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LESSONS LEARNED BY A FIRST-TIME CANDIDATE

by Jennifer Bishop Jenkins

The other day, I saw a friend for the first time since the election. His first words to me were, “Sometimes the right people, the best people for the job, just don’t get elected.” The truth of his observation, meant to be comforting, is why many of us have been in collective pain since November 2.

This was my first-ever run for office, for the Cook County Board, 14th District. A year and a half ago, when we first analyzed if this race was winnable, the national picture was very different. That’s one of the major problems with our nation’s LONG election cycles (no other country comes close)—candidates have to make a decision to run way ahead of the actual serious election season. And conditions can change dramatically in a year, as we saw.



Jennifer Bishop Jenkins introduces herself at a Tenth Dems pre-election event.

The facts of my race are actually somewhat consoling—that I was a good candidate, that I was blessed with great support, and that we ran a very good race. I worked very hard every single day. I helped advance important issues in my district. I helped voters feel heard and

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Tenth News

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Community Connection Opens Its Doors

by Ilya Sheyman

On the 82nd anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the new Tenth Dems Community Connection Center officially opened its doors to the public.

More than 200 elected officials, community leaders, and activists from Waukegan, North Chicago, and across the 10th Congressional District (and beyond) came for a strategy meeting and open house to learn more about the Center’s mission, to discuss the work already begun in the community, and to plan ways to collaborate with the Center and with one another.

Tenth Dems’ own David Bonner and John Hmurovic kicked things off with a discussion of the Center’s genesis and an appeal for politics to focus on “helping people, rather than just electing people.” Larry McShane of Waukegan shared reflections on the meaning of Dr. King’s vision and the lessons it provides for the Center’s work. And Ilya Sheyman introduced the Center’s core purpose of connecting individuals with the government and the social services needed to improve their own lives. Ilya then facilitated an inclusive conversation about how the Center can best work together with the community.

Introductions by local high school students, Mayor Bob Sabonjian of Waukegan, Mayor Leon Rockingham of North Chicago, State Representative Rita Mayfield, and Waukegan Township Supervisor



Elected officials and community leaders at ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Patricia Jones, and other volunteers and notables kicked off the discussion of key needs and opportunities in the northern part of the district.

The conversation quickly revealed common priorities like creating jobs (the unemployment rate in North Chicago is over 18 percent, and in Waukegan it is over 12 percent), promoting small business growth, improving public education, working to reduce the challenges of re-entry into society after incarceration, and increasing voter turnout.

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SEE INSIDE FOR OPINIONS ON THE TRAGIC ARIZONA SHOOTING



Community Connection *continued from page 1*

Many attendees also highlighted the opportunity the Center will provide for all local Democrats and progressives to come together under one tent for the purpose of bettering the community.

Following the formal conversation, the standing-room-only crowd had an opportunity to eat, drink and mingle, to sign a "thank you" card for congressional candidate Dan Seals, to continue to exchange ideas about the Center and its mission, and to sign up to volunteer. Several neighboring restaurants including Jerry's Tacos, Fong's Kitchen, Big Ed's BBQ, and El Buen Gusto dropped by to welcome Tenth Dems to the community by sharing some of their delicious specialties.

After months of hard work by volunteers, including a cheerful crew of patchers and painters, led by Chuck Knight, who spent who spent the previous Saturday whipping the premises into shape for this grand opening, the Tenth Dems's Community Connection Center in downtown Waukegan is now ready to serve the needs of the community on an ongoing basis. "Community Connection truly exemplifies grassroots Democratic politics in action," said Tenth Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash.

If you are interested in lending your time and talents to this exciting project, you can email us at Volunteers@TenthDems.org, or call us at 847-266-VOTE (8683). Or just drop by on a Saturday afternoon and we'll put you to work. **TD**



Volunteers socialize while Tenth Dems Chair, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash works.



David McArtin, Wendy Warden, and Avon Township Supervisor Sam Yingling pause for a moment.



Lee Goodman, former candidate for Congress, and wife Nancy, with Waukegan Alderman Rafael Rivera.



Tenth Dems Executive Vice Chair John Hmurovic, intern supervisor Stephen Ark, and Leadership Committee member Linda Gohlke interact with volunteers.



Lake County Board member Bill Durkin



Dr. Wadell Brooks with wife, Dr. Daisy Brooks, recipient of the 2010 Citizens Medal, recently awarded by President Obama at the White House.



Volunteers sign "thank-you" card to Dan Seals.



