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

# Tammy Duckworth Brings Baby to Work, Senate into the 21st Century



In April, Tammy Duckworth of Illinois became the first sitting U.S. Senator to give birth. She and her husband, Bryan Bowlsbey, welcomed their second daughter, Maile Pearl Bowlsbey, to their family! Big sister Abigail was born in 2014 while Duckworth served in the U.S. House of Representatives. Maile's arrival sparked an historic rule change for the Senate when it voted to allow members to bring babies onto the chamber's floor for the first time. Way to go, Sen. Duckworth!



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## Tenth News

Spring/Summer 2018 - Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter - Volume 15

### Mother and Daughters Moment: Marching For Our Lives

By Nancy Kisicki



My daughters and I arrived late at the March 24, 2018 "March For Our Lives" in Vernon Hills, but we were late for a good reason: the roads and parking lots were jammed with cars full of others like us who were eager to stand up and be counted in the widespread demonstrations against gun violence. We did arrive in time to join the March, and it is hard to express how inspiring it was to see so many people of all ages come together on a freezing, blustery morning to demand new gun violence prevention policies.

On a personal note, it is hard to describe how proud I was of my eighteen-year-old daughters, new voters who recently participated in their first election, and who plainly understand the importance of advocating for what they believe in.

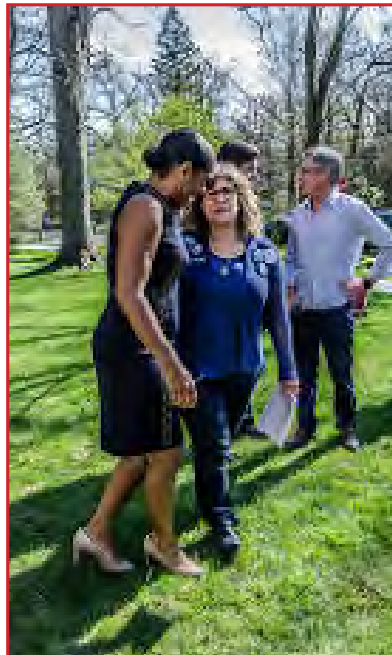
Despite the daunting number of issues confronting our nation, it was encouraging to see so many others at the March who share that same commitment. And it was especially wonderful to have the support of 10th District U.S. Representative Brad Schneider who spoke to marchers to encourage all of us to work together toward common sense gun reform.

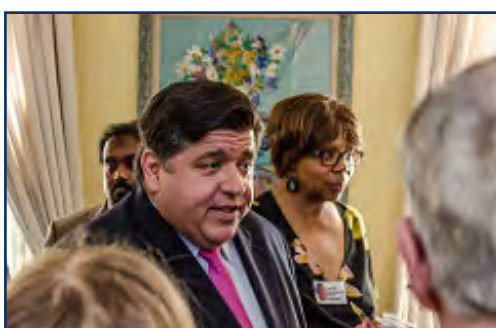
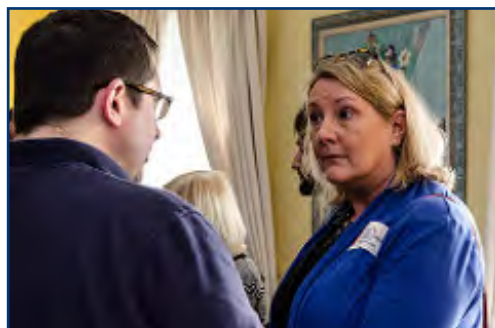
## Pritzker and Stratton Meet and Greet Brings Out Enthusiastic Crowd of Volunteers

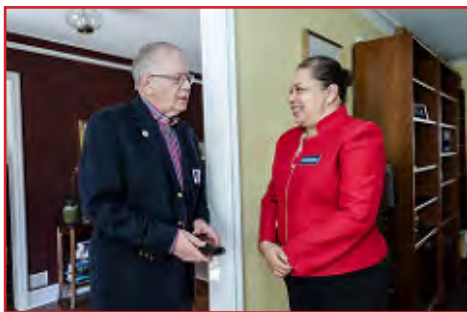


Tenth Dems volunteers gathered recently for a Meet and Greet with Democratic candidate for governor JB Pritzker and his running mate Juliana Stratton. JB and Juliana have launched a vigorous campaign with volunteer networks in every county throughout the state. Tenth Dems is ready to help elect JB and Juliana this November! Note: more articles to follow after pics.













