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Don't Be Terrified; Send a Message

By Prajnaa Jain

The short time—not yet 200 days—since Donald Trump was sworn in as President of the United States reminds me of a cliché scene from a horror movie. The protagonist slowly and cautiously opens an old, creaky, wooden door, while viewers impatiently wait to see the terrifying sights they know will appear on the other side. The creaking and squeaking are followed by what is commonly described as a blood-curdling scream.



Currently, much that is terrifying can be found in Washington, D.C. While so many of the activities of this administration may seem like a real-life horror story, there is a way we can identify ourselves as beacons of calm, good sense, and resilience.

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Tenth News

July 2017 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 14, Edition 7

"A Special Kind of Energy"

By Marci Jacobs and Neesa Sweet



A "phenomenal evening," a "topnotch affair," an "inspiring night." This is just a small sampling of the accolades bestowed upon the Tenth Dems Candidate and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at the Deerfield Hyatt July 19, 2017, by some of the nearly 300 in attendance. Even Keynote Speaker Jason Kander, former Missouri Secretary of State, U.S. Senate candidate, head of Let America Vote, and recognized by President Obama as a rising star of the Democratic Party, decisively distinguished this event from the many he attends, noting a "special kind of energy in the room."

From the delectable food – grilled vegetables, Caesar salad, and a variety of pastas – to the impressive lineup of speakers, to the extraordinary number of hosts, the night was a resounding success. The festive ballroom, festooned with balloons, township placards, a variety of campaign buttons, and the welcome life-size cutouts of former President Obama and First Lady Michelle, reflected the mood of the evening.

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“A Special Kind of Energy”

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The dinner was held to honor the individuals who took the big step of putting themselves forward to run in this year’s elections and the volunteers who helped them. The evening’s theme was “Grassroots in Action,” as speaker after speaker told their personal stories and underscored how anyone could and should make a difference at the local level.

Lauren Beth Gash, Founding Chair and 10th District State Central Committeewoman, and Bonnie Berger-Neel and Marguerite Hampton, Co-Chairs, welcomed the crowd and spoke about Tenth Dems. Dan Pierce, North Shore Sanitary District Trustee and 10th District State Central Committeeman, closed the evening.

The program began with a dedication to the loving memory of Nancie Blatt, one of the founders of Tenth Dems and a tireless lifelong supporter of Democratic and progressive causes. Numerous grassroots volunteers and up-and-coming Democratic candidates followed.

Jackie Epstein, Leadership Committee, and Danny Ivanov, one of this year’s interns, spoke about community engagement. Carolyn Rivers, a newly elected Zion Park District Commissioner who has helped run the Tenth Dems Waukegan office, told her personal story of progressing from volunteer to elected official.

Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, New Trier Township Trustee, recounted her introduction to Democratic politics as a Tenth Dems intern more than a decade ago. Gail introduced Daniel Didech, newly-elected Vernon Township Supervisor. Daniel came into township office with a Democratic slate that ousted a slate of entrenched Republicans, and he acknowledged the important role Tenth Dems played in the Democratic victory.

Niki Warden, former Fox Lake Clerk and a candidate in 2016, introduced Waukegan Park District Commissioner Marc Jones, who celebrated the night’s honorees –all the Democrats who ran in the April 2017 local elections and the volunteers who support them and Tenth Dems. Marc’s energizing speech called all present to action. As he so eloquently reminded us, the most important things you need when you run for office are “a heart full of grace” and a “soul full of love.”

Former Village of Mundelein Trustee Holly Kim then spoke about the importance of every single vote, as she recounted her loss in the April 2017 election for Mayor of Mundelein by ... wait for it ... five votes.

Among the other elected officials who addressed the gathering were Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza, State Senator Julie Morrison, some gubernatorial candidates—in person or through surrogates, and our 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider. Although Brad couldn’t leave D.C. midweek while the House was in session, he arranged to address the gathering via a specially prepared video in which he congratulated the candidates who, win or lose, made the 2017 election such a success for Democrats across the 10th District. Brad also thanked the volunteers who continue to promote our Democratic values.

