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# Community Connection Serves As Community Cooling Station

by Laura Tomsky

On behalf of the Community Connection and residents of Waukegan and North Chicago, we would like to thank you, the Tenth Dems, for your overwhelming support and generosity during the July power outage. The Cooling Station, set up in our office at 118 N. Genesee in Waukegan, worked with local organizations to provide relief to over 200 residents from Monday, July 11, through Saturday, July 16.

On Monday, July 11, one of the worst storms in Lake County's history arrived, knocking out power to more than 600,000 residents. Among the hardest hit were the cities of Waukegan and North Chicago, communities still recovering from the June 30 tornado damage.



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# Tenth News

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AUGUST 2011 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 8, Edition 8

## John Nichols Tells Us Why "We Are Not Broke!"

by Adrienne Kirshbaum

I think I fell in love a little, the other day. I'm sure there were others in an audience of over 100 that felt the same way. The object of our affection was John Nichols, Washington correspondent for *The Nation* magazine, prolific writer, frequent contributor on MSNBC, and raconteur. We had gathered at the Glenview Public Library on a steamy summer afternoon to hear him speak. The event that brought Nichols to Glenview was hosted by the Tenth Congressional District Democrats as part of Tenth Dems University, a series of "classes" designed to inform and entertain the electorate.



To say that John Nichols has a way with words is to call Michael Jordan a pretty good ballplayer, or to mention that George Clooney is kind of good-looking. This man makes words sing and dance. He stood at the podium for over an hour without a single index card for reference, and he never stopped talking. He made

us laugh, and he even touched us enough to make some of us cry. I agreed with every single thing that he said. For a liberal Democrat, he was speaking directly to the heart.

Max Boton, a member of the 2011 Tenth Dems summer intern class, opened the proceedings, welcoming us all to Tenth Dems University. Then Sharon Sanders, who had contacted Mr. Nichols and pursued him mercilessly until he said he would come to the 10th District, introduced the guest speaker. In response, Nichols thanked Sharon for her persistence and complimented her

on her organizational skills. He also called out to Lauren Beth Gash, saying that she had once been an excellent congressional candidate and that he was angry at the 10th District for not electing her.

A seventh generation Wisconsinite, Nichols has been ubiquitous on television and radio lately, commenting on the situation in

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his state. But before he turned to Wisconsin, there was something he wanted us to know: "America is not broke! This is the wealthiest nation on the planet and we are all the victims of an absurd lie being used to restructure our economy to benefit the very wealthiest among us."

Nichols told us how Wall Street speculators had virtually driven our national economy off the cliff, packaging fourth mortgages that were worth nothing, selling pieces of them to banks around the country, saddling the banks with enormous debt, and building a false economy on fake money. He said that Republican tax policies will not work, and that constantly lowering revenue has caused economic growth to slow until it has almost stopped.

He explained that when businesses have more money, they don't invest it here, but build plants in Burma or Bangladesh to take advantage of cheap labor. Americans are trying to manage the loss in jobs and pensions by taking on more debt. Now, the wealthy want the middle class to give up even more. But people are saying "Not so fast! It's time for the wealthy to pay their share!" So the Right has invented the debt crisis. In their view, everyone has to sacrifice except corporations and the wealthy. Main Street has already given up more than it can afford, but the corporate media reinforce the lies of the Right by telling the people that they are true.

In his discussion of the economy, Nichols touched on the bank bailouts, our unnecessary wars, and Republican Congressman Paul Ryan's budget. He said that the Republican Party is holding our government hostage to make it do what the American people don't want it to do. Even the Right Wing's favorite ex-president didn't agree with these tactics. As the late Ronald Reagan once said, "The American government does not negotiate with hostage takers!"



While describing the revolt in Wisconsin, Nichols warned us that we really dodged a bullet here in Illinois. If not for the election of Governor Pat Quinn, we could be Minnesota. In that Midwestern state, the governor shut down all operations in early July because the Republican-led legislature absolutely refused to increase taxes to solve fiscal problems. Nichols sounded a warning that with a Republican governor it could have happened here.

As Nichols recounted his own experiences in Madison this winter, and how the protest had grown from just a few people to thousands, with University of Wisconsin students joining the ranks and a phalanx of farmers arriving on their tractors, the images were so vivid that the audience could feel the excitement. He said that the events in Wisconsin are having an impact in states across our country, where citizens are reeling from the results of the 2010 election and are now fighting back. "2010 wasn't a Republican sweep," Nichols said, "It was a Democratic sleep!" Elections do matter, but "recalls are the American Revolution form of politics." Politicians who violate the public trust should be on notice.

Mr. Nichols told us that when Rev. Jesse Jackson joined the protest in Wisconsin, he made this comment: "This is not a labor moment. This is a Ghandi moment. This is a King moment."

Nichols exhorted us not to give up our democratic rights. Our states are not broke, and our system is not broken. We can make America everything we dreamed it would be if we all get active!