Tenth Dems Managing Vice Chair Karen McCormick with Executive Vice Chair Hmurovic and volunteer, Monica Johnson



Jen Clark helps with sign-in as Sharon Sanders waits her turn.



David Bonner and Ilya Sheyman make introductory remarks.



Drs. Daisy and Wadell Brooks with Waukegan Mayor Bob Sabonjian and North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham .



Tenth Dems Vice Chair John Hmurovic makes some opening remarks.



Tenth Dems interns listen intently to speakers.



Members of the Tenth Dems legal team include: Elizabeth Albert, Linda Gohlke, Monica Johnson, and Laura Tomsy

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First-Time Candidate *continued from page 1*

cared about. I met thousands of people, learned more than I have ever learned in my life, and made new friendships that will last a lifetime. I earned lots of important endorsements and tens of thousands of people voted for me. My one regret is not for myself but for those people who really sacrificed to help me because they believed in my ability to bring needed reform to Cook County government.

The comment that stuck the most with me on election evening was from a campaign field organizer. He said, "You know, Jennifer, you could have spent a million dollars and it would not have made a difference." And he was right.

The majority of voters in the north and northwest suburbs simply did not vote for the best person. They did not research the candidates or think ahead about what a vote for a Republican would mean for the future of this area and for this nation.

More tax breaks for billionaires is what they promised us—and it's what they will deliver. What was clearly not on those Republi-

can voters' minds: helping to create American jobs; educating our youth so we can once again compete globally on the cutting edge of technology; preventing the devastation that is global warming; ending wars; or making a society that works for everyone, not just the top 2 percent.

What I learned on November 2 is that political district line drawing is very, very important. The fact that the Democrats in Illinois retained both houses of the General Assembly and the governor's office, thereby controlling redistricting, is actually the best news of that painful evening.

For many years, I was a teacher. Having taught the Constitution and U.S. Government, instilling a sense of pride in citizenship to our young people, it is actually very hard to see so many Americans now making such incredibly bad choices.

But we simply have to work harder to point out the difference between good public policy and bad public policy. The Democrats who ran in the 10th District offered better policies. Let's regroup and redistrict and beat them in 2012. We must. **TD**

Car Loans, Jobs, and Lies *by Jack Altschuler*

I just saw an advertisement for FreeScore.com. The ad advised me that any one of my three credit scores could keep me from getting a loan to buy a car, so I'd better buy their service so that I know all my scores. Last month, John Boehner told me that if we were to allow the Bush tax cuts for fabulously wealthy people to lapse, we'd kill job creation and Americans wouldn't be able to get work, so we better vote for Republicans. About the same time, Christine O'Donnell told me to be afraid of homosexuals and anyone who masturbates. (Okay, she's a whacko with a serious neurosis about sexuality, so scratch that one.)

It's all about manipulating you and me with fear. They want us to buy their credit reporting or vote their way and they try to persuade us by telling us the awful things that will happen if we don't do what they say to do.

My favorite—I keep coming back to this—is Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Sarah Palin (R-Quitter Governor of Alaska), Dick Arme (R-mean guy from Texas) and many more R's telling us that the 2010 Affordable Health Care for America Act (smeared as "Obamacare" by the playground bullies in Congress) would create "death panels," and, "They're going to pull the plug on Granny." How about that for stoking your fear of a healthcare bill that actually provides humane, end-of-life counseling for Granny? By means of manipulation through fear, they managed to drive the support for healthcare reform from over 80 percent to 47 percent and get a bunch of R's elected. We Americans are so easily manipulated.

What you're seeing is The Big Lie. It was first outlined by Hitler in *Mein Kampf*, and it's as simple as telling a lie over and over until people are so accustomed to hearing it that the lie becomes their notion of the truth. Sometimes it's just a relatively harmless implication that you'll never again buy a car unless you subscribe to FreeScore.com. Other times it's devastating, like blaming the Jews for all of Germany's problems, or teaching white American children that Negroes are stupid and lazy or that healthcare reform means, "They're going to pull the plug on Granny."

More insidiously, right-wingers have demonized the press with lies going back at least as far as Spiro Agnew, Richard Nixon's disgraced

vice president. "Vice president" was a good title for Agnew, as he was involved in vice when he was governor of Maryland and pled *nolo contendere* to criminal charges and resigned his office.

