongoing Trump debacles hoping that each one would finally sink his ship. Unfortunately, despite the hate, the lies, the groping, the outrageousness and odiousness that Trump proudly displayed during his campaign, his supporters excused it all.

Over the past week I've been trying to cope with all the dramatic and heartbreaking changes, both on a personal and a political level. I've been slowly waking up from a terrible funk wondering where this country will be going. Although President Obama has encouraged Americans to give Trump some time to get adjusted to the responsibilities of the presidency, it bothers me that Trump never uttered any words of encouragement about President Obama. As we know, quite the contrary — Trump's pursuit of the birther conspiracy against America's first African-American President was how he gained national political prominence.

So where do I go from here? Well, for starters, as soon as I finish writing this article I'm going to pick up where I left off.



Author, Steven Gan, with his mother.

Continued on next page...

From the Heart: A personal perspective

continued from the previous page...

I'm going to get on social media and respond to the comments that I think are politically and socially troubling to this country. I'm going to attend more Tenth Dems meetings. And I've decided to get more involved in our political process on a local level.

For the time being the Republicans may have won the battle. But ultimate victory will always be on our side, the side of fairness, civility, and equality for all Americans. I'm sure Ken would appreciate me doing this.



Bonnie Berger-Neel and Jim Neel



Xia (Lydia) Bai and Julia Takarada



Ron Kirshbaum, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Cathy O'Brien



Bill Crowley and Lynn Abrahamson



MJ Brady and Sandi Riggs



Arnie Shafer and Nancy Chausow Shafer

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from page 12



Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from previous page

Ron Schwartz accepts the Founders Award



Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from previous page

Roger Baron accepts the Rosenblit Volunteer of the Year Award



CONGRESS WATCH: Now that the 10th District is Blue, We Must Gear Up for the Coming Struggle

By Laurence D. Schiller



We cannot thank 10th District Democrats enough for helping elect Brad Schneider as our Congressman and Tammy Duckworth as our new Senator. Unfortunately, they will be joining the minority party in both houses of Congress. Even worse, the Republican Party is now the party of Trump; Democrats will have to struggle in a Congress controlled by a Trumpian GOP.



Ron Schwartz and Laurence Schiller



Roger Baron and Marji Baron

This next Congress is going to be downright scary, and we need to be all in to prevent the right wing from rolling back the progress we've made under President Obama. Do not doubt for a moment that the very values of our American republic are going to be under attack by the haters and oligarchs.

We, as progressives, need to step up to ensure that the American public knows very clearly who is on the right side of history. To quote FDR in a different context, "We will fight until we win the inevitable triumph." And that fight starts now, even before the new Congress is sworn in. (see open letter on p. 3)

I don't expect very much from this lame duck session of Congress, since the GOP leadership has made it very clear that they will do little before January. As I see it, these are the major fights brewing in the next Congress. In no particular order:

1. The Supreme Court. Although President Obama already put forth a nominee for Judge Antonin Scalia's vacant Supreme Court seat, Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell seems to have succeeded in ignoring the Constitution and holding the seat open for the next President to fill. Can anything be done before the Inauguration?
2. Medicare and Social Security. House Speaker Paul Ryan will try to actualize his plans to turn Medicare into a voucher program and privatize Social Security.
3. Women's Reproductive Rights. The GOP still wants to defund Planned Parenthood and restrict women's right to choose.
4. The Environment and Climate Change. Republicans will support fracking and the Keystone Pipeline, weaken environmental regulations and the EPA, and threaten to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement.
5. Guns. The incoming administration has advocated eliminating gun-free zones in schools and churches. There is almost no prospect of new gun violence prevention legislation.
6. Immigration and Terrorism. Will a GOP trying to shrink government come up with the money to fund massive deportations and a border wall?
7. Tax Reform. Republican income tax reform plans are likely to cost the government trillions in revenue while transferring more wealth to the top one percent by lowering their rates at the expense of the middle class. As history teaches, "trickle down" economics does not create new jobs.
8. Infrastructure. Although the President-elect has promised infrastructure improvements nationwide, Republican congressional leaders have balked at the price tag. We also need to guard against infrastructure improvements being used as a means of funneling government funds to Trump cronies.