When John Nichols finished his remarks, the mood in the room was electric! We must carry this energy with us and stay active and involved. And we have to remember Nichols' words and let them be our mantra going forward. **TD**

# A Tale of a Few Cities: How to Form a Community Climate Action Plan

by Eleonora di Liscia

When it comes to climate change, it takes a village and then some. While there are many roads to establishing a community climate action plan, most successful journeys involve across-the-board support from a variety of community groups.

Highland Park's Sustainable Community Strategic Plan started with a strong Environmental Commission. ([www.cityhpil.com/documents/Government/sustainabilityplan.PDF](http://www.cityhpil.com/documents/Government/sustainabilityplan.PDF)) The Environmental Commission initiated programs, such as an environmental solutions curriculum in the school district. Some of the city's green ideas, such as recycling styrofoam, actually came from former students.

Highland Park's plan "involved strong leadership and finding people who shared a common goal. It has come from a lot of years of people saying this is important, and we can make a difference," said Mayor Nancy Rodkin Rotering.

The city, however, needed to coordinate environmental change across its various sectors. In 2008, then Councilman Steve Mandel and former then Mayor Michael Belsky took the lead in forming the Green Initiatives Alliance (GIA).



"The GIA was a way for the city to get involved and invite the library, hospital, school districts, township, park district, and Chamber of Commerce to come together to talk about sustainability projects—all the things that the different entities were working on—to share ideas and work together," said Emily Palm, Assistant to the City Manager.

Highland Park hired a firm to work with the GIA to develop the 104-page plan, which was approved in 2010. The plan created a 20-year road map for climate action. The city now seeks to hire a Sustainability Coordinator to implement the plan, but is looking for another municipality to share the project and cost as well as to disseminate the information throughout the region, beyond Highland Park's borders.

## They're Here *by Jack Altschuler*

They've come for your house.

They've come for your health.

They've come for your religion.

They've come for your children's future.

They've come for your rights.



They were here long ago, and they seemed quiet for a time. But they've been scheming all the while and gnawing at the edges of your life. You didn't see them because you were at your kid's soccer game, or working, or at the movies; so while your life was happening, they were snarling and clawing in the corners. They were putting the pieces in place to take control of your life and lie to you while they did it.

Now they are done being quiet. Now they are thumping their chests and roaring their lies and threatening America with extortion, and they are getting away with it. They are even fooling many of the people from whom they're stealing, people who really should want to stop them. They are manipulating those deceived people into supporting their lies.

They are claiming to fix our problems by putting all the weight on your back and telling you we all have to sacrifice. But you're the only one sacrificing.

They are telling you they're reducing the deficit by taking your money, but instead of balancing the budget, they're giving your money to rich people.

They are telling you that U.S. corporations "have the highest tax rates in Western countries," but they continue to give huge tax breaks to the most profitable corporations in the world, and they pay nothing.

The rich and powerful want more money, and they want more power, and the only way they can get it is to take it from you. So, they are stealing the American dream from you and your children.

And, since they're ideologically polarized and tone deaf to reason, there is only one way to stop them: Vote the scoundrels out of office. **TD**

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# No Pay? No Problem!

by Kevin Kim

It's vacation time again, and high school and college students are looking for jobs to sustain themselves through the two-month drought of Chicago's summer. What job has the highest pay? Best hours? Is there a job you can have fun at? Which job will have the coolest coworkers? What's the BEST job?

Let's be honest. The money we make in the summer is spent in the summer. Don't you want a valuable job experience? One that can get you places? Then yeah, you are reading the right article.

An internship at a political office? It may SOUND boring. But if you're someone who believes that, then you haven't tried it out.

An internship with the Tenth Congressional District Democrats means people, solid relationships, good times, valuable experience, resume-building. Best of all, an internship at Tenth Dems can be whatever you make of it.

Take, for example, current intern and rising senior at Eastern Illinois University, Roberto Luna. In one short year, hard work has brought him to the top. He now helps supervise the entire internship program. "One reason I like the internship so much has to do with the political figures we meet," said Luna. This summer, interns have staffed events in Chicago with Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Governor Pat Quinn. In addition to working closely with elected officials, interns speak to large crowds at Tenth Dems events.

Roberto isn't the only returning intern. Jonathan Schmeling, who will be a senior at Williams College, is also an example of how the intern program of Tenth Dems is very rewarding. He says, "I like what I do because it plays to my passions. I like the field of PR/media and would have had my major be graphic design if Williams offered that major."

Jonathan also observed, "Another reason more people should do a Tenth Dems internship is because it requires thinking like other people might think in order to gain their interest. Too often people think exclusively from the perspective of their personal experience and desires."

Let's take a look at some others who are gaining valuable experience from this internship, not just work experience, but valuable life experience.

Here's a little bit about Rachel Weitzman. Since she's going to be a freshman at George Washington University in DC, the heart of U.S. politics, this internship will be especially valuable to her. She plans on majoring in International Affairs, and Tenth Dems is giving her an introduction to the world of politics. This is her first summer as an intern, and she loves it! (I literally hear her yell that sometimes in the office.)

What does Rachel love? The freedom and flexibility to work on what she is good at. Whether it be social media or marketing, working alongside other ambitious student interns always keeps the office an entertaining and busy place. Rachel says, "This is the perfect summer internship for anyone who has ambition and is looking to do something productive and helpful for their future."

