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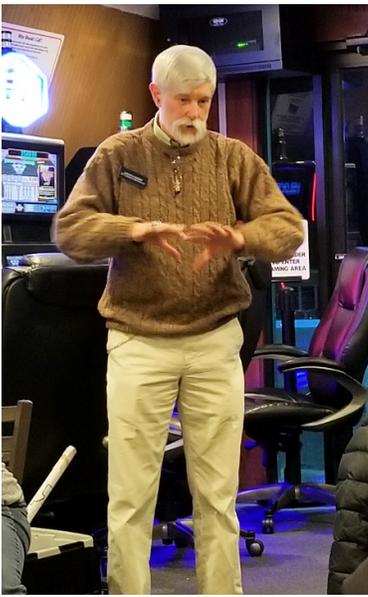
Let's Talk Politics Delivers Another Great Event in Fox Lake

By Katie Ryan

What a great discussion at the recent Let's Talk Politics event in Fox Lake. On March 11th, Tenth Dems University (TDU) moderated a "Let's Talk Politics" (LTP) discussion at the monthly meeting of Grant Township Democrats. Dozens of attendees participated in the forum, which was led by Tenth Dems member Dr. Laurence Schiller. The conversation covered an array of topics, including student loan debt, ranked voting, and Gov. JB Pritzker's graduated income tax proposal.

Grant Township Democrats is a grassroots organization that began in early 2018. Currently chaired by Joe Bongiovanni, the group's mission is to educate and organize local residents to have a positive impact on our communities. They organize regular meetings, educational events and support for local candidates.





Grant Township Democrats are always looking for new members and support. Should you wish to join the organization or attend their next environmental forum, please “like” and follow them on Facebook or email them at granttownshipdemocrats@gmail.com for more information.

LTP conversations provide opportunities for Democrats, independents and progressives in and around the 10th District to talk about important issues of the day with each other and with guests who often include elected officials, candidates, political analysts, academics, and authors.

Thanks to everyone who came out and to Grant Township Democrats for their continued work in the area. The event even earned a shout-out in Politico! ✧



Kudos to the Candidates!

Democracy takes a lot of work. And, in a lot of ways, keeping it strong can be pretty hard.

It's especially difficult to put yourself out there as a candidate. While it's never been easy, being in the public eye in today's political climate takes a lot of courage.

Thanks to everyone who threw their hat in the ring in the April 2nd elections so voters could have choices and public offices could be filled. Win or lose, you deserve a lot of credit-and our thanks. We're so glad to have people like you dedicated to playing such an important part in making our democracy work.

This is not where our thanks ends. One of our favorite get-togethers has been the Tenth Dems Candidate Appreciation event. We're in the process of planning another one for May. If you'd like to help plan this event, let us know. ✧

Congressman Schneider Cosponsors Bill to Restore SALT Deductions

Trump's GOP tax bill gutted state and local tax deductions, commonly known as the SALT deduction. Congressman Brad Schneider is leading the effort to restore these deductions because they matter so much to so many in the 10th District.



Congressman Schneider, who serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, cosponsored bipartisan legislation that would bring these deductions back. Lake and Cook counties are among the top Illinois counties in their use of SALT deductions. The 2017 tax reform law instituted a maximum SALT deduction of \$10,000, effectively raising taxes on thousands of residents of Schneider's 10th Congressional District. Schneider co-sponsored H.R. 188, the SALT Deductibility Act. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D NY 17) and Rep. Peter King (R NY 02).

“Forcing constituents to pay federal tax on money they have already paid to state and local governments is double taxation and it is wrong,” said Schneider. “Lifting these punishing caps is a top priority for our district, and I am pleased that there is growing bipartisan support for the effort. Allowing taxpayers to again deduct their full state and local taxes will bring needed tax relief to the communities I represent.”

In addition, IRS data shows that in both Lake and Cook County, the SALT deduction was heavily utilized in 2016 and on average families claimed far above the new \$10,000 limit.