Keynoter Jason Kander, an advocate for voting rights, an army veteran, and the first millennial to hold statewide office in the United States, inspired the gathering with his easy-going conversational tone and compelling narrative. Identified by President Obama as a rising Democratic star, Kander narrowly lost a Missouri U.S. Senate race in 2016. His campaign famously featured a commercial showing him affirming his support for gun safety while assembling a rifle in 30 seconds, blindfolded. Kander revealed that the motivations for this campaign ad, which went viral, were his “F” rating from the



NRA and Wayne LaPierre's special interest in his candidacy. LaPierre personally travelled across the State of Missouri to campaign against Kander.

Kander seemed to be the embodiment of the evening's theme as he explained how he ran the NRA out of his very red state by being honest about what he believed in: background checks. He related that the reason he out-performed every other Missouri Democrat on the 2016 ballot and nearly toppled Republican incumbent Sen. Roy Blunt, was that he "didn't pretend to be something he was not, a conservative Democrat." Everyone knew he was a progressive Democrat. Kander's philosophy: voters prefer honesty to being "tricked" or "pandered to."

Kander's major cause now is voting rights. He told how, after hearing "the biggest lie ever told by a sitting president" (that millions voted illegally in the 2016 election), he founded Let America Vote, a national organization that pushes back against attempts to restrict voting rights. This cause has become even more critical in the wake of the Trump "voter fraud commission," which Kander refers to as the more aptly named, "voter suppression commission." Kander's rallying cry is, "If you make it harder to vote, we make it harder for you to get elected."

Kander pointed out that Republicans think the only way they can win is by excluding people from the process, while Democrats know that they win by including people in the process. In recognition of the importance of national efforts to combat voter suppression and protect voter rights, Tenth Dems presented Kander with a donation to Let America Vote.

Kander reminded the audience that it would take grassroots groups like Tenth Dems to push back against efforts by President Trump and other Republicans to impose their right-wing agenda. "Americans are not meant to fear the future. They are meant to shape the future," he said.

Our keynoter ended with a message of hope: "We can be a unifying force because the truth is on our side...and if we all work together, we can save the American dream," Kander said. He continued, "Together we can save the American dream from the American nightmare that is Donald Trump!" These final words brought the crowd to its feet, as Kander received a long and enthusiastic standing ovation.

Kander's acknowledgment of the "special kind of energy in the room" was spot on. A big thank you to all the Tenth Dems volunteers and supporters who contributed to the success of this memorable event!

[More Photos can be found on pages 5 -9](#)



Don't Be Terrified; Send a Message

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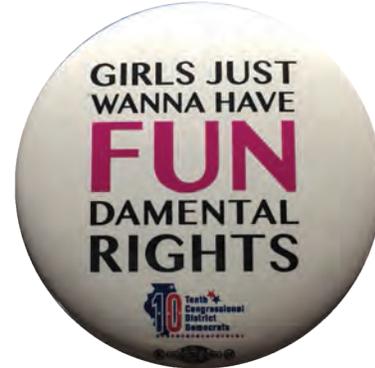
Wear a button. Or wear several.

Tenth Dems has ordered an unprecedented number of new buttons, because each button design expresses something unique. So, without further ado, I'll provide a close-up of each of our new buttons.

If the only planet you have lived on is Earth, and you care about the crisis that is human-caused climate change, you can proclaim of Mother Earth, "I'm with her."

If you want to stand up for the women who have been maligned by Trump and his Republican enablers, you can appropriate the label "Nasty Woman," or declare, "Nevertheless She Persisted." You'd rather be more direct in your advocacy for women's rights? You can declare that these rights are "fundamental."

Want to show your opposition to any repeal of the Affordable Care Act and your disgust with Trump at the same time? Advocate for the best possible "Repeal and Replace."



Maybe you just want to tweak Trump and his dysfunctional White House and declare that Steve Bannon's values are not yours. Or perhaps you recognize that the problem isn't just Trump, but also the right-wing Republican Congress that is enabling his dangerous agenda.