Agnew repeatedly attacked the press, perhaps at Nixon's bidding, since Nixon thought the "Eastern liberal press" was out to get him. He may have been right about that, since, irrespective of Nixon's claim, he really was a crook and people in the press knew it. So Agnew went on the offensive, calling everyone in the press, "nattering nabobs of negativity." He did it over and over, right up until the time he went to prison.

The Republicans have kept up a steady drumbeat of baseless attacks on the press ever since. Even now, Sarah Palin talks about the "lamestream media." She's really quite good at demagoguery and fashioning attack words.

All those decades of the Republican Big Lie about the press have resulted in the public's confidence in the press plummeting. Our once highly regarded fourth estate now is respected like used car salesmen and large company CEOs. Note that the "fourth estate" label was about the power of the press to keep politicians honest. With public confidence in the press shaken from years of The Big Lie, that protection from dishonest politicians isn't working well now. Who do you suppose benefits from that?

The question for you is: How do you like being manipulated by fear and lies? What will you do about it? Here's a two-step action plan.

First, wake up and stay awake. Yes, I know that you have your world to manage, and sometimes it's hard. There are so many things vying for your attention and so many demands on your energy, yet staying awake is necessary for both your close-in world and the larger world.

Second, call out the liars. Tell John Boehner that more money for his big donors won't create more jobs. Tell Chuck Grassley you know he's lying about death panels. Write to your local newspaper. Call out the liars in your blog. They only get to spread The Big Lie and hurt you and those you love if you let them. **TD**

The Arizona Shootings by Steve Sheffey

No one is suggesting that the Republicans intended the tragic shootings in Arizona. No one is suggesting that a sane person would listen to Sarah Palin and shoot someone (or that a sane person would listen to Sarah Palin at all). No one can deny that, as the *Chicago Sun-Times* observed, “[o]verwhelmingly today, the fear-mongering and demonizing flow from the right, aided and abetted by cable TV and talk-radio hosts. They may represent only the irresponsible fringe of conservatism in America, but they are drowning out the thoughtful voices of the vast majority of conservatives.”

We don’t know whether and to what extent right-wing rhetoric made the Arizona shootings more likely. But we do know that the shootings illustrated once again that it is too easy to get guns in America.

We need to stop talking about gun control and start talking about a complete ban on the possession and distribution of firearms. We need to shift the debate from waiting periods and trigger locks to why anyone not part of a well-regulated militia (law enforcement, National Guard, military, etc.) should possess a firearm in the first place.

Some courts have ruled that the Second Amendment would prohibit such legislation. Well, at the urging of the new Republican

majority, the House of Representatives wasted a good deal of time reading the Constitution out loud last week (except for the bad parts that showed the fallibility of our founding fathers). You’d think they would have read it before they were elected. But some good might come of that empty exercise if they listened carefully when the Second Amendment was read:

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

It’s easy to find gun control unconstitutional if you disregard the first four words. The Constitution means whatever the Supreme Court says it means. We need justices capable of reading the entire amendment in light of today’s circumstances, justices who realize that whatever the Constitution is, it’s not a suicide pact. And then we need a Congress with the guts to stand up to the gun lobby and ban firearms for personal use (and yes, that includes firearms used for the barbaric practice of hunting animals for “sport”).

And until the nation is ready for a complete ban—one can only wonder how many more will have to be murdered before we realize that guns are made for killing and that’s what they’ll inevitably be used for—we should press hard for better and more effective gun control to at least limit the violence. **TD**

Personal Reflections Following the Shootings in Tucson: A Call to Words by Sharon Sanders

I believe one of the real problems with Democrats/liberals/progressives is that we can’t accept the level of evil, deception, and violence the new-style Republicans are capable of, and perpetrate. It’s just not in our DNA. We, on the other hand, are guilty of denial of these facts and lack of really solid responses to the Republicans’ methodical destruction of this country as a democracy.

We do have better ideas. We are a better party. We do believe in freedom of and from religion; diversity; and the rights of the individual to think for himself, and make his own decisions, prosper, and be whoever he is. We don’t tell people what to do in their bedrooms or whether or not to give birth. We believe that all government is not only not bad but, in fact, very necessary, if not perfect. We believe in a quality public education for all our children and not education encumbered by the views of a particular religion. We believe in thinking, in learning, in public libraries, in parks, fire and police departments; in good roads, public transportation, and unfettered national parks; and



in reasonable, fair, and strong regulatory agencies that protect us, the citizens. We don’t believe in protecting the many corporations who are willing to mislead us and even endanger us with fine print, exorbitant fees, inferior products, contaminated water and air, and profits based on skimping, cutting employees and their benefits, outsourcing, and shipping jobs overseas to factories where work is performed under inhuman conditions. That’s not the America most of us want, at least not

those on our side of the fence.