- In Lake County, 42 percent of tax filers claimed the SALT deduction averaging \$18,369 – the highest average deduction in any county in Illinois.
- In Cook County, 31 percent of tax filers claimed the SALT deduction averaging \$12,949 – the third highest average deduction in any county in Illinois.

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Tenth Dems Poetry and Prose Awards Night Extravaganza Coming Up On April 10th!

By Barbara Altman

Join Tenth Dems at the Jack Benny Center for the Performing Arts in Bowen Park in Waukegan the evening of Wednesday, April 10, at 7 PM, to support some truly inspiring young people and hear some outstanding writing at the 9th Annual Tenth Dems Poetry and Prose Contest Awards Night.

Nearly 100 high students from Waukegan, Zion, and North Chicago participated in the Poetry and Prose Contest by submitting original poems, essays, and short stories inspired by the theme, RESPECT. Winning works will be selected by panels of published writers and contest winners will be announced on Awards Night.

Tenth Dems will award 12 gift cards totaling more than \$1000 to student authors of winning submissions (first, second, third, and three honorable mentions for poetry and prose, respectively). In addition, every contest participant present—not just awardees—will be invited to read their original work.

In the past, some have been too shy to take the microphone at first but then are inspired by their fellow participants in the moment to share with the group. The smiles on their faces and the crowd make it an incredibly positive, rewarding experience.

Students, their families, and others from the North Chicago-Waukegan-Zion area generally fill the venue, and it is always a warm and moving evening. Several local elected officials will attend, and Kevin Lampe of Kurth Lampe Worldwide, an international strategic communications firm, will be this year's emcee. The event is free and snacks are served.

Organizing the contest and Awards Night requires a lot of effort from many volunteers, and the event costs a bit too, but for Tenth Dems, who believes that politics should be about more than elections, the Poetry and Prose Contest Awards Night is one of the highlights of the year. □



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Criminal Justice Reform is a Top Priority for Pritzker and Stratton

Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton have made criminal justice reform a priority of their administration. Stratton has been tapped by Pritzker to lead the reform effort, and she recently, visited the Morning Shift at WBEZ to discuss the issue.

As Stratton explained, “We know that there are a number of people who are incarcerated when what they really need is mental health services.” With that in mind, “what are some of the services that people could get in their communities that could help better serve them than simply saying the only solution is being incarcerated.”



Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton joined the Morning Shift to discuss sentencing reform.

In his executive order calling for criminal justice reform, Gov. Pritzker created the Justice, Equity and Opportunity (JEO) initiative, which will be led by Lt. Gov. Stratton and staffed by several full-time employees. “It’s time to reduce the recidivism rate and reentry through a holistic approach that addresses opportunity both inside and outside of our prisons,” Gov. Pritzker said in announcing the program. ☒

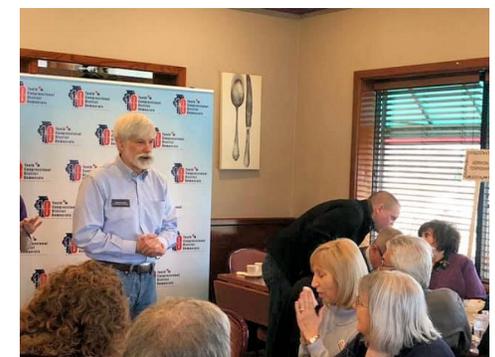
Let’s Talk Politics: Breakfast in Buffalo Grove

On March 30th, Tenth Dems and Vernon Township Dems hosted another edition of our Tenth Dems University's (TDU) Let's Talk Politics series at the Buffalo Restaurant in Buffalo Grove.

More than 20 attendees enjoyed breakfast and a lively discussion. People talked about the Mueller Report, 2020 candidates, and winning elections at every level across the Midwest, among other topics. It was a wonderful way to get the weekend started!