And if you just--plain and simple--want to limit the damage this administration is doing, you can show that you "Resist!"



All of these buttons are available at <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/td-store>, and many can't be obtained anywhere else. Your purchase (\$3.00 each, two for \$5.00) not only will show your support for Tenth Dems and the Democratic and Progressive values we further, but also for this intern who recently helped carry 47 pounds of buttons up three flights of stairs.

And if we have to sit through a horror movie, at least we can show what we're feeling.

“A Special Kind of Energy”

Photo Gallery

Full Album can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/pg/Tenth-Dems/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1522869657735850











An Evening of Social Justice Songs and Pizza Food for Body and Soul



Join us for Tenth Dems' Evening of Social Justice Songs. Singing along is welcome (but not required) as we sing songs of solidarity from social movements throughout history. Enjoy songs inspired by organized labor, protests, gospel ... folk, hip hop, rap and more!

Saturday, August 5th
7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Gurnee Teacher's Hall (Lake County Conference and Banquet Center)
248 Ambrogio Dr., Gurnee, IL 60031
Pizza, soft drinks, juice, wine, and beer available for purchase.

All ages welcome. There will be an activity table for kids, lyrics projected on the wall, and song leaders and instruments.

For more information or to RSVP visit www.tenthdems.org/music, e-mail events@tenthdems.org, or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).

Trump Dumps on his Loyal Chumps

By Steven Gan



Almost every night after watching the news and before I go to bed, I write down some notes about an article I'd like to write for the *Tenth News*. I scribble a short outline, try to think of a few pithy comments to include, and hope what I write will withstand the ongoing daily revelations.

Unfortunately, these days as we're getting "Breaking News" on what Trump has said, done, tweeted, etc.- -at least two to three a day--it's almost impossible for me to opine on some new blow-by-blow volcanic eruption without its becoming old within a few hours.

This is a reflection of the degree of chaos into which the Trump presidency has devolved during the longest six months of any administration in history.

And throughout this relatively short but excruciating period of what seems like years, I think I've found one constant that defies not only basic common sense but also what we think of as basic humanity. Let me explain.

Who can forget how Donald Trump belittled, name-called, and disparaged the other GOP candidates during the primary

campaign. Any person in their right civilized mind would have never in a million years excused, let alone accepted, the type of verbal abuse that enthralled Trump's supporters. Crooked Hillary, Lying Ted, Little Marco, and Low-Energy Jeb were just the tip of the iceberg of Trump's constant bullying insults. When Trump tweeted out a photo of his wife, Melania, looking very beautiful juxtaposed alongside a particularly unflattering photo of Heidi Cruz, Ted Cruz responded by calling Trump out as a "sniveling coward." Now don't get me wrong here, I despise Cruz with every liberal Democratic bone in my body, but yes, I was over-the-moon happy that finally someone in the GOP was really standing up and giving it to "The Donald."



But then what happened after Trump was elected President? Cruz, Bush, Rubio, Romney (who called Trump a fraud and a con), and many other GOP candidates, politicians, and sworn enemies all went to kiss his ring and make nicey-nicey with him. As Romney was vying to be named Secretary of State, he was probably hoping that Trump would forgive and forget that he was involved in the anti-Trump campaign. After all, Romney would have loved nothing more than to strut around the globe as Secretary of State, adding that title to his political resume. And even Cruz jumped on the bandwagon and decided that if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. I wonder, though, if Mrs. Cruz didn't feel horribly insulted for the second time.



Which brings me to Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Just last week Donald Trump told *The New York Times* in an interview, "Sessions should have never recused himself and if he was going to recuse himself he should have told me before he took the job and I would have picked somebody else."

Putting aside the fact that in view of Sessions' conversations with the Russian ambassador and other diplomats that came to light after he was sworn in as AG, recusing himself was the right thing to do to give the investigation a very much-needed appearance of being independent and objective. However, Trump doesn't see it that way since he feels that anyone he appoints to any position in his cabinet or administration should be working for HIS best interest, and not the country's.