Jinyoung Lee is a freshman at Georgetown University in DC. Like Rachel, she is majoring in International Affairs and will be excited to be introduced to the world of politics. She especially loves the Tenth



Dems events that the interns coordinate. She says, "The people here, especially the supervisors [Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Stephen Ark, and Roberto] are always friendly and helpful, and I love the fact that I'm working with high school and college students who have similar academic and professional interests as I do."

Brittany Cheyenne Alexander is a junior at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, studying business administration with a concentration in marketing. She is a first-year intern who has produced fliers and handouts, assisted with a clothing drive, manned the Community Connection cooling station during the power outage, walked in the Chicago Pride Parade, assisted at the Shawn Marion Rally in North Chicago, and much more. Being a Tenth Dems intern has been an exciting experience for her, from meeting Gov. Pat Quinn and NBA Dallas Mavericks Champion Shawn Marion to being able to expand her marketing and writing skills through the various projects she has completed.

Next, there's Andrew Thrasher, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina and a first-year intern. He intends to major in political science and hopes that this internship will give him real-world experience in politics. He says, "This internship provides an in-depth, hands-on experience in a career in politics that cannot be taught in a classroom."

Another student who loves the people aspect of this internship is Hyunji Lim, an entering freshman at the University of Illinois at

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# When Talk Isn't Cheap

by Ron Levitsky

As a junior high history teacher, I'd grown accustomed to my eighth graders discussing controversial current event topics. "Discussing" was actually a euphemism for arguing and shouting down their fellow students. Ignorance, exemplified by a lack of facts and historical context, never dampened their enthusiasm. But why should it when that same type of political discussion takes place on many TV talk shows and candidate forums, and at the dinner table. Like parrots, children mimic those around them, but with far more serious consequences.

A few years ago my friend, an elementary teacher, asked her students to watch President Obama's speech on education. The next morning a student told her, "My father said I didn't have to listen to that black bastard."

The polarization of American politics is more than simply a difference of beliefs. It is attitudinal in the way we act toward one another. There is a decided lack of empathy, an unwillingness to understand another person's point of view. There's also a lack of civility. This kind of talk really is cheap—demeaning and devaluing each other as human beings.

In last month's column, I eulogized Professor Ron Miller, who devoted his life to interfaith dialogue. He frequently referred to the need for people to "act like adults." Adults think before they speak and realize that one learns best not by talking but by listening. And while listening to another point of view may not change your opinion, it could modify or broaden its perspective, leading to compromise and solutions. This, the essence of good civic talk, is necessary for a democracy to survive.

An example of ignorance, lack of empathy, and lack of civility is the current conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Ignorance has plagued this conflict since the creation of the Palestine Mandate after World War I. In his study of that era, *A Peace to End All Peace—Creating the Modern Middle East, 1914-1922*, David Fromkin wrote of the Versailles Conference, which redrew the map of the Middle East, "[British Foreign Minister] Arthur Balfour watched Wilson, Lloyd George, and Clemenceau in conference ... "These three all-powerful, all-ignorant men, sitting there and carving up continents..." An Italian diplomat wrote that 'A common sight at the Peace Conference in Paris was one or other of the world's statesmen, standing before a map and muttering to himself, "Where is that damned...?"' while he sought with extended forefinger for some town or river that he had never

heard of before.'" As I mentioned in an earlier article, to this day knowledge of Palestinian history is woefully lacking among political leaders of the West.

Lack of empathy is revealed in the term "pro-Israel," which is frequently used by many supporters of Israel to mean backing Prime Minister Netanyahu's firm position on Israeli settlements outside of the 1967 borders, which he refers to as "demographic changes." This is certainly a legitimate point of view, and one worth considering. But so, too, is that of other supporters of Israel, such as former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's advocacy of a more flexible policy regarding these settlements. Just as one can be for or against U.S. policy in Libya and still be "pro-American," people with differing opinions on what is best for Israel can all be "pro-Israel." In fact, such disagreements are the essence of a democracy.

Unfortunately, there is difficulty in finding forums for good civic talk on this topic. Yet it is possible. In fact, a remarkable organization was created within our own 10th Congressional District to do just that.

In 2002, a few months after 9/11, Glenview resident Gretchen Grad was deeply disturbed by how religious communities were being driven from each other by ignorance and hatred, how religion was being used as an excuse for violence, and how unpopular the United States was as viewed by much of the world. A member of the Glenview Community Church, Grad was joined by two other women, one

Jewish and the other Muslim. Together they created Hands of Peace, an organization that, for two and one-half weeks each summer, brings together groups of teenagers—Jewish-Israeli, Arab-Israeli, Palestinian, and American—to learn about one another through (as described in its brochure), "peace-building and friendship building activities."

About 30 teens, first-timers, participate in the program, as well as 10 teens who return for a second year and are given added responsibilities. The American teens are an important component. Not only do they learn a great deal about conflict in the Middle East, but also their questions prompt deeper reflection among their Middle East peers.