Now let’s look at the pattern on the Right, and let’s start with the shootings in Arizona. Even if we can’t associate the shooter with a particular political viewpoint, it is Fox News and Rush Limbaugh, the NRA, the anti-immigrants, and the growing right-wing media who have said we should be armed under the Second Amendment. They may be blaming the Glock guns from Austria, but the guns are not the problem—it’s the growing negative mentality of those

owning the guns, the Wild West shoot-'em-up-for-your-cause types. The right-wing is willing to carry semi-automatics and we can't stop them. This is extremely frightening. The scenario of those listening to Rep. Gabrielle Giffords at the Safeway was astounding. So many were toting guns that in the mayhem of the shootings, at least one gentleman said he almost shot the wrong person, a person holding a gun because, it turned out, he had helped disarm the shooter. And for those on the Right who say the shooter read *The Communist Manifesto* so he obviously wasn't right-wing, they should know that he also read Ayn Rand and *Mein Kampf* and was angry at the congresswoman from a previous encounter when she didn't "properly" answer his question on healthcare reform. And we all know that Fox celebrities have been stirring up their listeners and have been inciting violence. Whether or not they were indirectly responsible for this particular incident is not even the issue.

The Tea Partiers are not part of a grassroots organization, but of one heavily funded by billionaires like the Koch Brothers and others. As someone who's been at many rallies and encountered these Tea Partiers time and time again, I can say that logic has no bearing. They just scream and yell "socialists" and when we say, "But you're okay with shipping all our jobs and products to Communist China," they have no answer because they haven't thought anything out on their own. So from all my research, I want to try to draw a picture of what we're up against. I invite others to offer comments and ideas about how we can immediately start to counter this growing threat. On the one hand, we have the Koch Brothers, Karl Rove's groups, Rupert Murdoch, Roger Ailes of Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, and a corporate media that stirs up those on the Right. They use the blame game to divert our attention from their role in our economic problems. The economic mess we're in and will continue to be in began in the Clinton years with NAFTA and with free trade, not fair trade. But it was the Bush presidency that took us down the road to millions losing their homes and their jobs, and the Wall Street mentality that anything goes in the name of money and greed.

Meanwhile, the Religious Right has been working hard trying to convince its followers that this is a fundamentalist white Christian country (sometimes calling it a Judeo-Christian country). Those of the extreme Dominionist sects, such as Sarah Palin and many others now in Congress, believe the Bible supersedes the Constitution and the Bible allows them to take up arms against those who oppose those views. Since the Phyllis Schlafly days, and she still runs the Eagle Forum to this day, the Right has been working hard to transform, rewrite, and cleanse the history and science books to teach our children based on the Bible, Intelligent Design, and Creationism, and to deny global warming, as well as any other science or history that offends their senses. They work very hard to put their people on school boards and on the courts, to use federal money for parochial school vouchers, to support a public school system based on No Child Left Behind, which dooms many schools to failure.

And take a look at healthcare reform and Social Security. The healthcare bill is weak due to lack of a public option to compete with the insurance companies, but it has some excellent parts to it, and those on the Right again are just echoing Fox and Limbaugh



when they yell, "It's socialism." Social Security and Medicare—same problem—they want it all privatized—despite the fact that if Congress didn't borrow against Social Security, it would be solvent for years and years to come, and if we just continued paying into it until we retired, there would be no problem. These same Right-wingers who are screaming against it will most likely be in need of these services if they aren't already. When you ask them what would have happened if we had allowed Social Security to be privatized, particularly back in 2008, they just look at you stone-faced. They are being used by the neo-conservatives and the libertarians, who want no government, who want no regulation, and who are willing to allow an armed uprising to free them from any government intervention in doing whatever they want. When you ask them how they feel about all the jobs and factories being moved overseas, they say they believe in "free markets." When you ask them how they feel about losing their jobs, they just stare, or they say, "We need to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps." When you ask, "What bootstraps if no one is hiring?", they just recite their favorite words, "We don't believe in socialism." When you ask them, "Do you have any trouble having 60 percent of our federal budget going to pay for armies and munitions while our cities and states are in disarray both financially and socially?", they say, "We have to show the world that we are the strongest nation in the world."

