



# Tenth News

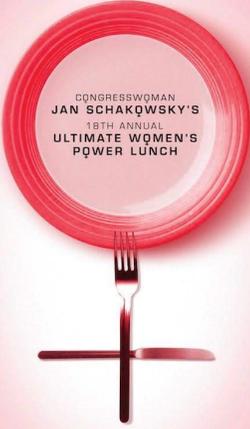
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## House Speaker Nancy Pelosi Keynotes 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Congresswoman Schakowsky Power Lunch; Tenth Dems Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash Co-chairs with Tina Tchen

On May 6th, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi spoke to more than 3,000 people in two overflowing ballrooms at Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's 18th Annual Ultimate Women's Power Lunch in Chicago. Our very own Founding Chair, Lauren Beth Gash, co-chaired the event with Tina Tchen, former chief of staff to Michelle Obama and director of the Obama White House Office of Public Engagement. It was great to see so many Tenth Dems friends for such a fun and inspiring lunch. ☺



CONGRESSWOMAN  
**JAN SCHAKOWSKY'S**  
18TH ANNUAL  
**ULTIMATE WOMEN'S  
POWER LUNCH**

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019

Please Join  
**Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky**  
and the Host Committee  
for the 18th Annual  
**Ultimate Women's Power Lunch**

Monday, May 6, 2019  
Hilton Chicago  
International Ballroom  
720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL

Keynote Speaker  
Speaker of the House  
**Nancy Pelosi**

Ultimate Power Woman: \$5600  
Power Lunch Sponsor: \$3500  
Power Lunch Host: \$1750  
Power Lunch Guest: \$175  
Young Power Woman: \$100

11:00 AM Registration Opens  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Luncheon and Program

Please RSVP to Sarah Gersten by phone (847-424-1998)  
or email (sarah@janschakowsky.org).  
Or, please visit:  
[act.janschakowsky.org/page/contribute/powerlunch2019](http://act.janschakowsky.org/page/contribute/powerlunch2019)  
to register online.

Paid for and Authorized by Schakowsky for Congress





## Tenth Dems and Newport Dems Host “Let’s Talk Politics” in Gurnee

Tenth Dems had a wonderful time hosting TDU’s “Let’s Talk Politics” in Gurnee with the Newport Dems. What a lively, thoughtful conversation. Thanks to all for joining in!

This was just the latest “Let’s Talk Politics” event. Recently, Tenth Dems also has cohosted “Let’s Talk Politics” conversations in Fox Lake with the Grant Township Dems, in Buffalo Grove with the Vernon Township Dems, and in Antioch with the Antioch Township Dems.

If you’d be interested in helping to organize a “Let’s Talk Politics” event in your area, let us know by emailing [events@tenthdems.org](mailto:events@tenthdems.org). ☒





# Lake County Board Passes Measure to Combat Climate Change

What tremendous leadership from the Lake County Board, which Democrats took control of for the first time ever after the 2018 election! The Lake County Board “pledged to stem the harmful effects of climate change by implementing environmentally friendly programs” and joined “the County Climate Coalition in supporting the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.” This means Lake County will work to reduce emissions to help combat climate change. Great job! ☒



## For information or to volunteer,

Email us: [newsletter@tenthdems.org](mailto:newsletter@tenthdems.org)  
 Visit us: [www.TenthDems.org](http://www.TenthDems.org)  
 Call us: 847-266-VOTE  
 (847-266-8683)  
 Write us: Tenth Dems  
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The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems.

# Our 2020 Presidential Endorsement



Do you want to defeat Donald Trump in 2020? If you're like most Democrats, even if you have a preferred candidate in the primary, you really, really want to get rid of Trump. And you'll be supporting the Democratic nominee.

What better way to let people know how you feel about 2020—while helping support grassroots Democrats—than by wearing our “Democrat for President” button!

Get your button here: [www.tenthdems.org/store](http://www.tenthdems.org/store)

They're 1 button for \$3...2 for \$5...or 5 for \$10. Free pickup is available. (Please add \$5 in the “additional contribution” box if you'd like your order shipped.) If you want to arrange for pickup, please email us at [info@tenthdems.org](mailto:info@tenthdems.org). ☒

# State Rep. Joyce Mason Passes Her First Bill—Protection for Seniors—Out of the House



First term Illinois legislator Joyce Mason’s hard work on behalf of Illinois residents has paid off, as the first bill she introduced has been approved by the Illinois State House. If the bill is passed by the State Senate, seniors will have more time to cancel contracts with predatory and deceptive door-to-door salesmen.