Tenth Dems University doesn't have a campus, hasn't hired a full-time faculty, and has no plans for homecoming festivities or fielding a football team. What we do offer, however, is a chance to become a better-educated voter, a more active and effective political volunteer, and the opportunity to learn skills needed if you ever want to run for public office.

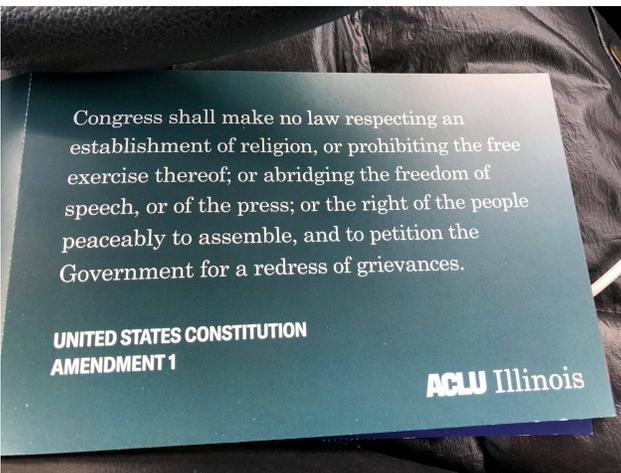
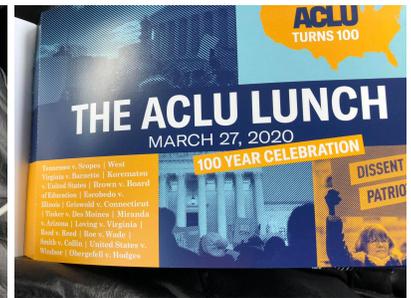
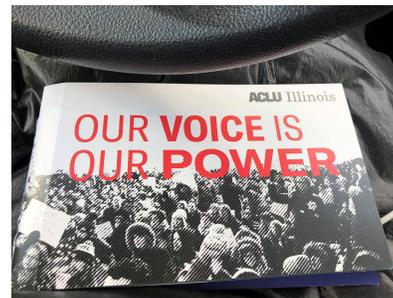
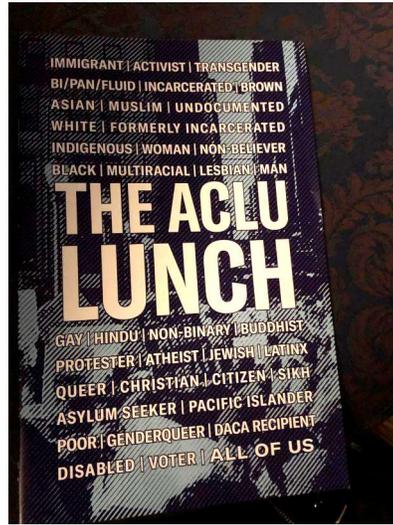
Important: Many of our recent courses have filled up quickly. Be sure to register in advance. Seating may be limited. To find out more about Tenth Dems and to register for upcoming events, see our website at: www.tenthdems.org. ☒