According to Julie Kanak, Executive Director of Hands of Peace, when the Middle East teens arrive, they are somewhat



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# Let's Remember Who Robert Dold Is

by Steve Sheffey

As we choose up sides between excellent candidates for Congress on the Democratic side, let's remember that the differences between the Democratic candidates pale in comparison to the differences between any of them and Rep. Robert Dold (R-IL).

Under the remap signed into law by Gov. Quinn, the new 10th District will be more Democratic. Dold's hometown, the Republican stronghold of Kenilworth, will be in Rep. Jan Schakowsky's 9th District. The Dold team criticized Dan Seals for running in the 10th District when Seals lived only two blocks outside the district. Dold will live much further outside the 10th District than Seals did, but Dold has chosen not to run in the district where he lives. Instead, he's going to run in the 10th and only move into the 10th District if he wins—exactly what Seals said he would do. Dold is a hypocrite.

The new remap is designed to make several districts more competitive, and as a result, Democrats are likely to win. I thought Republicans liked competition. Maybe not when they can't compete. Our Republican friends seem to have forgotten that 10 years ago, Speaker Hastert and Congressman Lipinski brokered an incumbent protection plan that made the 10th District more Republican. What goes around comes around. Dold barely won last time with a Republican tsunami at his back. 2012 won't be the same for Republicans, and even if he still lived in the 10th District, he probably wouldn't be able to win. But within the new borders of the 10th District, he doesn't stand a chance.

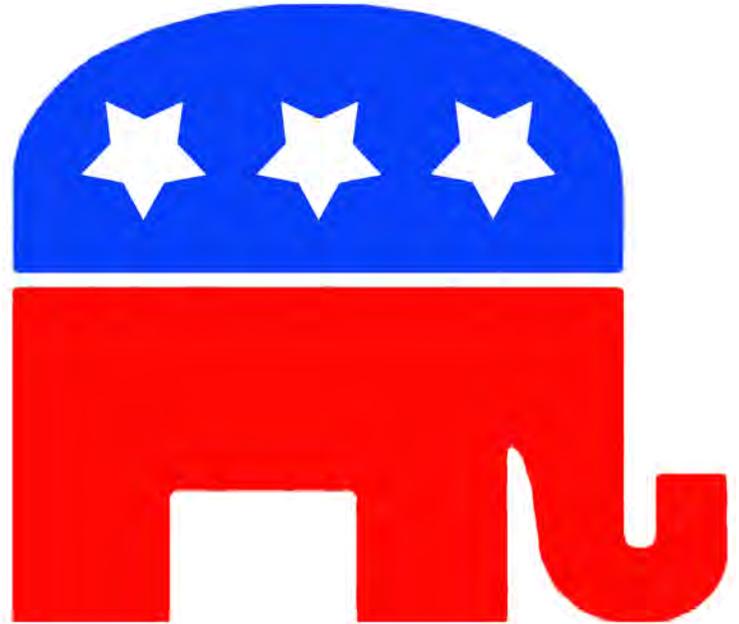
Noting that Republicans had worked new maps to their favor in other states in previous years, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chair Steve Israel compared Republican complaints about the Illinois map to "the arsonist pulling the fire alarm."

In the short time that he has been in Congress, Dold has managed to vote against freedom of choice, against sensible gun control, against environmental protections (at least 17 times), and against health care reform (at least six times).

Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and JACPAC were very clear in the last election that Dold was not pro-choice. The declared Democratic candidates are 100 percent pro-choice, and we can count on any of them to stand up for a woman's right to choose.

On May 4, 2011, Dold voted for H.R. 3, confirming his agreement with the Republican anti-choice agenda and showing his support for the GOP war on women.

"Robert Dold can try to appear moderate all he wants, but after today's vote there's no way Illinois will buy it," said EMILY's List President Stephanie Schriock on May 4. "Dold showed his true colors by standing with his Republican leaders and against the women of Illinois. Dold may have run on job creation, but he has done nothing to create jobs since getting to Washington. Instead,



he's done plenty to take away women's freedoms and their opportunities to keep themselves and their families healthy."

The pro-choice community opposed H.R. 3 because H.R. 3 bans tax subsidies for private health insurance plans that include abortion as a covered service, prevents citizens from deducting abortion as a medical expense unless it was the result of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother, and invites the potential for the Internal Revenue Service to investigate how women who had abortions became pregnant and how they paid for their abortions.

Dold is not pro-choice. Under Dold's unique definition of "pro-choice," anything except a complete abortion ban is okay. Maybe that definition works in Kenilworth, but that's not how the mainstream pro-choice community sees it.

The right to choose is meaningless without the means to choose. By making abortions prohibitively expensive and treating abortions differently from other medical procedures a woman can choose, Dold is saying that you can choose an abortion if you can afford it, but if you're poor, you're out of luck.

NOW points out that these types of restrictions are "unjustly

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# A Tale of Two Presidents, Or: Take Off Your Rose-Colored Glasses!

by Eleonora di Liscia

A President proposes a landmark initiative. The landmark is much needed and long overdue, but not without significant opposition. In order to get something passed, the President accepts a watered-down version of his original proposal. Progressives from his own party are furious. They feel the new bill does not go far enough, and worse, they believe it is the President who diluted it.