My point is this: Half the people in this country are willing to own guns, not just to protect themselves, but to protect their view of America, a view in which we need to get rid of immigrants (except, of course, those who work for them for next to nothing); a view in which the Constitution should be taken literally, except when it's not, as in the case of Citizens United; or a view that a black man who is our president is not really our President because of so many, many reasons they've concocted. So, yes, we need to wake up, and quickly, because most of us can't believe this is really happening. We don't think the way they do. To us, it doesn't even seem possible—but it is. And we need to join forces now, to find legitimate ways and strong words to oppose hate and scapegoating. **TD**

Republicans Block DREAM Act



Photo Credit: Flickr - Munzz

In an America quietly divided by class as much as by race, our white, middle-class family is an anomaly: our daughter has been friends for years with kids whose parents are undocumented immigrants. If more Americans shared our experience, perhaps the Republicans would not have succeeded in crushing these kids' hopes as they filibustered the DREAM Act to death just before Christmas.

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act was first introduced back in 2001 by Sen. Dick Durbin in order to provide a path to legal citizenship for what *Washington Post* writer Roberto Suro called "the most virtuous sliver of the undocumented population -- young adults who were brought here as children by their parents and who were now in college or the military."

That would be people like James (not his real name), who just graduated from college, and Carla (her real name, for reasons that will become clear), who is struggling to find the money to stay in school. My daughter, a college senior, has known both of them since ninth grade. One reason my wife and I like them so much is because of shared values. These are old-fashioned "nice" kids, unfailingly polite, smart, modest and ferociously dedicated to getting a good education. That's not surprising when you consider their backgrounds.

If I told you James is Hispanic, certain stereotypes might come to mind. But his family is not from Mexico, but Colombia, where his dad worked as an oil engineer and his mom as a pharmacist. Here,

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In the final days of the last Congress, Illinois Senator Mark Kirk joined a Republican filibuster and, with a minority of 41 votes, blocked the DREAM Act from coming to a vote in the Senate. This effectively killed the hopes of thousands of undocumented immigrant children to earn their legal status by going to college or joining the U.S. military to defend our nation. The following are excerpts from a statement by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), issued the day the Republican filibuster kept the DREAM Act from coming to a vote in the Senate:

The actions by this minority of Republican senators were a disgraceful display of partisan gamesmanship. Polls show that the overwhelming majority in the U.S. support the DREAM Act as a reasonable first step in solving our broken immigration system. In Illinois, 79 percent of voters polled in the most recent election supported the DREAM Act, including 64 percent of those who voted for Sen. Kirk. The DREAM Act had passed the House of Representatives, and the majority of the 100 senators would have voted to pass it. But the DREAM Act will not be called for a vote this Congress. Instead, the actions of Senator Kirk and this Republican minority to block a vote on the DREAM Act mean that the hopes of thousands of young people have been crushed today. These DREAMERS were brought here as minors by their parents. They know no other country, and have been educated here with taxpayer dollars. But now they cannot get work legally, cannot drive legally, cannot get loans or grants to go to college, have no path to become legal in the U.S., and cannot even join our military. They live their lives under the constant threat of deportation. Today's action means that when Cindy graduates from the University of Chicago this spring, she will not be able to become a school teacher. It means that Edward cannot use the business degree he earned from the University of Illinois last year. It means that Ernesto cannot fulfill his dream to join the U.S. Marines. In addition, our American Democracy was cheapened today by Sen. Kirk and his colleagues. A Democracy is not real when it prevents some 12 million illegal workers who contribute with their toil in our fields, our restaurants, and our hotels from having any way at all of becoming legal. We cannot say we live in a great Democracy when we tell children that we will punish them with exclusion and condemn them to the margins because of the decisions of their parents. This is un-Democratic. It is also an attack on the deepest call of our faith to love and charity, which is why the leaders of Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish and Muslim faiths were united in support of the DREAM Act. During his recent successful Senatorial campaign, Sen. Kirk promised to work for bipartisan solutions. He went on Spanish language television promising to support Latino families. Then today, he voted against Latino and other immigrant children. This will not be forgotten. But our faith in our Democracy and our religious faith is why we understand that we will eventually win this battle, for both the DREAM students and for their parents. The history of our nation is one of a constant struggle for inclusion in this Democracy. We fought to include slaves, and then women, and now immigrant youth and

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Immigrants *continued from page 7*

his father works in construction while his mom cleans homes. He's been in this country since the age of ten. Carla was only five when her family came here from the Philippines. There, both her parents worked as managers for a world-famous luxury hotel chain. Today, her mom is a private cook for a rich family, and her dad works in a florist shop.