# The GOP's Moral Bankruptcy is Tearing this Country Apart

By Steven Gan, A Personal Perspective

Remember when you were a little kid and you locked the door to your room and didn't come out for a long time? Your mom or dad at some point knocked on the door and said, "What are you doing in there?" Your response was most likely, "Nothing!" at which point you were ordered to open the door immediately. That was probably one of your first lies.

As kids, we often tell many little (and sometimes big) lies. We tell lies to our teachers, friends, siblings, parents and relatives about all kinds of things. Like many others, I had my share of some real doozies in my day, especially if I wanted to impress someone.

As most of us matured, the need to embellish, exaggerate, and bulldoze our way through life's experiences and challenges diminished. We realized that, at the end of the day, we are who we are and being our honest and authentic selves, regardless of the outcome, made traveling through life so much easier. More important, we discovered that leading an honest existence brings about a reputation of reliability, integrity, and trustworthiness.

With the latter in mind, what on earth happened in Donald's Trump's upbringing that made him one of the

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most shameless liars ever to occupy the White House? Was it the need to impress his peers down to every little detail? Was it a lack of love and affection from his parents that drove him to embellish the truth? What were and still are the underlying psychological issues that have contributed to Trump's morphing into an immoral, addictive liar? According to *The Washington Post*, during Trump's first 355 days in office, he made over 2,000 false or misleading statements, which is six crazy comments per day that we know about — so, unless he never stretches the truth in private, his actual rate of lying is certainly higher.



But the flood of deceit isn't the most surprising thing about Trump. As I said before, mature and healthy people don't need to aggrandize themselves and their accomplishments constantly. We certainly don't need to tell lies that disparage, demean, and demonize those whom we don't like. But, with our president, something went terribly awry and now that he is fighting investigations on three fronts (Robert Mueller, Michael Cohen, and Stormy Daniels), with possibly more to come, we're far from the end of seeing these Twitter eruptions, which contain hordes of distortions, fabrications, eye-popping whoppers, and vilifications.

So, where are the Republicans during all of our president's backbiting and prevarications? Although a few, like Senators Jeff Flake, Bob Corker, and John McCain, have at times feebly called out the president, others, like Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have been next to silent. At the most, they've issued lame statements such as, "(Tsk-tsk) I would not have said something like that."

Instead of standing up to this president's complete lack of moral character, 99 percent of the GOP decided it was more important to implement unfair tax and immigration policies, and to place their party above the Constitution and our country. The conflicts of interest from which Trump continues to profit while being president alone should be driving every decent Republican crazy. Trump's many weekend visits to his Mar-a-Lago resort (which they've also recently coined the "Southern White House"), incur exorbitant costs to taxpayers for travel and security, and have proven to be a boon to his resort's membership income. The endless ethics violations of this president and his cabinet members (Scott Pruitt's \$43,000 private telephone booth, non-business first class travel, and a \$50 per night rent for room owned by the wife of a lobbyist) go on and on and on.

Can you imagine the howling there would have been if President Obama had stated and committed even one scintilla of the lies and ethics violations respectively that our current president has? Every single Republican would have not only called for his resignation but would have rallied to impeach him as well. Oh yes, the morally bankrupt Republicans would have been marching with raised fists through the halls of Congress if Obama had been involved with nefarious individuals and business deals, had screwed over thousands like those who attended Trump University, had demeaned women (you can grab 'em by the pu\*\*y) and been embroiled in an investigation alleging conspiracy between his campaign and the Russians to affect the election. And yes, if President Obama had said even the slightest inaccuracy, there would have been hysterical outrage by the Republicans.

I'm hopeful that the midterm elections will allow us to take back the House, and with some hard work, the Senate as well. For if we don't, the broken GOP moral compass will continue to divide and destroy the moral fabric of our nation. So let's make sure that every single Democrat votes this coming November!

# Young Writers Move the Crowd with their Courage at Tenth Dems' 8th Annual Poetry and Prose Awards Night

By Kendra Roberts

Some 20 Lake County high school students spoke of courage as they read their literary submissions at the Tenth Dems 8th Annual Poetry and Prose Contest Awards Night. Awards Night afforded all who entered the contest the opportunity to read their original works. Most of the honorees attended and read, as did many other student entrants.

The event was attended by local high school students, their families, friends, and classmates, as well as community leaders, including Waukegan Mayor Sam Cunningham. Waukegan Park District Board President Marc Jones served as host for a touching, inspirational, and at times heartrending evening.

This year's contest drew approximately 100 entries celebrating, examining, and advancing courage in poetry and prose. Three submissions in each category were singled out by the judges, with first, second, and third prizewinners receiving \$250, \$150, and \$100 respectively. In addition, three entries in each category received honorable mention and a small cash prize. The twelve awardees and their inspiring works are featured in the *Tenth News Literary Edition*.