Now, when Jeff Sessions heard that Trump would not have appointed him as AG for the reasons mentioned above, he must have been devastated. Although Sessions was and still is a blind adherent of Trump from the get-go, Trump could care less about all that and blames Sessions for giving the investigation a clear road to advance forward. After all, Sessions was supposed to thwart any investigation of Trump and his campaign, as a matter of undying duty to the Bossa Nostra.

So what does Sessions do after hearing about Trump's true feelings? He keeps working away and states he will continue to stay at his job "as long as it is appropriate."

I guess what strikes me as bizarre is that normal people, upon hearing their boss's feelings about them, not privately face-to-face but for the whole world to hear, would straighten their backbone and with a sense of self-respect and dignity, would say, "I'm outta here!" and slam the door behind them.

And now today, Trump has referenced Sessions as his "beleaguered Attorney General."

Trump Dumps on his Loyal Chumps

I can't understand why anyone would stay working under this kind of abuse, but I guess Jeff Sessions just doesn't have any pride. Does being AG in the administration of the most incompetent and indecent president in our history mean so much to Sessions that he is willing to let that president walk all over him?

On July 24th, I read that Rex Tillerson is thinking about leaving his post at the end of year, partly due to the abuse meted out by his Dear Leader. Maybe, just maybe, the cracks in the administration are starting to appear, and one by one each of Trump's appointees will wake up and realize that there's more to life than selling your soul for a cabinet position under one of the most odious presidents in our history.

Shouldn't All Working People Earn a Living Wage?

By Herb Brenner



Cities have been at the forefront of the minimum wage story in the past few years and the reason is quite simple – large cities have a much higher cost of living than the rest of the country, especially housing costs. The federal government minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour has not increased in eight years, while it has been nine years since the last Illinois minimum wage rise to \$8.25 per hour.

Contrary to popular belief, minimum wage workers are not only teenagers looking for part-time work or senior citizens with time on their hands. Nearly one-third of Chicago area workers ages 18 to 64 are currently working in jobs not paying enough to support a family without public aid or charity. According to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the living wage for one adult living in Cook County is \$12.56 per hour. The living wage for an adult and one child is \$24.89 per hour. The current Illinois minimum of \$8.25 an hour, which equates to an annual wage of \$17,160 a year, is closer to a poverty wage than a living wage.

In recent testimony before Congress, an economist with the Economic Policy Institute said that minimum wage workers today are paid between a quarter and a third less than what similar jobs paid almost 50 years ago in inflation-adjusted terms. He reported that the majority of low-wage workers earning less than \$12 an hour rely on a combination of food stamps, Medicaid, tax credits, and energy subsidies in order to afford their basic needs.

Moreover, the National Partnership for Women and Families says more than 41 million people and nearly 75

Shouldn't All Working People Earn a Living Wage?

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percent of child-care and food service workers don't have a single paid sick day. Since many cannot afford to lose even one day of pay, they come into work sick and allow their children to go to school sick, risking the health of co-workers, customers, and classmates. This is clearly a threat to public health, to businesses and to our economy.

These are the reasons why the Northbrook Working Families Coalition is fighting for a living wage and guaranteed sick leave in Northbrook. The Coalition participated in the Northbrook July 4th parade and the July 5th farmers market, because many residents were unaware that Northbrook had opted out of the Cook County ordinance guaranteeing an initial \$10 per hour minimum wage and five days of sick pay.

The parade featured 69 entrants, and the Northbrook Working Families Coalition was right toward the middle. All along the route there were expressions of interest in the cause, plus lots of applause and thumbs up.

There has been some good news recently from nearby suburbs. Neither Evanston nor Oak Park took a vote to opt out of the Cook County ordinance, which went into effect in their communities on July 1. Skokie, in a tie vote, also decided not to opt out. These positive results prove that residents of a community can have an impact on the decisions of their Village Boards. It is now possible that communities that have previously opted out will revisit the issue and repeal their ordinances to opt out.

**Minimum Wage
Buys Less Today
Than in 1950**

*(Value of Federal Minimum
Wage in 2016 Dollars)*



Paid for by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats (www.tenthdems.org)