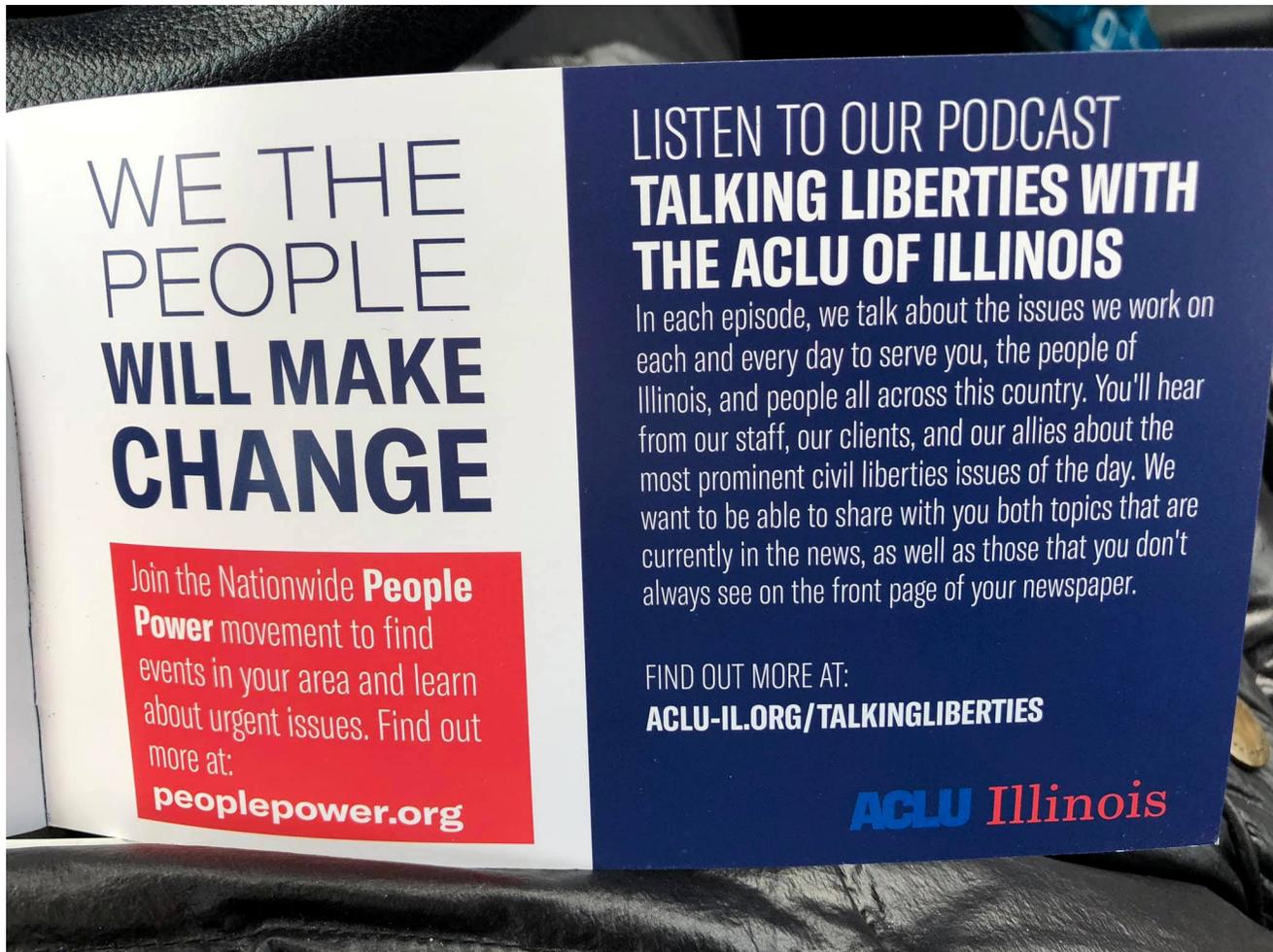


Tenth Dems Attend ACLU Annual Lunch, Continue Work

Tenth Dems members joined a sold out crowd of roughly 2,000 for the American Civil Liberties Union’s (ACLU) annual luncheon on March 15 in Chicago. This year’s theme was: Fighting for a More Perfect Union.

Hamilton cast members performed an original song, “We Won’t Sleep,” inspired by the ACLU’s work. This year’s guest speaker, Vanita Gupta, is a former attorney at the ACLU and NAACP, and was a leader in the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division under President Barack Obama. Gupta spoke about the many threats to democracy posed by the Trump Administration, including challenges to voting rights and the rule of law, as well as the rise of white supremacy. ☐





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FIND OUT MORE AT:
ACLU-IL.ORG/TALKINGLIBERTIES

ACLU Illinois

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