“Scam artists often disproportionately target seniors and pressure them to make immediate decisions about products and services they either can’t afford or don’t need,” said Mason, a resident of Gurnee. “This legislation allows seniors more time to carefully review a contract and cancel it if it’s a bad deal.”

Mason’s House Bill 2643 strengthens Illinois’ consumer protection laws by allowing seniors up to 15 days to cancel agreements with door-to-door contractors. Under current law, such contracts must be cancelled within three business days, leaving older adults with little recourse once hidden fees kick in or services fail to meet expectations.

“Fraudulent salesmen can be very convincing, to the point of strong-arming homeowners into signing small print contracts that are virtually unreadable,” said Mason. “For elderly residents who are more susceptible to being scammed, this legislation will provide increased protection.” ☒

## Congressman Brad Schneider Calls on the IRS to Investigate the NRA



On May 9th, Congressman Schneider, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, urged the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to investigate the tax-exempt status of the National Rifle Association (NRA) following reports of serious wrongdoing.

In a letter to IRS Commissioner Charles P. Rettig, Schneider cited troubling misconduct uncovered by recent reporting, including allegations of egregious self-dealing, deceptive billing practices, and preferences in contracting.

“In light of this information, I respectfully ask that you review whether the recent allegations

against the NRA warrant reconsideration of the organization's tax-exempt status," Schneider wrote in the letter.

Schneider also raised concerns over the IRS's ability to enforce our current tax laws and guard against abuse. In 2018, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration issued a report that found the processing of referrals alleging improper political activity by tax-exempt organizations was not sufficiently pursued.

"When trust in our tax laws is eroded, Congress and the Administration have a joint responsibility to investigate and act. The American people deserve to know that tax-exempt organizations are not abusing their preferential tax treatment and are operating according to their intended social welfare purpose, which is to benefit society," concludes the letter. ☐

## Lake County Sheriff and Lake County Board Members Speak with Constituents in Mundelein

On May 11th, Lake County Sheriff John Idleburg and new Lake County Board members Jennifer Clark and Jessica Vealitzek met with constituents at Coffee and Conversation at the Fremont Public Library, Mundelein. They spent about two hours answering many questions about local government issues, such as flooding, guns, transparency, and more. ☐



# Duckworth Introduces Bill to Help Working Parents

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth recently introduced a package of bills to make workplaces more family-friendly, improve childcare services, make it easier for low-income and middle-class families to obtain diapers for their children and close loopholes that prevent many educational support staff from being able to take medical leave through the Family Medical Leave Act. The package includes four pieces of legislation: the End Diaper Need Act, the ESP Family Leave Act, the Honoring Family-Friendly Workplaces Act and the Expanding On-Campus Child Care to Help Parents Succeed Act.

“I consider myself the luckiest person in the world because I [got] to wake up on Sunday and spend Mother’s Day being a mom,” Duckworth said [ahead of the holiday]. “My experiences as a working parent help me understand how making our policies friendlier to working families helps parents stay in the workforce, which makes our nation stronger and more globally competitive. I’m proud to be introducing these bills to do just that by creating a program to promote family-friendly workplaces, improve childcare services for parents working to get their degree and make sure no child goes without the diapers they desperately need.”

Senator Duckworth has been a strong advocate for women and families during both her service in the House and Senate. Last October, Duckworth’s bipartisan Friendly Airports for Mothers (FAM) Act to provide nursing mothers with private, clean and accessible lactation rooms was signed into law after passing both the House and Senate overwhelmingly. In 2018, Duckworth became the first sitting U.S. Senator to give birth, which led to a historic rules change to make the Senate friendlier for working parents by allowing all senators to bring their infant children onto the Senate floor, if necessary, during votes while their children are under the age of one.

Duckworth also wrote an op-ed last year describing her experiences as a working mother and calling on Congress to take action on family-friendly legislation, including the FAMILY Act, which would establish a comprehensive paid family and medical leave program to provide 12 weeks of paid leave for workers who need time to care for a newborn or adopted child, a seriously ill family member or their own serious health condition. ☐



# Local High School Students Recognized at 9th Annual Tenth Dems Poetry and Prose Contest Awards Night In Waukegan

By Jeanine Chyna

Aretha Franklin isn't the only one who wants it. I now know what R-E-S-P-E-C-T means to the more than a dozen high school students who confidently read their original compositions themed "Respect" at the 9th Annual Tenth Dems Poetry and Prose Contest Awards Night on April 10th. Politics should be about more than elections. This is what Tenth Dems believes, and on Awards Night, it was on full display.