Two of the published poets who judged the student submissions, Lois Baer Barr and Jacqueline Nicole Harris, who read an original poem, were present at Awards Night to congratulate and encourage the young people. Contest judges Gilberto Colin and Josue Pasillas, themselves contest award winners when they were students at Waukegan High School, also spoke. Video greetings from Wisconsin Congresswoman and poet Gwen Moore, who recited her original poem about poet Maya Angelou, capped off the evening.

This annual event demonstrates Tenth Dems' belief that politics is about more than just elections. We believe that politics should be a means for improving our local communities, our state, and our nation. And what better way to realize these goals than to nurture the talent of young people?



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1st Place Poetry

Bianka Lewis, 11th Grade, Zion Benton High School, "Letter to Myself"

2nd Place Poetry

Karen Serrano, 12th Grade, Waukegan High School, "In All Its Shapes and Forms"

3rd Place Poetry

Yaneth Rosas, 11th Grade, Zion Benton High School, "Listen Here, Self"

Honorable Mention Poetry

Lisette Lopez, 12th Grade, Waukegan High School, "Mama Knows It Well"

Honorable Mention Poetry

Anali Mendoza, 10th Grade, Zion Benton High School, "My Teacher in Second Period"

Honorable Mention Poetry

Matthew Tantengo, 12th Grade, Waukegan High School, "Materfamilias"

1st Place Prose

Itsamari Berrios, 12th Grade, Waukegan High School, "The Power Starts with You"

2nd Place Prose

Kary Hernandez, 10th Grade, Waukegan High School, "I Thought I was Doing the Right Thing"

3rd Place Prose

Daniel Arizmendi, 11th Grade, Cristo-Rey St. Martin College Prep, "Day in a Life"

Honorable Mention Poetry

Toluwanimi Akinlade, 9th Grade, Zion Benton High School, "Diary of Afsoon Hafeez"

Honorable Mention Poetry

Racquel Reid, 12th Grade, Waukegan High School, "IT"

Honorable Mention Poetry

Asante Solomon, 12th Grade, Zion Benton High School, "Worth It"

All of these winning pieces are published in the special poetry edition of *Tenth News* which is now available.

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## Spotlight on Grant Township

By Joe Bongiovanni

The Grant Township Democrats have been meeting in Fox Lake for six months now and hosted their first event on April 22nd. What began with an organizational meeting last November has grown into much more. Most importantly, the group also aims to promote Democratic candidates for various offices. Each meeting has brought new attendees along with the familiar faces of those who show up every time. The organization also works to educate residents to make a positive impact on local communities. Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fox Lake District Library.

The Earth Day panel discussion on local water quality was held in Fox Lake. The panelists provided different perspectives based on their areas of expertise. I moderated the event.

The event was fantastic and well-attended. Guests included Trustee Danice Moore and Mayor Donny Schmit of Fox Lake. Trustee Moore helped organize an Earth Day event for the village prior to the Grant Township Democrats event and Mayor Schmit was able to add to the discussion regarding village specifics. The feedback

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from the audience was extremely positive, and there was an interest in continuing to do these environmental forums on a quarterly basis moving forward. The next environmental forum will be in July on the topic of recycling, waste reduction and composting.



Hosts Hon. Lauren Beth Gash and her husband Gregg Garmisa share a moment with JB Pritzker and Juliana Stratton at the Meet and Greet.

## Scott Britton: Advocate for Working Families

By Mark DeBofsky

Scott Britton is the Democratic nominee for the Cook County Board in the 14th District. He is running to help working families by improving the function of Cook County government while maintaining strong fiscal oversight.

Scott believes Cook County has seen too much lack of imagination in different methods of providing government services. Much of the rationale behind Cook County government seems to be that “we have always done it that way.” Business as usual, however, particularly in government operations, is no longer acceptable and new, vigorous leadership is needed to improve Cook County government.

While serving on the Glenview District 34 School Board and during 12 years on the Glenview Village Board, Scott has seen the importance of new ideas and creative thinking in government operations. He has led reforms in the delivery of government services by instituting municipal partnering and maximizing the collective buying power of municipal governments. He will bring these new ideas to the Cook County Board as 14th District commissioner.