James and Carla earned top grades at Highland Park High School (HPHS). However, not being able to obtain a driver's license and not being able to qualify for financial aid limited their college choices. Yet they've both excelled at the schools they attend, and they would love to contribute their skills here to their community. Unfortunately, it looks like they won't get that chance.

What does being smart, ambitious, sensitive and perpetually scared do to your physical and mental health? Go to the site of the Immigrant Youth Justice League (www.iyjl.org) and you may see Carla, standing in front of a sign that says "230 South Dearborn Entrance." Or perhaps you'll read the heart-breaking story of Cindy, a University of Chicago senior sharing her thoughts of suicide.

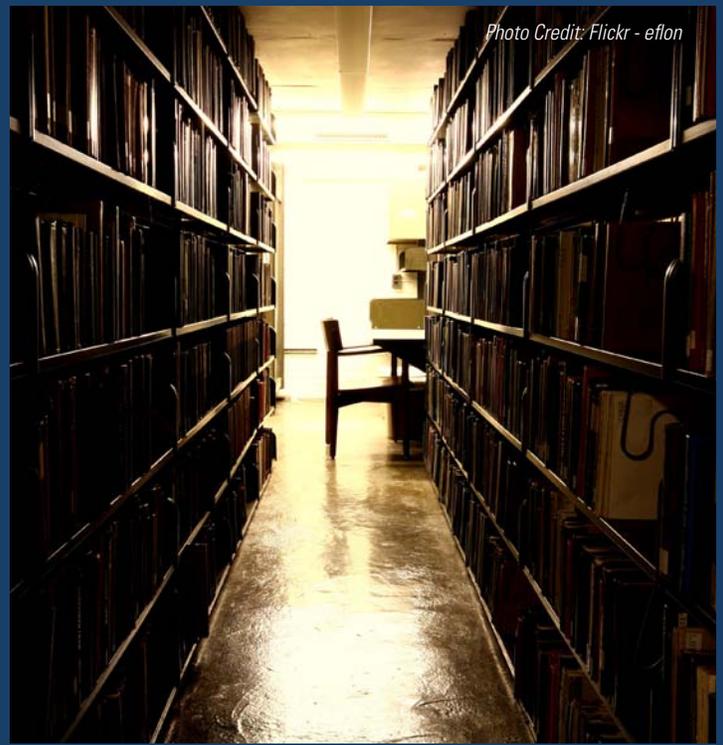
That's the context for looking back to last May, when HPHS cancelled the trip of the girls basketball team to Arizona after that state's passage of its controversial immigration law. Fox News conservatives and some parents pooh-poohed the school district's explanation that it wanted "to ensure that all of our students had the opportunity to be included and be safe and be able to enjoy the experience." The school district knew that kids like James and Carla were part of their student family, but chose not to get into a public fight because, I suspect, they did not want to risk unwanted law enforcement attention.

Sen. Mark Kirk lives in the renovated part of Fort Sheridan not a mile away from Carla and James and others like them. While Illinois' Democratic senator sponsored the DREAM Act, its new Republican senator voted for the filibuster that killed it. Republican leaders of both houses vow that they won't pass a stand-alone DREAM Act in the next Congress, either, although that didn't stop President Obama from promoting the case for citizenship for undocumented aliens' children once again in his State of the Union address.

What a shame. In his previous congressional races, Kirk promoted his good relations with the local Mexican-American community and his time studying at a Mexican university. The DREAM Act was introduced with the support of President George W. Bush, a conservative Republican inspired by his own experiences with the Hispanic community. Kirk could have been a sympathetic bridge between the undocumented youth literally in his own neighborhood and his Republican Senate colleagues. Instead, he once again chose a low profile over a profile in courage, declining even to meet with undocumented kids like Carla who risked jail and deportation to show up in his office before the vote.

To Kirk, Carla remained invisible, just like James and his family and all the other kids who share the values, hopes and dreams of my children and yours, but who we've condemned to live as frightened strangers in a nightmare that does not end. **TD**

(An earlier version of this piece ran in The Huffington Post in late December.)