I enjoyed some refreshments and conversation before the program began. Then, seated in the Waukegan Park District's charming Jack Benny Center for the Arts, I listened as the young authors from Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion area high schools read their heartfelt and emotional poems and stories. We all sat in rapt attention hearing how respect impacted their personal lives, as the students read original poems and stories with titles like: "That's Not My Name," "Cancer," "Look Me In My Eyes," "Respect For My Immigrant Mother," and "B.L.A.C.K."



Everyone learned a bit more about the contest participants as host Kevin Lampe introduced each student writer by reading the short personal statement they submitted with their compositions. We discovered that the student authors have a variety of interests, including sports, music, math and science, and they look forward to pursuing their educations and becoming role models to their younger siblings.



Nearly 100 students attending high schools in Waukegan, Zion, and North Chicago entered the contest. Over the course of the evening, winners were announced. In addition to giving out framed certificates, Tenth Dems awarded 12 gift cards totaling more than \$1,000 to first,



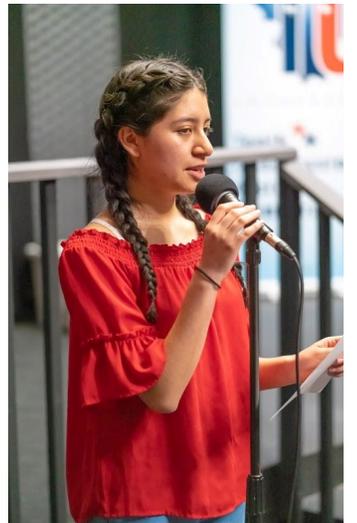
second, and third place, with three honorable mentions, for both poetry and prose. Contest winners said they were excited about the generous gift cards, and also the opportunity to speak in public.

Host Lampe lightheartedly talked from personal experience about the fear of speaking in front of people and put the students at ease by telling them, “If you’re not nervous, then you’re not in the moment.”

This year’s volunteer judges, local poets Lois Baer Barr, Lina Chern, Mary Jane (MJ) Gabrielsen, and Jacqueline Nicole Harris, along with Josue Pasillas, a contest winner in 2013, all were present to cheer on the young writers and recognize the winners whose anonymous entries they’d selected. To honor Harris for her many years of service as a volunteer judge and organizer of the event, Tenth Dems presented to every student reader an autographed copy of one of her books, *7 Random Things*, by Jacqueline Nicole Harris.

In addition to readings by Harris and Barr, North Chicago poet Sharon Epps recited her own poem “Cornbread,” leading the audience in a lively call-and-response. Epps spoke so passionately of the delight of making, eating, and sharing her family recipe “with a big ‘ol slab of butter,” I could almost taste it.

All present loved the creativity, passion, and authenticity from the amazing young authors. Awards Night was an incredibly positive, moving experience for all involved, regardless of whether someone received a gift card or door prize or applause. Everyone won by having the chance to be involved in such a warm and wonderful event. ☺



# Senator Durbin's Bills Aim to Protect Local Police Officers



On May 9th, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously in support of two bills cosponsored by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) that support local law enforcement—the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act of 2019 and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization.

The STOIC Act addresses the growing problem of law enforcement officer suicides by reauthorizing a grant program for law enforcement family support services and expanding the program's eligible uses to ensure they cover mental health and suicide prevention efforts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concluded that the rate of suicides among workers in protective services (law enforcement and firefighting) is 40 percent higher than the national average.

“I am pleased to cosponsor the bipartisan Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act, which would reauthorize grants for family support programs for law enforcement officers. Tragically, the Chicago Police Department has suffered seven officer suicides since last July. We need to provide our officers with support to cope with the challenges of their job, and this legislation will help to do that,” Durbin said.

The federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program provides fifty-fifty matching grants to state and local law enforcement to assist with the purchase of body armor. This program has benefitted hundreds of law enforcement agencies in Illinois by helping them acquire lifesaving bulletproof vests. The legislation reauthorizes this vital program.

“I am also proud to cosponsor the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization,” Durbin said. “I have long supported this important program, which has helped police departments and sheriffs' offices throughout Illinois afford vests for their officers.” ☐

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