Think we're talking about Obama and health care? Think again. The President is Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the initiative is the Social Security Act.

Social Security legislation could have been enacted in 1934 (instead of August 1935) had Roosevelt supported it. An original bill called for the federal government to make grants to states to encourage passing old-age pension laws. Some feared Roosevelt actually opposed such legislation. He even went so far as to state, "I do not know if this is the time for any federal legislation on old-age security." (Davis, Kenneth B. *FDR: The New Deal Years* (Random House 1986), p. 454)

After unfavorable press forced the issue, Roosevelt asserted that he was not in fact opposed. Wherever did anyone get that idea? Work on legislation revived. The proposed bill was assigned to the conservative House Ways and Means Committee, where: "Emasculating wounds were there soon inflicted upon it, rendering it as conservative a measure as it could possibly become.... Moreover, these wounds were inflicted for the most part, though it was an administration bill, by the administration itself. Indeed, Roosevelt personally inflicted them insofar as he, having placed himself, as always, at the balance point between opposing forces in his administration, now tipped the final scale toward mutilation of the measure." (Davis at p. 459.)

One significant mutilation was removing the universal coverage provision, something Roosevelt had gone on record saying he wanted. As a result, only 60 percent of the workforce was covered. (Smith, Jean Edward, *FDR* (Random House 2007) at p. 353.) Worse, the excluded 40 percent included those who needed coverage the most: farm workers, domestics, state employees such as teachers, and firms employing fewer than 10 people. (Smith at p. 353.) This effectively excluded most African Americans. (Alter, Jonathan, *The Promise* (Simon & Schuster, 2010) at p. 251.)

Further compromise removed the language that required old-age pensions to be large enough to maintain a decent living. (Davis at p. 461.)

Progressives were furious:

"Others, long and fervently committed to genuine social insurance and doubtful from the first that the administration shared this commitment, had their doubts reinforced—a skepticism that grew toward a sense of betrayal as, for many weeks after the hearings had ended on February 12, the bill languished in Ways and Means with administration forces exerting no evident effort on its behalf." (Davis at p. 461.)

Sound familiar once again? To the fury of progressives, Obama backed off the public option, which he was on record as supporting, and was also accused of showing a lack of leadership in pushing through healthcare. (Although according to Jonathan Alter in *The Promise*, Obama held back because he believed Congress would better support a bill they themselves had crafted.)

Roosevelt's diluted bill passed with bipartisan support—a luxury denied Obama—and he signed it in August 1935. He understood that getting something passed that could later be improved was better than getting no bill at all. History has vindicated him as the Social Security Act was progressively strengthened in succeeding decades. (Alter at p. 251.) Like Roosevelt, Obama preferred to get a flawed bill passed, rather than no bill at all.

It is also instructive to note that in May 1935, seven months after an electoral mandate that gave Roosevelt an overwhelmingly Democratic Congress, FDR had only passed one significant New Deal proposal, leading supporters to feel he showed a lack of leadership and that creative ideas were being stifled. (Davis at 463.) This echoes the criticism that Obama has failed to bring about promised change, despite his administration's being one of the most active in recent history.

Most Democrats now agree that Roosevelt was one of the great U.S. Presidents, even if he may not have seemed that way at the time.

And so, too, is Obama. **TD**





## Cooling Station *continued from page 1*

Waukegan and North Chicago are considered “food deserts” in Lake County. The term “food desert” refers to an area where healthy and affordable food is hard to obtain due to the lack of access to food retailers and unavailability of nutritious or affordable foods.

When a geographical area is hit by two consecutive major storms, as was Waukegan-North Chicago, it puts an unbearable strain on an already difficult situation. When power is out for many days and food supplies spoil, families go hungry.

Although power was knocked out in a good portion of surrounding areas, a small part of downtown Waukegan still had power, including, happily the Community Connection office. As early as Monday afternoon, just after the storm abated, the Community Connection office (ComCon) at 118 N. Genesee Street became a gathering place for volunteers also affected by the power outage and began serving as a base of operations for many to cool down and recharge their cell phones. The next day, since the Waukegan Township Supervisor’s office had power, the weekly Job Interview Skills Workshop sponsored there, and facilitated by Community Connection volunteers, proceeded as usual.

It was during this class that one of the participants mentioned not having eaten since the day before, because most of the food pantries and soup kitchens were closed due to lack of power. After talking with Patricia Jones, the Township Supervisor, two ComCon workshop facilitators, Laura Tomsy and Ilya Sheyman, began to formulate a plan to turn the Community Connection office into a relief station during this power outage crisis.

Calls were made, emails were sent, and Tenth Congressional District Democrats answered the call to action! By early afternoon on Tuesday, July 12, ComCon was open, offering cold water, nutritious snacks, computer/Internet access, and a place for people to gather, cool down, and recharge cell phones.