Republicans *continued from page 7*

their parents. Today, even while the DREAM Act was failing, a simultaneous filibuster was defeated, and now gays will be able to openly defend our nation. Democracy marches forward. Politically, the next several years look grim for DREAM students and their parents. The same Republican leaders who fought to defeat the DREAM Act and immigration reform now step into positions of greater power. But these Republican leaders have seen the historic mobilizations by Latinos and immigrants for immigration reform this year. They have seen the determined and effective leadership of DREAM students. They saw how an angered Latino electorate preserved Democrats in power in the Senate. They have seen that public opinion overwhelmingly supports the DREAM Act and legalization for the parents of the DREAMERS. Republicans are engaging in pure obstructionism by refusing to work on bipartisan solutions. President Obama should start operating on his own and exert his power to stop the deportations of students, workers and their families until common sense solutions are in place.

In Illinois, we thank Senator Dick Durbin, Congressman Luis Gutierrez, and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky for their tireless leadership for the DREAM Act and for legalization for the DREAMERS' parents. We thank Congressmen Quigley, Bean, Foster, Jackson, Rush, Davis, Hare, and Halvorsen for their consistent support. To Senator Mark Kirk and the united Republican Congressional delegation, led by Congressman Peter Roskam, as well as to Democratic Congressman Bill Lipinski, who all worked to block bipartisan solutions for immigration reform and to filibuster the DREAM Act, we say: "Shame!"

Despite the results today, ICIRR will continue to work with members and allies to bring about justice for immigrants and comprehensive, just and humane solutions for the broken immigration system. **TD**

Dold Votes with Solid House Republican Bloc for Repeal of Healthcare Reform

Just three weeks into his tenure as the 10th District's representative to the U.S. House, Congressman Robert Dold already seems to be dipping into his predecessor's bag of deceptive tricks. On Friday, January 7, he conveniently was absent for one of the first critical votes of the 112th Congress. At stake was House Resolution 26, which provided for consideration of H.R. 2—the Republican bill aimed at dismantling the landmark healthcare reforms enacted last year. As expected, the resolution to take up repeal of healthcare reform sailed through the House along party lines, even without Dold's vote. Two hundred and thirty-two Republicans voted for it; all but four Democrats—Dan Boren (OK); Larry Kissell (NC); Mike McIntyre (NC); and Mike Ross (AR)—voted against it.

The vote paved the way for the January 18-19 House debate and final vote on H.R. 2. This time Dold was present. He, along with the other 242 members of his party, and three Democrats—Boren, McIntyre, and Ross—voted for the bill that proposed to dismantle last year's healthcare overhaul. In casting his vote, Dold confirmed our worst fears about him: Like his predecessor, he's not the moderate he pretended to be during the election campaign. Rather, as many of us feared, he is a stalwart, party-line Republican devoted to special interests—i.e., the insurance and healthcare industries—and not his constituents.

"Dold, who received \$34,850 in campaign contributions from the insurance industry for his 2010 campaign, voted for a policy that denies access to basic care to children with pre-existing conditions and young adults looking for work in a challenging economy—a policy that takes critical prescription drug coverage away from the elderly and eliminates job-creating small business tax credits," said one 10th District constituent.

In a cynical attempt to appeal to the very people who will be most hurt by the removal of last year's health reforms, Republicans misleadingly named their bill the "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act." During the House debate, they argued that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act enacted last year—with not a single Republican voting for it—would result in millions of lost jobs and substantial budget deficit increases. "We believe it [the cost] is an unsustainable, open-ended entitlement that could very well bankrupt this country and the states," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said at a news conference on January 18. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/19/us/politics/19cong.html>) Not according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which estimates that the cost of new benefits in the healthcare law would be more than offset by revenues from new taxes and by cuts in projected Medicare spending, reducing future deficits. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/19/us/politics/19cong.html>) "Repealing the law, the budget office has predicted, would add \$230 billion to federal deficits from 2012 to 2021." (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/07/us/politics/07cong.html>) Many economists also say the Affordable Care Act's effects on jobs are likely to be modest.



Besides, if fears about our nation's growing budget deficit and national debt are truly the reason for Republicans' opposition to healthcare reform, why didn't the same fiscal worries stop them from fighting to extend tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans at an estimated cost of about \$80 billion over just the next two years? (http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/07/let_cuts_expire.html)

"It's not about the money," *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist Paul Krugman explained in his January 16 column entitled, "The War on Logic." (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/17/opinion/17krugman.html>) "The modern G.O.P. has been taken over by an ideology in which the suffering of the unfortunate isn't a proper concern of government, and alleviating that suffering at taxpayer expense is immoral, never mind how little it costs.

"The key to understanding the G.O.P. analysis of health reform is that the party's leaders are not, in fact, opposed to reform because they believe it will increase the deficit. Nor are they opposed because they seriously believe that it will be 'job-killing' (which it won't be). They're against reform because it would cover the uninsured—and that's something they just don't want to do," Krugman wrote.