Continued on next page...

CONGRESS WATCH: Now that the 10th District is Blue, We Must Gear Up for the Coming Struggle

Continued from previous page...

9. Campaign Finance. The GOP has made it clear that the darker the money, the better.

10. Civil Rights. The Trump campaign promised attempts to strip away basic constitutional rights and protections from the press and from minority groups such as LGBTQ people, Muslims and others. Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions, the President-elect's choice for Attorney General, has a history of racist speech and action and has opposed strengthening the Voting Rights Act. White nationalist groups are openly cheering the incoming administration. What's more, there are religious fanatics on the right who don't believe in a secular republic, as created by Jefferson and the other Founders.

11. The Affordable Care Act. The GOP wants to repeal the law that has furnished health insurance to more than 22 million Americans and has proposed no viable replacement.

12. Dodd-Frank and the Regulation of Wall Street and the Big Banks. The GOP wants to repeal all the new legislative and regulatory safeguards put in place to prevent another Great Recession, or worse.

13. National Security. The administration has signaled the possibility of weakening the U.S.'s commitment to NATO, a move sure to please Russian President Vladimir Putin.

14. Trade. What sort of trade agreements, if any, can we expect going forward, with a President-elect whose companies manufacture goods in cheap overseas labor markets?

Certainly, additional issues will emerge. This column will try to shine a spotlight on the dark recesses of Congress where the GOP likes to do its dirty work to help you know what the Republicans are up to. We can rely on our newly-elected Democratic Congressman and Senator, as well as Senator Durbin, to help us in that effort.

When the Constitutional Convention was concluded in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was asked by a reporter what the delegates, meeting in secret, had created. He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." With the ascent to the presidency, without a popular majority, of a man with neither the experience nor the apparent desire to govern, it will be up to us to ensure that we do, in fact, keep our republic.



Dulce Ortiz and Hon. Marc Jones



Gregg Garmisa, Hon. Alyssa Knobel, Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, Barbara Altman, Lowell Jaffe



*Standing, l. to r., Hon. Sam Cunningham, Judge Patricia Fix, Hon. Mary Ross Cunningham.
Seated: Bob Blinick, Judge Charles Smith*

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from page 17



Sara Hoffman, Judge Mitch Hoffman, Judge Mark Levitt



Hon. Dan Pierce

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from previous page



Cubs Score!

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from previous page



Vicki Martin and Kerry Martin

Just Words?

By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

A political campaign is by nature emotionally charged with aggressive speech. This campaign was unlike any other in our recent history. With the proliferation of social media, we all received a daily barrage of hate speech, unfiltered. As many of us attempted to shield our children, it was nearly impossible to avoid.

Now that the campaign has ended, with a result most voting Americans rejected, the President-elect and his staff say they were just words. But as we all know, words hurt. Few of us have not felt the pain of bullying and hurtful speech. Yet this was much more than a slur spoken on the playground; these were the spoken promises of a leader who intends to deport millions of hardworking people, belittles the disabled, and threatens to end health insurance for over 20 million Americans—all in the face of another insult, the enabling of hate groups, from neo-Nazis to the Ku Klux Klan. Just in the week following the election, there have been over 500 instances of hate crimes. The FBI reports a significant increase in hate crimes in 2015, with a 67 percent increase in hate crimes against Muslims.

We have seen this before. It happened in Europe in the 1930s as hate groups became political parties which became the government of Germany.

Then there is Steve Bannon, the editor of *Breitbart*, a syndicated right-wing news and opinion website, who has been appointed as strategy advisor to the President-elect and will be sitting in an office steps away from the Oval Office. Bannon provided a platform for white nationalist ideas at *Breitbart* and can be expected to encourage the new President to continue to use the type of demagogic rhetoric that so fired up Trump's base during the campaign.