On Wednesday morning we served pancakes to a dozen people and hotdogs later in the evening to several families. As word spread, our wonderful volunteers and donors stepped up to match the growing need, with Thursday bringing over 30 people to get their first hot meal in days. On Friday, with other local organizations directing people in need to the ComCon office, over 150 people came in. By Saturday, most electric power had been restored, but the office remained open

to the 20 or so individuals who still had no access to food.

As I am sure everyone who volunteered in the office that week can attest, the Community Connection provided an amazing rapid response to a community in need. And the members of the community were truly appreciative. Many who discovered this office for the first time were so impressed that they signed our contact list to stay in touch with Community Connection programs and events. Fifteen of them have signed on to become regular volunteers!

With electricity and other resources restored, we are now directing individuals back to local food pantries and soup kitchens. The Tenth Dems Community Connection looks forward to continuing our mission of joining people with local organizations and government services, providing a safe place for people to organize and act on issues affecting their lives, and sponsoring programs to help make our community a more peaceful, healthy, and inclusive place to live.



There is so much to be done; we need your continued help and support. Would you dedicate a few hours a week to help us extend office hours? Volunteer for an event committee? Help with Neighborhood Beautification, Literacy & Reading, College Preparedness, or Main Street Revitalization projects? Work an information booth at a Farmers Market? Be a ComCon Liaison to local organizations and attend events? Your time and talents are the best thing you can share to make a difference in our world.

### ***Upcoming events:***

**Open House & Bake Sale** during Waukegan Main Street Fair - Saturday, August 13 (We need coordinators, bake sale items, and event-day volunteers.)

**Movie Night** - 6:30pm on the first Thursday of the month, starting on August 4 (We need event-day coordinators, publicity, movie ideas, and refreshments.)

For more information and to join our dedicated Community Connection volunteers, please contact Laura Tomsy, Executive Director, at 847-871-7049 or [Laura@TenthDems.org](mailto:Laura@TenthDems.org). **TD**

## Climate Action Plan *continued from page 3*

"If we all work together, we can all achieve our goal and not necessarily feel the whole impact economically," said Rotering.

Those who want to get involved in Highland Park's climate action plan should check the city's website for updates, or watch as specific task forces are implemented that might need help.

In Arlington Heights, Amy Kitzmiller and another resident attended a Sierra Club Cool Cities (SCCC) presentation, after which they felt out community interest. The pair approached other community leaders and the new group built the support of the park district, hospital, League of Women Voters, Chamber of Commerce, church leaders, businesses, and residents. From there, the Arlington Heights Cool Cities Coalition (AHCCC) was born.

"In meeting these people, we were also building a membership," said Kitzmiller. "The response was very positive. We brought together 15 different community leaders and went to the mayor to see if this was a program that she could get behind. She seemed very impressed at the membership we had."

Unfortunately, the AHCCC hit a roadblock as some trustees felt the village was already taking its own steps, which was true, according to Kitzmiller. The trustees asked the group to get the Environmental Commission's backing before presenting to the Village Board.

"In the meantime, our group is going to continue working with the Village of Arlington Heights to participate in updates to our local codes, promote education and awareness, and try to bring to Arlington Heights the great programs occurring in other 'Cool Cities,'" said Kitzmiller. "We're trying to find things where the village already has as an initiative and promote it more strongly to help implement that program."

For example, one Arlington Heights initiative is to reduce idling in cars, so Kitzmiller's group is launching a program at the schools to have parents turn off their cars when picking up children.

"One of the biggest ways you can make an impact is through education and through events," said Kitzmiller. "We're trying to reach out and find people active in church, PTA, volunteer organizations where we can communicate out to their members. We communicate through a network of networks."

Besides Arlington Heights, several other 10th District communities have reached milestones in the Sierra Club Cool Cities Program, including Glenview, Lake Forest, Northbrook, Palatine, and Wilmette.

Evanston's first step toward a Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) was signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA), said Eleanor Revelle, vice president of Citizens' Greener Evanston.

"That's the easy step," she said. "The hard step is everything that comes after signing the Agreement—the benchmarking, but also especially developing the Climate Action Plan. The Agreement says the community agrees to meet the Kyoto Protocol target of reducing carbon emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. If you are going to reduce below 1990 levels, you need to know what emissions were then and what they are today, so you can measure your progress."

For want of money, many communities never make it to Step 2. Luckily for Evanston, State Representative Julie Hamos promised to

get the funds to hire a Sustainability Coordinator. In 2007, the new coordinator, Carolyn Collopy, did the benchmarking. Meanwhile, the leadership of the Network for Evanston's Future, a local sustainability organization, offered to work with the city to develop a plan. The Network recruited volunteers to chair various task forces and invited all interested citizens to participate. Each task force met over several months to develop strategies that became the Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2008.

"The council was thrilled. They kept saying, 'Look at this plan!' By having the community help to develop the plan, it also started developing community buy-in to implement the plan," said Revelle.

"Gradually, it became clear that this is not going to be solved overnight, and we had to be in it for the long haul," Revelle added.

Thus, the CAP volunteers morphed into Citizens' Greener Evanston. (<http://www.greenerevanston.org>) CGE expanded its focus from greenhouse gas emissions to overall sustainability, which includes environmental, economic, and social equity goals, according to Revelle.