To be sure, the continuing battle over healthcare reform highlights the deep ideological debate over the proper role of government vs. market forces that divides our nation. As Krugman explains in a January 13 column entitled, "A Tale of Two Moralities," one side sees "health reform, with its subsidized extension of coverage to the uninsured, as fulfilling a moral imperative: wealthy nations, it believes, have an obligation to provide all their citizens with essential care. The other side [sees] the same reform as a moral outrage, an assault on the right of Americans to spend their money as they choose." (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/14/opinion/14krugman.html>)

H.R. 2 now moves onto the Senate where, with Democrats still holding a majority, the bill is not expected to pass. Even if it does, the president surely will use his veto power to prevent it from becoming law. In fact, it's widely believed that the Republicans' effort to pass its bill repealing the Affordable Care Act was largely symbolic and just one step in their long-term plan to derail implementation of healthcare reform. Republicans have spent much of the 10 months since the passage of the Affordable Care Act last March aggressively seeking other ways to stop healthcare overhaul in its tracks. They've made clear their intention to choke off the money needed to carry it out. And they have been aggressively pursuing court challenges to the constitutionality of the law's mandates. "The individual coverage requirements [are] fueling a constitutional battle likely to be decided by the Supreme Court," The *New York Times* reported (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/20/health/policy/20cong.html?src=twrhp>)

The moral debate and policy fight over healthcare reform is likely to rage on for years. We now know which side of that fight our newly elected congressman is on. **TD**

Volunteers paint, scrape, caulk, vacuum, scrub, and arrange to get Community Connection office ready for grand opening.





Larry McShane speaks about the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., with Community Connection team Chuck Knight and Ilya Sheyman at his shoulder.



Mayor Sabonjian talks about bringing jobs to Waukegan; Chuck Knight listens approvingly.



Waukegan HS students and Community Connection volunteers Jaime, Ulises, Febe, and Luis



Lee Goodman, Joan and Zane Smith, Larry McShane, State Rep. Rita Mayfield, and Karen Carstens, president, Lake County NAACP.



Patricia Jones, Waukegan Township Supervisor, addresses the group.



Dave Koss, chair, Waukegan Township Democratic Organization



NAACP Chapter President Karen Carstens



Harry Pascal, Dan Seals campaign treasurer



Lake County Board Member Mary Ross Cunningham



Waukegan Alderman Sam Cunningham



Clyde McLemore, community advocate



Attorney Marian McElroy, Lake County United



Waukegan HS teacher Chuck Gutman looks on as Tenth Dems legal committee chair, Nancy Chausow Schafer, speaks.



Phyllis Goldman with Sharon Sanders, Tenth Dems 2010 Volunteer of the Year.



Carolyn Cerf, candidate for Highland Park City Council and former Tenth Dems intern.



Zion-Benton Public Library Trustee Beverly Mull



Marty Wolfe Williams, director, Waukegan Township Senior Center



Nancy Shepherdson, chair, Eighth District Democrats and Independents and 8th District Committeewoman



Sam Yingling, Avon Township Supervisor



Domingo "Sonny" Garza, Democratic Candidate for alderman in Waukegan's 5th Ward



Rafael Rivera, Alderman, Ward 9, Waukegan



Phil Carrigan, member, College of Lake County Board, with Pastor A. C. Conley, North Shore Baptist Ministers Alliance



Joan Smith and Aryn Alschuler



Scott Linn, candidate for School Board, District 102



Community organizer Del Parra with Waukegan City Treasurer Dr. John Schwab



Dr. Wadell Brooks, Aryn Alschuler, Ilya Sheyman, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, David Bonner, Linsay Buckner, Mary Ross Cunningham



No more talk. Let the pizza be served.



State of the Union Viewing Party

A crowd of more than 150 gathered at Durty Nellie's Pub in Palatine to watch the president's State of the Union address. The event, sponsored by Tenth Dems and other local Democratic groups, featured jumbotron televisions and opportunities for attendees to discuss their priorities for government action. "We were overwhelmed by the size of the crowd," said Matt Flamm, a host of the event. "Every chair was filled, and walk-ins from the restaurant joined us to watch the address. We were excited to hear President Obama lay out his ideas for the future of our country. In our discussions before and after the speech, it was clear that everyone was supportive of the direction that the president wants us to go, particularly in regard to jobs and education.