# Full House Hears Congresswoman Cheri Bustos' TDU Talk on Hope from the Heartland

By Laurence Schiller



Tenth Dems University was honored to welcome Democratic Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (IL-17) on Monday, April 3rd, to a crowded auditorium at the Highland Park Library. Her lecture, entitled “Hope from the Heartland: How Democrats Can Better Serve the Midwest by Bringing Rural, Working Class Wisdom to Washington,” was a clear and concise discussion of how Democrats have lost too many voters and how to get them back. Bustos began by talking about her own background growing up on a farm near Moline, in an area where there were more pigs than people, and about how her father’s political activities introduced her to such Democratic luminaries as Paul Simon and Richard Durbin. Her

interest was investigative journalism, and she worked for *The Quad Cities Times*. She ran for Congress in 2012. And in 2016, at a time when Trump won 14 of 17 counties in her district, she won re-election by 20 points, one of only 22 Democrats in Trump districts to do so.

What, she asked, can Democrats take away from this? First, she explained that areas like her district have been hit hard economically. Many plants have closed and moved their jobs elsewhere, leaving folks to scramble for a living. Concerned about, as she calls them, kitchen table issues, such as health care, paying rent, and college affordability, many of her constituents bought into Donald Trump’s outsider image more in desperation than true belief. She strongly feels that the road back to a majority in Congress is paved through purple districts such as hers, especially in the Midwest.

The key thing Bustos does is to connect with her constituents by showing up, listening, and focusing on what they say are their problems. Bustos emphasized the need to discuss the issues that bind us together and not those that divide us. She spends significant time doing “shadow shifts,” which means going to someone’s job and learning what they do to create a connection with her constituents. What is important to understand is what they are feeling. She finds that many of their conversations revolve around the need for infrastructure repairs, good-paying jobs, and affordable education rather than hot-button topics. To this end, Bustos has been involved in setting up a “boot camp” for prospective candidates who can flip their districts from red to blue. She concluded by saying that we’ve got the right people, now it is up to us to get people registered and out to vote.

A spirited question and answer session followed her talk. Our thanks to Congresswoman Bustos for a fantastic evening.

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## Bob Morgan: Healthcare Activist and Community Leader

By Mark DeBofsky

Bob Morgan, a Democratic healthcare activist from Deerfield, is running for State Representative for the 58th District, which includes Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Highwood, Highland Park, Deerfield, Bannockburn, and portions of Glencoe and Northbrook.

Bob has long been active with Tenth Dems in many areas, including as an attorney with our Election Protection Team, making sure that everybody who is entitled to vote is allowed to vote, although this campaign is his first run for public office. He lives in Deerfield with his wife and two small children. Bob’s career has focused on healthcare and health policy, and he has worked as both an attorney and an advocate, beginning his career by



traveling throughout the United States to help struggling communities establish better healthcare for their residents.

Bob Morgan began his political involvement with the Obama campaign in 2008, and served as the campaign's Jewish Outreach Coordinator in Florida. His primary focus, though, has been on healthcare advocacy. He has worked as a healthcare attorney for the State of Illinois and also as legal counsel to implement Obamacare's Medicaid expansion and other Affordable Care Act components. He also helped to develop the law permitting Illinois residents with specified medical conditions to use medical cannabis. In 2015, Bob transitioned to the private sector.

Bob was motivated to run for office shortly after Donald Trump's inauguration. He sprang into action to fight injustice by helping to seek the

release of detainees stranded after Trump's first travel ban. In addition, Bob felt that both the state and federal governments were failing to act on many important issues, such as gun violence prevention, reproductive rights, and improving educational opportunities.

Bob is also very concerned about Bruce Rauner's disregard for social services and the needs of so many in the state. Illinois is failing to protect its children; and Bob wants to see improvements in social services, education, access to healthcare, and improved healthcare outcomes. As the father of two young children, Bob decided that the "idea of letting Illinois become a failed state is something I won't accept." He knew he couldn't sit on the sidelines and just complain, but had to take an active role in becoming part of the solution to the state's problems.

Bob is also worried about the state's pension system. Both of his parents are retired schoolteachers, and he is disheartened by Springfield's failure to solve the unfunded pension issue. As he explained, "doing nothing about unfunded liability is not an option." In fact, the state's pension liability might crowd out funding for education and healthcare unless the issue is addressed.

As the Democratic candidate, Bob wants residents of the 58th District, as he explained, to regain "faith and confidence that government can be an agent for good." Bob is dismayed that the embattled Republican governor would recruit other Republican governors from nearby states to appear in commercials that denigrate our state. That is simply unacceptable.

Bob Morgan is excited by the energy he has already experienced on the campaign trail and is ready to take on the challenge of fighting for system change.