Those who want to push for a CAP in their community can find help through the Sierra Club Cool Cities Program. The SCCC website offers a blueprint for organizing your own campaign including forming the initial committee, community outreach, completing a campaign plan, and holding a news conference. (<http://coolcities.us>) According to Arlington Heights' Kitzmiller, the program currently contains five major milestones; however, focus may soon be expanding toward greater promotion of renewable energy. **TD**

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Champaign-Urbana who will be majoring in economics. She says, "My favorite part is the people you meet—both political figures and the friends you make here. Who knows? Maybe my fellow interns will be running for political office one day, and I'll be voting for them."

Still in high school? Don't worry. A Tenth Dems internship is not available exclusively to college students and graduate students (including law students). High schoolers can sign on, too.

Ben Lee of New Trier High School is a rising senior and is getting into the world of politics early on. He says, "I have enjoyed this internship because it provides me an opportunity to learn much of the political process as well as to network, which will be valuable in my future. I believe that others should also partake in this internship in that it's very structured and you gain a great deal of knowledge through the people who volunteer and work here."

And then there's Kate Murray. The same age as Ben, Kate also will be a senior at New Trier. This is what Kate had to say about the internship: "Others should do it because there's a varied group of tasks to do around the office, so people with every skill set can find something they want to do. The hours are flexible, so it's easy to schedule internship hours around other summer activities. And it gives people experience working at a political organization, which is helpful if they are planning on majoring in something related to politics, or are just interested in politics and want to learn more about how political organizations work."

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apprehensive and distrustful of those considered as “the other.” Team-building activities and field trips to Chicago give these teenagers the opportunity to get to know one another as individuals and to appreciate similarities—in food, movies, clothing, and family life—as well as differences. In addition, they all have the opportunity to attend religious services at a church, mosque, and synagogue.

Central to this experience are the morning dialogue sessions, made up of 12 to 15 teens from various backgrounds and two facilitators—one Palestinian and one who is either an American or Israeli Jew. These facilitators ensure that participants feel safe and respected, that everyone has the opportunity to speak and share personal experiences, and that conflicting interpretations of history are critically evaluated.

Unlike the blather that goes on during many political talk shows and rallies, this kind of talk is anything but cheap. It requires the maturity not only to listen respectfully to another's very different point of view, but also a willingness not necessarily to change, but to modify one's own opinion—to see shades of gray instead of black and white.

Netta Shaler, a Jewish Israeli who had participated in the program, noted, “In the first few dialogue sessions, we had arguments about history issues. And then I discovered the big difference between what we are taught and what they [the Palestinians] are taught about history ... It was a shock to see the difference. Then you realize that maybe not everything that you know is right, and probably not everything that they know is right. So you understand that the history is not really all fact, it's stories. And it could be told by many points of view. ... after that, I realized that there are two sides of the coin. ... While the two sides think differently, we can also be friends, and we can come to compromise.”

Ibrahim Fair, who has served as a Palestinian chaperone, added, “It's not a matter of giving in or giving up or surrendering. But based on the other person's experience, you understand how he came to believe that idea is true ... Then we need to think it over.”

There are other risks as well. Although many teens return home adhering even more strongly to their old beliefs, others reenter their communities contemplating change through compromise to bring about what Hands of Peace calls “a workable peace.” How will their families, friends, and neighbors react to this change of attitude?

Even after the summer program, Hands of Peace continues to support its participants by hosting alumni clubs, both in the Middle East and United States, where these teens can continue to engage in dialogue and building interpersonal relationships.

While some may think the Hands of Peace approach of “making peace, one relationship at a time” to be naïve and a waste of time, I am reminded of Margaret Mead's famous statement, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

For those who disagree ... let's talk about it. **TD**

harmful to the health of poor and low-income women by burdening access to otherwise safe and legal medical procedures. Furthermore, women who cannot pay for abortion services may be forced to choose a self-induced or illegal, life-threatening abortion.”

Party labels matter. We know why we're Democrats, but many people in our district pat themselves on the back for their “independence.” They like to think they are above party politics. We should not advocate voting blindly based on party affiliation, but since we all recognize that there is a partisan divide in this country, we need to ask how anyone can ignore which side of the partisan divide a candidate is on.

EVERY Republican voted in favor of H.R. 3. If there had been a Democratic majority in the House, this bill probably would not have even come to the floor for a vote, and if it had, it would not have passed. If you know nothing about a candidate except his or her party affiliation, you can correctly predict how he or she will vote about 90 percent of the time, and sometimes more than that.

Another example: Dold says he's against defunding Planned Parenthood, but he voted for the Republican budget that defunded Planned Parenthood. He had no choice, in his mind, because he liked some of the other cuts and the bill was a package deal (they frequently are). But with a Democratic majority, the defunding provision wouldn't have been there in the first place—even if a Republican says he is against a particular part of the Republican agenda, the fact that he is a Republican advances that very agenda.