As candidate Trump became President-elect Trump, we occasionally have heard a much more conciliatory individual speaking. He says that the rhetoric of the campaign was “just words,” but these were words that brought him the endorsement of the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi groups.

Given the homophobic and nationalist individuals that he has surrounded himself with, I fear that it is unlikely that President Trump will suddenly become the type of statesman that would be expected of the leader of the free world.

Good luck to us all.



Robert Luna, Hon. Elliott Hartstein, Joe Adler, Nancy Krent



Cindy Chudacoff and Bruce Chudacoff



Karyn Davidman and State Representative Elaine Nekritz

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from page 22



Standing, l. to r., Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, cutout Hillary Clinton, Judge Mitch Hoffman, Judge Mark Levitt, Mary Turley, Hon. Amanda Howland, Nikki Warden, Erin Cartwright Weinstein, State Sen. Julie Morrison, State Representative Robyn Gabel, State Senator Daniel Biss, Hon. Jane Goldenberg, Matt Stanton, Hon. Tom Rudd. Kneeling, State Representative Elaine Nekritz.

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from previous page



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday evening, December 13
Lake House in Lake Bluff
525 Rockland Road

Member Appreciation Pizza Party



Hon. Nancy Shepherdson and Hon. Sam Cunningham

Healthcare Under a Trump Administration

By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

As women line up to renew prescriptions for birth control in unprecedented numbers, according to NPR, there are new concerns that family planning services may be curtailed under the new Trump administration. Under Obamacare provisions, birth control has been provided to those with health insurance without copay or deductibles. This and many other provisions of the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, are likely to be eliminated by the new administration.

Among the provisions of the Affordable Care Act were some that made insurance both more affordable and more inclusive. Insurers no longer could reject consumers with preexisting conditions or charge them higher premiums. Young people could stay on parents' plans until age 26.

The Republican Congress passed a bill in 2015 that would have repealed key provisions of Obamacare, namely Medicaid coverage for Americans near or below the poverty line, subsidies for middle class Americans to purchase insurance on the exchange, and the taxes that fund those programs. President Obama vetoed the 2015 bill. President-elect Trump has promised that he will sign such a bill in 2017.

Some 22 million individuals could lose health insurance through the Marketplace or expanded Medicaid. And Medicare as we currently know it may be gutted, replaced by vouchers that seniors could use to purchase health insurance from private insurers.

So how would the Republican Congress replace the ACA? From previous policy proposals of Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, we know that he intends to replace federal Medicaid cost-sharing with block grants to the state. This loss of federal cost-sharing could limit states' ability to provide coverage during economic downturns in the economy when more people need insurance and states' tax bases shrink. Speaker Ryan also intends to replace Medicare with vouchers for purchase of private plans, and the reported nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services, Georgia Congressman Tom Price, has been a vocal advocate for privatizing Medicare.

To the extent they have talked about a replacement for Obamacare, Republicans have mentioned healthcare savings accounts and tax benefits to purchase insurance, but funding by these mechanisms would be far from adequate to buy anything other than catastrophic coverage. While Trump has stated that he would preserve protections for consumers with preexisting conditions and the ability of those under 26 to obtain healthcare insurance under a parent's plan,

these popular provisions would be costly extras for any group or individual plan.

The insurance industry has already stated that it would be difficult to offer that unless virtually all Americans are required to have insurance. Ironically, Obamacare's "individual mandate"—the requirement that every American purchase healthcare insurance—is one of the very elements of the law that Republicans have railed about the most as they have campaigned to repeal Obamacare.

In sum, for many Americans, Trumpcare or Ryancare (or Pricecare) would essentially be no care.



Steve Rosenzweig



State Sen. Daniel Biss and Hon. Mark Walker



Steve Sheffey and Sharon Narrod.

Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from page 25



Tenth Dems Dinner Mixes Awards and Baseball

continued from previous page



*Lake County Board candidate Nikki Warden
and Bryson Burnside*



*Hon. Carol Spielman and Moraine Town-
ship Supervisor Anne Flanigan Bassi*



Matt Pestine