Many voters don't like to hear that we should consider party affiliation when we vote. It feels to them as if we are being robbed of our free will and conjures up images of the old Daley machine. But saying you vote the person, not the party, is like saying you vote the person, not the person's stand on Israel, or you vote the person, not the person's stand on choice. The party a candidate chooses to affiliate with is itself a key issue, and if we ignore it... well, if we ignore it, we wind up with someone like Dold.

**Dold Opposes Reasonable Gun Control.** Dold voted with the National Rifle Association to defund the program that requires the reporting of the sale of multiple shotguns or rifles to the same person. As Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA) said, “[T]his has nothing whatsoever to do with hunting rifles or guns used in sporting activity. This has to do with long guns with detachable clips used for only one purpose, and that is, shooting large numbers of rounds and killing large numbers of people... I know that some may get paranoid about these issues, but I think we should have at least some paranoia about what this could portend if we don't take reasonable action in the protection of the citizens that we've been elected to protect.”

**Dold Opposes Environmental Programs.** In our district, we care about the environment, but Dold voted at least 17 times to gut environmental programs that about 75 percent of 10th District residents support.

**Dold Flipped on Defunding Planned Parenthood.** During the election, Dold claimed to be pro-choice, despite the fact that

## Dold *continued from page 10*

he was recommended by Illinois Right to Life and despite the fact that both Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America said he was not pro-choice. Dold (and Judy Biggert (R-IL)) first voted against defunding Planned Parenthood, but as Bill Beckman, Executive Director of the Illinois Right to Life Committee, explained, "the irony is that when they had the final bill passage, they flipped. Both voted for [the bill that defunded Planned Parenthood]. We're playing games here in reality. Which is better: that they voted against the amendment and for the final bill, or vice versa? I'll tolerate those Republicans if they vote the final bill the right way, even if they want to throw a bone to Planned Parenthood that doesn't count."

What do you think your Congressman should be working on? The economy? Crime? Tax reform? Well, Robert Dold somehow found the time to become one of only 40 (at this writing) co-sponsors of H.R. 497, the Ronald Reagan Commemorative Coin Act of 2011. Yes folks, that's just what we need: a bill that would require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Ronald Reagan, whose misguided policies and rhetoric set in motion the culture of greed and anti-intellectualism that still plagues our nation.

*The New Republic* summed up Reagan's legacy: "Reagan had two main accomplishments. One was to legitimize the religious right as a powerful Republican constituency, a change that has continued to reverberate through American politics. The second was to legitimize massive, non-emergency deficits."

You'd think a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative like Dold would know better. You can tell a lot about a person by his choice of heroes.

**Dold Opposes Affordable Health Care.** Dold voted at least six times to gut healthcare reform (Roll Calls 97, 98, 99, 100, and 121, 141).

As Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) pointed out, "repealing health care will destroy jobs in the health professions. It will slow growth by 250,000 to 400,000 jobs a year. It will increase medical spending and add nearly \$2,000 to the average family insurance premium. And according to CBO, repeal would add \$230 billion to the deficit in the first 10 years and \$1 trillion in the second 10 years. And let me repeat that. This amendment adds billions and ultimately trillions of dollars to the deficit, and it starts next year with \$2.2 billion."

And that's what Dold voted for.

Dold voted for an amendment that would, as DeLauro explained, "allow insurers to charge women 48 percent more than men for exactly the same coverage. It allows insurance companies to once again discriminate against Americans with preexisting conditions, even children with preexisting conditions. A woman may again be denied coverage because she survived breast cancer or because she was a victim of domestic violence or because she had a C-section. It will deny up to 4 million small businesses \$40 billion in tax credits.

"This amendment will increase drug costs for seniors. It will take away the 50 percent discount on brand name drugs for those who have found themselves in the doughnut hole. It will increase, also, seniors' healthcare costs, making lifesaving preventive services like mammograms, colonoscopies, wellness visits, blood pressure screenings, and diabetes screenings more expensive. This amendment will cost money and it will cost lives."

That's Robert Dold. And that why we need to work for the Democratic candidates we support and against Robert Dold, not against each other, in this upcoming primary campaign. **TD**

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Angelica England is a senior at Waukegan High School who plans to major in psychology in college. Angelica volunteered in the 2010 fall election and is now a first-year Tenth Dems intern. Angelica helps out with tasks like entering information into computer databases, and she participates in Steering Committee meetings every Tuesday at the Community Connection office in Waukegan. Angelica helped plan the recent Poetry and Prose Competition for Waukegan and North Chicago high school students. "I like keeping busy, and I like being a part of the Tenth Dems," Angelica said.

As for me, Kevin Kim, I'm a returning intern for Tenth Dems. I've been here and done this before, and I'm back at it again for round two. Last year, I enjoyed spending my summer helping out at the office, setting up events, parading, and canvassing with other interns. I'm going to be a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying electrical engineering. And yes, I know, engineering doesn't have much to do with politics, but as I move forward in life, I know that being a well-rounded person and having many passions and interests will only make me better.

So, why not you?

*Hyunji Lim contributed to this article. TD*

## Save the Date!

**WHAT:** Tenth Dems Annual Fundraiser and Volunteer of the Year Reception

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 18, 2011

*Watch the Tenth Dems website for more information.*



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